

THE BEACON

TEAM MARCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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THE BEACON IS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MARCH ARB. ALL QUESTIONS ARE DIRECTED TO THE MARCH ARB PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE AT 9516554137.

FaceBook:
<http://www.facebook.com/TeamMarch>

YouTube:
<https://youtube.com/user/452AMWPA>

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





COMMANDER'S CORNER



Team, as we approach this weekend's Unit Training Assembly (UTA), it's crucial to underscore the pivotal role of leadership in navigating the challenges posed by the era of Great Power Competition (GPC).

In this dynamic geopolitical landscape, our ability to excel in our mission requires not only technical proficiency but also astute leadership at every level of command. The GPC paradigm has reshaped the nature of modern warfare, introducing complexities that demand strategic foresight and adaptability from military organizations like ours.

As Commander of the 452 AMW, I recognize the imperative of leadership in ensuring our readiness to confront the multifaceted challenges posed by rival powers. This weekend's UTA serves as a microcosm of our commitment to excellence amidst the GPC. It is a testament to our collective determination to uphold our nation's security interests and maintain our operational readiness in the face of evolving threats. However, achieving success in this endeavor hinges upon the quality of leadership displayed by each member of our wing.

Effective leadership in the context of the UTA requires proactive planning, clear communication, and decisive action. Our commanders must provide strategic guidance that aligns with the broader objectives of our military and enables our personnel to fulfill their duties with precision and confidence. Moreover, they must remain vigilant to emerging threats and opportunities, ready to adapt our strategies and tactics accordingly. Beyond operational considerations, leadership must also address the broader issues for our personnel and organizational culture. There are always looming stressors and uncertainties that can impact morale and cohesion within our ranks, but it is incumbent upon us to foster a supportive environment where all Airmen feel valued, motivated, and empowered to excel.

As we gather for this weekend's UTA, let us reaffirm our commitment to the principles of leadership that define our wing. Let us lead by example at every level, demonstrating integrity, resilience, and a relentless pursuit of excellence in all that we do. Together, we possess the strength and determination to confront the challenges of the GPC and emerge victorious, safeguarding our nation's interests and securing a brighter future for generations to come. In conclusion, I call upon each member of the 452 AMW to embrace their role as leaders and ambassadors of our nation's security. Through our collective efforts and steadfast leadership, we will navigate obstacles, complexities, and unknowns with confidence and emerge stronger, more agile, and more united than ever before. Have a great UTA!

Knights - Lead On!

-Colonel Daniel Ebrecht

DEPUTY COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



Team March,

You will be hearing the word “accountability” come up in many conversations with your commanders. What’s the difference between accountability and responsibility? The difference is subtle but has a huge impact on our professionalism as military members. I think of ‘responsibility’ as a job title...things we need to do because that is what our job states we should be doing. However, ‘accountability’ is actually doing the things you are supposed to do...it is taking action on things you are responsible for.

Please keep this subtle but important difference in mind as your commanders have conversations with you about your readiness, vouchers, and performance reports.

KNIGHTS...Fights-on!

-Colonel Biren Oberoi

Accountability



COMMAND CHIEF'S COMMENTS



Team,

This weekend, take time to prioritize readiness items (AFSC qualification/currency, IMR, RAT, fitness) and forecast for the next 90 days to maintain currency and identify areas for improvement! Develop a battle rhythm to review your records (Career Data Brief, emergency contact information, etc.) regularly to ensure that they reflect current data, including evaluations, skill level, decoration, and education (military and civilian). I look forward to seeing everyone

at our 2024 Combat Dining Out on Saturday evening, where we will also recognize our annual award winners! It promises to be a memorable event celebrating achievements and camaraderie!

**COMBAT
DINING OUT**



SPOTLIGHT: MISSION SUPPORT GROUP



In a seamless display of collaboration and efficiency, the 452d Mission Support Group played a pivotal role in supporting two high visibility exercises last month. Agile Flag, a credentialing exercise for the 4th Fighter Wing, and Bamboo Eagle, a joint coalition exercise, showcased the power of combined forces. Both exercises demonstrated adaptability and interoperability by seamlessly integrating with various branches of the military, both domestic and international. This was made possible by the professional, diligent efforts of MSG personnel, from Fire Protection and Security Forces FSS lodging and LRS with MHE and Fuels support.

March ARB played a central role as a Forward Operating Station (FOS) during these joint coalition exercises, serving as one of the linchpins for the entire operation. Positioned strategically at the forefront, March ARB facilitated seamless communication and coordination between diverse components of the combined forces. As the FOS, their responsibilities encompassed command and control, maintenance, and logistical support. Our ability to maintain a robust and secure operational hub enabled the effective execution of each exercise's missions simultaneously and served as a crucial nexus for the success of the entire exercise. The FOS's pivotal role underscored the importance of a well-organized and technologically equipped forward presence in optimizing joint coalition efforts. The MSG's specialized skills were harnessed to provide crucial support. The overall success of both exercises was a testament to the MSG's commitment to excellence and its ability to synergize efforts with allied forces, highlighting the importance of international cooperation in addressing complex and dynamic security challenges.



SPOTLIGHT: MISSION SUPPORT GROUP

The MSG's expertise in tactical coordination, communication, and strategic planning ensured a harmonious and effective joint operation.

However, this was much more than an MSG effort; it was a testament to the outstanding airmen across Team March. Working together as Team March, we continue to do great things, as evidenced by the success of the recent Agile Flag/Bamboo Eagle exercises at March ARB. We all have seemingly unlimited tasks to complete and limited time to get it done and nowhere is that more true than in the Mission Support Group. When you see an airman (officer, enlisted, civilian, or contractor) from the MSG, please take a few seconds to thank them for the amazing work they do to support every member of our wing, as well as our many mission partners and broader community.

As a proud member of Team March, let me take this opportunity to thank each and every one of my fellow Knights. The challenges we face continue to increase and become more imminent, and Team March is leading the way in meeting those challenges. I ask that you continue to give your best in being Ready Now and working as a team to support our mission. Fights On!



OPEN SOURCE INTEL BULLETIN



452d AMW Open Source Intelligence



[INDOPACOM: Electronic Warfare in the South China Sea](#)

What Happened

China has been installing ground-based electronic warfare (EW) radars on disputed islands in the South China Sea including Subi Reef, Fiery Cross Reef, Parcel Islands, and Mischief Reef. These radars typically utilize ultra-high frequency and very-high frequency which enable long range detection as well as counter stealth capabilities. The radars used on the Spratly Islands and the Parcel Islands have a 400 km and 200 km range against airborne targets and a 30 km average detection range against ground-based targets. The use of EW in disputed regions increases the likelihood of adversary mission success.

Background

EW is the ability to protect, detect, and communicate using the electromagnetic spectrum. EW also the capability to deny, degrade, and disrupt. EW is broken into 3 categories: electronic protection, electronic attack, and electronic support. Essentially, EW can protect forces, attack the enemy, and aid decision-making by providing situational awareness.

Why It Matters

China's push to improve and integrate electronic warfare is indicative of the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) continued investment in military modernization and integration, especially in the INDOPACOM theater. This further supports their focus to ensure operational superiority in the area. This effort improves the overall capabilities of the PLA, improves detection against enemy forces, and improves information sharing among forces.



TEAM MARCH HOSTS MAJOR EXERCISES

BY SSGT KEKOA SANTIAGO, 452 AMW/PA

MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE, Calif. – The 452nd Air Mobility Wing hosted international and friendly sister forces during EXERCISE BAMBOO EAGLE 24-1 (BE) and AGILE FLAG 24-1 (AGF). BE is an exercise designed to provide an expeditionary air base environment where allied forces focused on Agile Combat Employment (ACE) command and control, Air Superiority, and Joint War at Sea. While AF is Air Combat Command's certifying event for its XAB Force Elements throughout the Air Force, ensuring that the forces are ACE-capable and tests the ability to generate combat airpower while continuing to maneuver in a dynamic and contested environment.

The inclusion of the 452 AMW provides a unique maritime training zone over the Pacific for warfighters to train in a combat-representative environment that is hard to emulate elsewhere. March ARB is the largest runway of more than 10 BE and AF participating locations. As a whole, approximately 3,000 U.S. service members across four branches flew, maintained and supported more than 150 aircraft from 24 units. Additionally, close to 300 joint and interagency allies and partners from the Royal Air Force and Royal Australian Air Force participated. Both exercises took place immediately after the third week of EXERCISE RED FLAG 24-1. An exercise that provides aircrews the experience of multiple, intensive air combat sorties in the safety of a 12,000 square mile airspace training environment at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada.

"Red Flag is the tactical build-up to the operational exercise of Bamboo Eagle," said Maj General John Klein, the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center commander. "While Red Flag mainly focuses on training in air dominance, Bamboo Eagle will include robust efforts to ensure total readiness through combat representative training across multiple domains."



TEAM MARCH HOSTS MAJOR EXERCISES

BY SSGT KEKOA SANTIAGO, 452 AMW/PA

There are significant logistical advantages provided by March ARB that followed the ACE model of training. The diversity of terrains, including deserts, mountains, and coastal areas, allows our forces to train in different environments, preparing them for a range of potential operational scenarios. This variety allowed for air and ground exercises. Air Forces of each participating nation were able to carry out the BE objectives of Air Superiority and Joint War at Sea because of March ARB's proximity to the coast. The RAF's sole air-to-air refueling tanker, Voyager KC.Mk 2 sustained allied fighter aircraft such as RAF Typhoon FGR4s, U.S. Marine F-35B Lightning IIs, U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcons, and more with aerial refueling over the Pacific. The military training area off the Pacific coast spans over 500 miles. This massive training area provides unique contested training opportunities similar to those encountered in real combat.

While BE took place in multiple locations across Southern California, AGF largely practiced ACE capabilities at various locations at March ARB. ACE emphasizes that airmen take on additional roles outside of their Air Force Specialty Code enabling them to be known as Multi-capable Airmen. Large public address systems were placed across March ARB's flight line and loudly played sounds of bombs whistling by to simulate an enemy attack on an active flight line. The ground exercise included airmen from various AFSCs who performed Tactical Combat Casualty Care to airmen with simulated injuries and automated mannequins.

"Training together makes us and our partners stronger," said Lt. Reuben Merkes, 452d Logistics Readiness Squadron Officer, 452d AMW.

"Exercising with our allies in the air and on the ground enables us to



TEAM MARCH HOSTS MAJOR EXERCISES

BY SSGT KEKOA SANTIAGO, 452 AMW/PA

improve interoperability.

The exercises being offered at March ARB and over the Pacific allowed for a combat-representative environment that helps our warfighters to develop the right operational concepts, capabilities and plans to bolster deterrence and maintain our competitive advantage against any potential adversary.

“The air space at March ARB and off the Pacific Coast is the largest that any of us ever worked in,” said 1st Lt. Tom Raeburn, RAF Typhoon FGR4 Pilot, 6 Squadron, “It allowed us a greater variety of exercises than we could simulate in the UK.”

All in all, the exercises allowed airmen to work closely with sister services, synchronized efforts to improve joint interoperability, increased timely data-sharing, and unify command and control across all warfighting domains.



PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. MICAH COATE
452ND AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS



LOVE TAKES FLIGHT

BY WENDY DAY, 452 AMW/PA

MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE, Calif. -- Love knows no boundaries, not even within the structured confines of the Air Force. Such is the tale of Captains Naomi Alston and Terrance Williams, two MQ-9 pilots turned instructors stationed at March Air Reserve Base, Calif., in the 492nd Attack Squadron, whose journey from the hallowed halls of the Air Force Academy to the altar is nothing short of serendipitous.

Their story begins at the prestigious Air Force Academy, where Capt. Alston, a member of the class of 2016, and Capt. Williams, of the subsequent 2017 graduating class, pursued their dreams of serving their country from the skies. Despite their close proximity and overlapping social circles, they remained oblivious to each other's existence.

"It's funny how life works sometimes," remarked Capt. Alston, reflecting on their missed connections. "We were practically dancing around each other for years without even realizing it."

Their trajectories converged again at Creech Air Force Base, Nevada, where they were assigned both as MQ-9 pilots but in different units. Despite mutual acquaintances and shared friends, their meeting remained deferred until a chance encounter in 2021 at a gathering on Freemont St in Las Vegas, Nevada.

"We just clicked instantly," Capt. Williams recalled with a smile. "It was like finding that missing puzzle piece you didn't even know was missing."

Their romance blossomed despite only going on two dates before Capt. Alston deployed for a five-month assignment. During the deployment, with a significant 10-hour time zone difference and the demands of shift work, the couple relied heavily on Facetime calls to stay connected and to continue to get to know one another despite the physical distance. Their emotional intimacy fostered during these conversations allowing them to share aspects of their lives that they might not have had the opportunity to explore in person. As they navigated the hurdles of scheduling calls around work commitments and time zone disparities, they discovered shared interests, values, and dreams for the future.

"You know when you know," Capt. Alston remarked, echoing the sentiments of many in long-distance relationships. "Those months apart made us realize just how much we meant to each other."

Now, as they prepare to embark on a new chapter together, Captains Alston and Williams find themselves not only partners in love but also colleagues in the cockpit. Contrary to popular belief, they view working together as an opportunity rather than a challenge.

LOVE TAKES FLIGHT

BY WENDY DAY, 452 AMW/PA

"Having each other as colleagues is just another way for us to support and push each other," Capt. Williams explained. "We both push each other in ways that you wouldn't even know to help if we weren't side by side every day. It's like having a built-in support system, both on and off duty."

Their love story reached a new milestone when Capt. Williams orchestrated a memorable proposal during a day trip to Dana Point, California. The couple and their close friends embarked on a whale-watching tour, basking in the beauty of the ocean and the company of beloved companions. Before the trip concluded on their way back to the harbor, Capt. Williams seized the perfect moment, surrounded by the serene expanse of the sea and the warmth of friendship, to pop the question to Capt. Alston. With excitement, she said yes, marking another milestone in their extraordinary love story.

Capt. Alston's family history intertwines seamlessly with her military journey. Her grandfather, an Army Lieutenant Colonel who served for 24 years, met his wife during his time in service at a similar gathering. They have been happily married for over 60 years, setting a precedent for enduring love born amidst military camaraderie.

This Valentine's Day, the couple will embark on a journey to celebrate Capt. Alston's grandmother's birthday is a testament to the intertwining of their lives with their families' legacies. In a touching homage to her grandmother's enduring love, Capt. Alston plans to wear her hand-made lace wedding dress from the 1940s for their October wedding, fitting into it perfectly.

"It's like history repeating itself," Capt. Alston mused, tracing the parallels between her own romance and that of her grandparents.

Through their experience, the couple not only strengthened their relationship but also gained a newfound appreciation for the importance of communication and understanding in sustaining connections across distance. This shared journey of discovery and growth adds another layer of sweetness to their story, demonstrating the power of love and resilience even in the face of challenges. Plans for an October wedding are underway, marking a celebration of love amidst their shared devotion to duty.



BASE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Black History Month Upcoming Events 2024

FEB 20

1100 Black History Month Celebration
Food, Music, Speakers!
Location: RTS Building 2275



FEB 21

1100 Black History Month 5K
T-Shirt for First 50 Finishers!
Location: Base Gym



FEB 21

0730-1330 Career Day
Location: Norco High School's
Air Force JROTC

Thank you
to our
sponsors!



BASE ANNOUNCEMENTS

2024 ARC ATHENA EVENT

1. THE 2024 ARC ATHENA EVENT WILL BE HOSTED BY THE 192D FIGHTER WING, VIRGINIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD. IT HAS BEEN PLANNED AND CONFIRMED FOR 29-30 APRIL 2024 AT LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, HAMPTON, VIRGINIA.

2. TRAVEL DATES WILL BE SUNDAY (28 APR) AND WEDNESDAY (01 MAY).

3. THIS IS A UNIT FUNDED TDY.

4. UNIFORM OF THE DAY: WILL BE OCP OR FLIGHT SUIT (1 PIECE OR 2PFDU) EQUIVALENT. CIVILIAN MEMBERS WILL BE BUSINESS CASUAL.

5. ALL ATTENDEES MUST REGISTER WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THERE IS MINIMAL SEATING. REGISTRATION DOES NOT

CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE. AN EMAIL WILL FOLLOW IN THE NEXT 30 DAYS WITH REGISTRATION INFORMATION.

6. PER DIEM RATE IS \$107 FOR LODGING AND MI&E IS \$59. REGISTRATION CUTOFF DATE IS MAR 15, 2024. LODGING & TRANSPORTATION & MEAL. DETAILS WILL FOLLOW.

7. THE FINAL AGENDA AND OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION WILL BE POSTED VIA QR CODE / AF CONNECT AT THE EVENT CHECK-IN LOCATION.

8. IF UNITS EXPERIENCE FUNDING ISSUES FOR PRIMARY PERSONNEL, YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO SEND ALTERNATE PERSONNEL TO TAKE NOTES AND ENSURE INFORMATION IS SHARED APPROPRIATELY. CURRENTLY, NO VIRTUAL OPTION IS PLANNED.

9. THE POC FOR THIS MESSAGE IS THE ARC ATHENA EMAIL 911AW.ARC.ATHENA1@US.AF.MIL TEXT



ARC ATHENA 2024



SAVE THE DATE

Open to all Reserve Forces

WHEN: April 29-30, 2024

WHERE: Joint Base Langley-Eustis, VA
Bayview Commonwealth Center
350 Clark Avenue
Hampton, VA 23665



ARC ATHENA

MISSION

We are a combined Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard team tackling ARC unique issues and barriers to service for women

BASE ANNOUNCEMENTS



THE TRIAD SUMMIT



Inviting & Engaging All:

- Commanders
- Senior Enlisted Leaders
- First Sergeants

DATE:

- 19 & 20 AUG 2024

TIMES FOR BOTH DAYS:

- 0730 - 1700

LOCATION:

- Navy Reserve Center Riverside Drill Hall
- 2960 Graeber Street, Bldg 1230
March ARB, CA 92518-2031

* Please go to the following link to register:
[https://invitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?
i=835895&k=0A6247017252](https://invitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=835895&k=0A6247017252)

* Point of Contact:
Lt Col Cindy N. Storoy, 452 MSG/CD
cindy.storoy.2@us.af.mil
951-655-7291

Hosted by:



The Triad Team consists of the Commander, Senior Enlisted Leader, and First Sergeant with the focus of ensuring the Squadron meets all of its requirements with the ultimate goal of mission readiness.

Find out more by participating in this two-day event.

BASE ANNOUNCEMENTS

FITNESS CENTER

- We have Intramural Basketball beginning on 1 February at lunchtime. Games take place on Tuesday and Thursday at the gym from 1110 to 1300. Please contact the gym for more information.

PREVENTION WORKFORCE

- Our prevention workforce has moved to building 115.
- SARC, Director of Psychological Health, and our Chaplain can be accessed there.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

- Official portraits are offered every Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday of drill from 0900-1000. All walk-ins.
- Does your unit have something awesome coming up that's newsworthy? Call PA! We'll make you famous 😎. We'd love to cover your event/mission. 951-655-4137



BASE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Recharge For Resiliency Events

Horseback Riding in Temecula

Date 23 March 2024
Transportation Provided
Single Airmen Cost: \$40.00
Location: Temecula
Departure Time 0915hrs

Tandem Skydiving

Date 13 April 2024
Location: Perris Valley Airport
Single Airmen Cost: \$60.00
Time: 0700hrs at location

Deep Sea Fishing Charter

For those members that have been deployed or are getting deployed.
Date: 25 May 2024
Location: Dana Wharf
Deployed Affected Cost: \$55.00
Includes 1 Day License
Rod and Tackle Rental
Transportation Included
Departure Time: 0415hrs

Sign up at Outdoor Recreation Bldg. 434 Monday through Friday from 0830 - 1630.
For more information call 951-655-2816.



BASE ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Wing Top 3 will be hosting **John Maxwell Leadership Gold Lessons** for the base. John Maxwell's 26 leadership gold lessons address various aspects of leadership, such as developing relationships, nurturing tomorrow's leaders, and recognizing and responding to "defining moments."
- We will host classes on a bi-weekly basis. The beauty of this course is that each session stands on its own. If you cannot attend every lesson, that is fine!
- Open to everyone (civilians, enlisted, officers, etc).
- To become a facilitator, you must attend three sessions and be signed off to facilitate future lessons.
- Please visit the Wing Top 3 Sharepoint- <https://usaf.dps.mil/sites/452AW/ORG/TOP3/SitePages/Home.aspx> to sign up. Sessions are listed on the calendar at the bottom of the SharePoint site.
- POC: MSgt Amanda Chom, amanda.chom@us.af.mil

