

THE BEACON

TEAM MARCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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COMMANDER'S CORNER



Greetings Knights!

In this month's newsletter, we celebrate our collective achievements and commend the unwavering dedication of our team. As we grow this publication, stay tuned for updates on upcoming missions, valuable insights, and the latest developments in our ongoing quest for excellence.

On another note, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that a new 452 AMW Commander has been selected.

Colonel Bryan Bailey will join us mid-March from Pittsburgh. Learn more about him in next month's newsletter. In the meantime, when you see the new Wing Commander out and about, give him a hearty welcome to the team!

That said, I'd like to say how proud I am of Team March. In my short tenure as the Interim Wing Commander, I have seen great things across the base. From the "newest" to the "not so newest" Airman, the efforts are unmatched. Local exercises to global rapid deployment of airpower...March is...Ready Now! Now more than ever, our team needs to be prepared to execute at a moment's notice. The enemy will not wait until it is convenient, they will bring the conflict when it best for them. They control the timing, but WE control the outcome. We are the Reserve force, we have the know-how and flexibility to fully complement our Active Duty component, but only if we are ready. Ready in mind, body, training, and spirit. We must ensure that our core capabilities are honed, our health and fitness requirements are complete, and our abilities to engage adversaries in a contested environment are solid. Our united success takes focus and discipline...I know each of you has it to spare!

Continue to grow in your depth of understanding and breadth of experience. We are the part-time force with full-time capacities. I am grateful for all your dedication and hard work. It has been a true honor to work with all of you for the last few months. Together, Team March will continue to reach new heights!

Knights - Lead On!

-Colonel Daniel Ebrecht



DEPUTY COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



Team March,

Happy New Year! As I continue to meet many of you, I am truly impressed with your patriotism and professionalism. Despite us asking a lot of you, your families, and your civilian employers, you continue to serve!

During my last tenure in Indo-Pacific command, I learned the importance of relationships not only at the strategic level but also at the tactical level within divisions, wings, groups, squadrons, and flights. Our Air Force is going through a metamorphosis to provide the right Airmen and Airpower to combatant commanders while also facing fiscal challenges. During this time, our relationships between our tenant units, groups, wings, and active duty will be key for us to execute our mission.

Don't let these challenges distract you from doing your best to remain mission-ready. Your wing leadership will work with your commanders to assess and mitigate risks wherever we can.

Thank you, and I am proud to be part of this outstanding Team!

I look forward to a great 2024 with the Knights!

-Colonel Biren Oberoi



COMMAND CHIEF'S COMMENTS



Team,

Happy New Year! In preparation for our first Unit Training Assembly (UTA) of CY24, please take the time to review the Blueprint Enlisted Force Development Guide sent through the PA Workflow. I am sharing this so that you can incorporate into sessions and highlight its role in setting professional development goals. Encourage supervisors, and peers to collaboratively use it as a framework for effective career planning discussions, ensuring alignment with individual aspirations and organizational objectives.

Additionally, prioritize readiness items a (AFSC qualification/currency, IMR, RAT, fitness) and forecast them for the next 90 days.

As a reminder, the Outstanding Airman of the Year (Amn, NCO, SNCO) and First Sergeant of the Year packages are due this UTA! If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me or your respective Group Senior Enlisted Leader.

I look forward to seeing you this weekend as well as in our professional organization meetings!

-CMSgt Timi Bilal





AIRPOWER LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



*A NEW ERA OF
ENLISTED LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT*

AIRPOWER

PURPOSE

The Airpower Leadership Academy (ALA) is a formalized mentorship program that targets select Staff Sergeants and Technical Sergeants, from the 452nd Air Mobility Wing. During this course, Non-commissioned Officers discover and articulate their understanding to the five pillars of ALA:

- Relationships
- Expectations
- Academics
- Character
- Health

These five pillars, R-E-A-C-H, have been developed by the ALA cadre to articulate the perspective that one has to *REACH* in order to be a successful leader. As an action verb, the mnemonic *REACH* conveys that leadership is not a passive “let it happen” attribute; rather one that demands a focused and deliberate approach to deliberately develop sustainable leadership qualities.



LEADERSHIP

SELECTION

The inaugural students are hand-selected by squadron superintendents from across the Wing, subsequent students are hand-picked by alumni and vetted through their leadership team. This unique, but proven approach, breaks down barriers by empowering alumni to communicate the benefits of attending ALA to prospective students.

Once students are vetted and selected for attendance, personalized invitations are delivered to each potential student. Although each class is valuable and offers a wealth of information, attendance is absolutely voluntary—no pressure is placed on students to attend.

Each class is comprised of approximately 10 - 20 students. This ideal class size provides the perfect blend of maximizing return on investment while providing students a more intimate learning environment. Airmen provide feedback throughout the course to facilitate future course development.

ACADEMY

PROGRAM

ALA is a 10-week formalized leadership program that meets one day every week:

Week 1: *Warm-up/Ice Breaker*

Course & Student Introductions

Week 2: *Purpose – Cause – Belief*

Course Introduction / Forum Discussion

Week 3: *Leadership, Management & You/*

Empowerment & Effective Influence

Classroom Discussion / Mentorship

Week 4: *Work / Life Balance*

Classroom Discussion / Mentorship

Week 5: *Ego & Teamwork*

Classroom Discussion / Mentorship

Week 6: *Let's Talk About It*

Classroom Discussion / Mentorship

Week 7: *The Hard Call* Classroom

Discussion / Mentorship

Week 8: *Chief's Interview, Phase I & II*

Classroom Discussion / Mentorship

Week 9: *First Shirt Panel* Classroom

Discussion / Mentorship

Week 10: *Being an Airmen/Graduation*



Be an extraordinary leader whose intentionality is evident in every action, every engagement, always in service to others.

"A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the equality of his actions and the integrity of his intent." --Gen.

Douglas MacArthur

"Leaders aren't born, they are made. And they are made just like anything else, through hard work. And that's the price we'll have to pay to achieve that goal, or any goal."--Vince Lombardi



Airpower Leadership Academy's academic environment, fused with positive guidance, mentorship and passion, led by an experienced team of Senior Noncommissioned Officers, inspires Noncommissioned Officers to synergistically excel beyond their self or system-imposed leadership capacity and reach their full leadership potential.

The March Airpower Leadership Academy is one of many initiatives that supports and enhances the 452nd Air Mobility Wing's Mission Statement, *"Provide Diverse, Combat-Ready & Multi-Capable Forces for Global Operations."*



STUDENT REQUIREMENTS: SSGT/TSGT
FACILITATOR REQUIREMENTS: SNCO

BELOW IS THE ALA SHARE POINT WHERE YOU CAN SIGN UP STUDENTS AND FACILITATORS.

[452 AMW-ALA/NCOPES - HOME \(DPS.MIL\)](#) OR [ALA 24-1 SIGN UP.XLSX \(DPS.MIL\)](#)

REACH OUT TO THE AIRPOWER LEADERSHIP ACADEMY CADRE IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS!
SMSGT BERAN-447-3371, SMSGT DELIRA-447-4355,
MSGT ESMIEU-447-7125, MSGT FINLEY-447-7034



GLOBAL: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IMPACT ON NATIONAL SECURITY

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been around for decades, but new advancements have brought the technology to the forefront. AI made a generational leap forward in 2020 with a large language model (LLM) GPT-3, created by OpenAI. GPT-3 could solve high-school-level math problems as well as create computer programs. In 2022, OpenAI used the foundation of GPT-3 to then create and release the generative AI chatbot ChatGPT. This new LLM almost immediately disturbed academics, journalists, and various others because it was impossible to distinguish human writing from ChatGPT-generated writing.

In 2023, the field of artificial intelligence witnessed a significant transformation driven by remarkable progress in LLMs. AI technology showcased abilities in healthcare and education to creative arts and political discourse.

2023 showcased AI models that matched or surpassed human performance in intricate tasks, such as answering complex medical exam questions, generating persuasive political messages, and even choreographing human dance animations to match diverse pieces of music. Growing international adoption of AI technology and software could reshape the global balance of power and potentially have dramatic geopolitical consequences.



GLOBAL: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IMPACT ON NATIONAL SECURITY

AI has no single definition, but it generally refers to the ability of computers to perform tasks traditionally associated with human capabilities. Generative AI models draw from massive amounts of training data to generate statistically probable outcomes in response to specific prompts.

Tools powered by such models generate humanlike text, images, audio, and other content. Another commonly referenced form of AI, known as artificial general intelligence (AGI), or “strong” AI, refers to systems that would learn and apply knowledge like humans do. However, these systems do not yet exist, and experts disagree on what exactly they would entail.

In the countries that invest the most in AI, development has historically relied on public funding. In China, AI research is predominantly funded by the government, while the United States drew on research by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and other federal agencies for decades. In recent years, U.S. AI development has largely shifted to the private sector, which has poured hundreds of billions of dollars into the effort.

Many experts have framed AI development as a struggle for technological primacy between the U.S. and China. The winner of that competition, they say, will gain both economic and geopolitical advantage.



GLOBAL: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IMPACT ON NATIONAL SECURITY

In 2022, President Biden banned exports of the most powerful semiconductors to China and encouraged U.S. allies to do the same, citing national security concerns. One year later, President Biden proposed an outright ban on several streams of U.S. investment into China's AI sector, and the Department of Commerce announced a raft of new restrictions aimed at curbing Chinese "breakthroughs in artificial intelligence." Most experts believe the U.S. has outpaced China in AI development to date, but that China will quickly close the gap.

Advancements in AI technologies have compelled the national security sector to evolve rapidly in response to the new capacities these innovations offer. Advances in AI will affect national security by driving change in three areas: military superiority, information superiority, and economic prosperity. The Department of Defense expects AI technology to transform "the very character of war" by empowering autonomous weapons and improving strategic analysis.

In Ukraine's war against Russia, Kyiv is deploying autonomously operated AI-powered drones, marking it the first time a major conflict has involved such technology. Warring parties could also soon rely on AI systems to accelerate battlefield decisions or to automatically attack enemy infrastructure. Some experts fear these capabilities could raise the possibility of nuclear weapons use. In recent years, AI has emerged as a potent tool in the hands of terrorist groups, used to refine their tactics to radicalize individuals, recruit them, and plan terrorist attacks.



GLOBAL: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IMPACT ON NATIONAL SECURITY

This presents formidable challenges to national security professionals in their efforts to anticipate and counter these AI-driven threats effectively. There is also the potential to use AI for grooming purposes, specifically the targeting, manipulating, and radicalizing of individuals to get them to support or participate in acts of terrorism.

AI algorithms, particularly on social media, can meticulously analyze users' data to identify vulnerable individuals. For example, an algorithm may flag someone who frequently engages with extremist content or displays susceptibility to certain ideologies. These algorithms can then target those individuals with tailored messaging and gradually steer them toward extremist views.

Furthermore, AI could heighten the twin threats of disinformation and propaganda, issues that are gaining relevance as the world just entered a year in which more people are set to vote than ever before: more than seventy countries, representing half the global population, will hold national elections in 2024.

Generative AI tools are making deep fakes easier to create, and the technology is already appearing in electoral campaigns across the globe. Experts also cite the possibility that bad actors could use AI to create sophisticated phishing attempts that are tailored to a target's interests to gain access to election systems.

-452 AMW INTEL SHOP



C-17 ELEPHANT WALK AT MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE

By Technical Sgt. Oz Suguitan 452nd Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE (Dec. 9, 2023) --- An elephant walk is what the 729th Airlift Squadron at March Air Reserve Base, California, demonstrated with five C-17 Globemaster III heavy cargo aircraft preceding a minimum interval of takeoff (MITO), which can facilitate rapidly launching a sortie surge of planes for a mass deployment event.

The elephant walk got its name in World War II when massive fleets of American aircraft were launched as quickly as possible in close timing and proximity. It refers specifically to the moving formation of a large group of (mostly colored grey) military aircraft or smaller groups of extremely large aircraft, such as the 729th's C-17 fleet of heavy lifters.

U.S. Air Force Major Jon R. Millman, chief of group tactics, 452 Operations Group said, "It's a unique opportunity to have C-17's launch all at the same time to allow us to practice different threat reactions and mission sets--flying in close proximity and adapting to the challenges of putting that many C-17s in the air at one time."



C-17 ELEPHANT WALK AT MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE

To put one C-17 mission in the air requires the efforts of a lot of Airmen, with a dozen in the maintenance teams and aircrew scrambling to get the aircraft loaded and in the air. It's much harder to manage the amount of manpower required to coordinate so many launches in a brief sequence. "The training, the coordination, and most importantly, the execution is a unique opportunity that will prepare us for the next fight."

The mission of the Squadron ranges from humanitarian cargo, moving personnel, aeromedical evacuation, and sustainment. Millman said that these types of practice scenarios can help prepare crews to fly and return while completing those missions in a contested environment. He said that this is the type of training that truly gets the squadron ready for any mission where fast mass deployment is a requirement for success.



THE 729TH AIRLIFT SQUADRON PERFORMS AN ELEPHANT WALK WITH FIVE C-17 GLOBEMASTER III'S AT MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE, CALIF. ON DEC. 9, 2023. AN ELEPHANT WALK IS THE U.S. AIR FORCE'S TERM FOR THE TAXIING OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT RIGHT BEFORE TAKEOFF, WHEN THEY ARE IN CLOSE FORMATION. (U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. KEKOA SANTIAGO)



C-17 ELEPHANT WALK AT MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE

But, before the plane's takeoff, the elephant walk. Comprised of 5 C-17 aircraft, this elephant walk was truly a sight to behold at March Air Reserve Base as the massive planes taxied in unison together towards the runway to leave in succession.

After a brief stop at Edwards Air Force Base, all of the aircraft returned at the end of the successful training mission.

"This is such a wonderful training opportunity," said Millman, "The United States is unique in its capability of rapid global mobility anywhere in the world, and that's something you need to maintain and train. We're very thankful for the opportunity to demonstrate what we're capable of because when something like this comes together and works, it's just astounding."



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.
- We also have a Heart & Sole 5K Run/Walk scheduled for 21 February at 1100. The event begins across from the base tower.

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

