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

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COMMANDER'S CORNER



Team March.

As we move into the final stretch of 2025, I want to pause for a moment and speak directly to each of you. This season gives us a rare opportunity — a chance to step back, breathe, and take stock of what truly matters. I encourage everyone on this installation to take care of yourselves and each other. The mission doesn't happen without the people behind it, and your well-being is the foundation of everything we do.

The holidays are a time to recharge. Spend time with family, reconnect with the people who keep you grounded, and allow yourselves the space to rest. You've earned it. This year has asked a lot of all of us — long hours, shifting taskers, surges in support, and the constant pressure of maintaining readiness. You've answered the call every single time, and I'm incredibly proud of the professionalism and resilience you've shown.

But even as we rest, we cannot forget the reality of our profession. Our adversaries are watching. They do not take breaks, and they will not wait for us to catch up. That's why it's so important that the time you spend away from the mission is intentional. Maximize the moments you have — rest fully, connect deeply, and return with the clarity and energy that keep this installation sharp. When you come back recharged and refocused, March ARB is stronger for it.

Thank you for everything you've done this year – for the mission, for each other, and for this community. Enjoy this season, embrace the time with loved ones, and return ready to tackle the challenges ahead.



MARCH CIVILIAN CAPS MORE THAN 40 YEARS OF COMBINED SERVICE

BY WENDY DAY

MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE, Calif. - After more than 40 years of combined military and civilian federal service, John Morris, chief of the 452d wing's Special Security Office, will retire Dec. 31, leaving a legacy of dedication that has positively shaped generations of Airmen and the March community.

Morris marked 40 years of combined federal service on Oct. 25, a milestone he said brought him great pride and gratitude.

"It's a good feeling," Morris said. "I've done my fair share, or at least I tried. I love my job and the people I work with, but it's getting a little harder to get out of bed every morning. The light at the end of the tunnel is getting a little brighter, and I look forward to that."

Before transitioning to civil service, Morris served 28 years and three months in uniform on active duty and in the Air Force Reserve. He began his career as a security police officer and shift commander at Plattsburgh AFB, New York, in the Strategic Air Command (SAC) before PCSing to the 3d Security Police Squadron at Clark Air Base, Republic of the



Philippines, where he met and married his wife, Josie, a citizen of the Philippines. They have two daughters: Michelle, married to Matt Cao, and Sarah, married to Jason Chao.

"I'm probably one of the last old SAC guys still around in the Air Force," he said with a smile. "What I enjoyed most was being with the troops - conducting guard mount, doing post checks, talking with my troops, eating midnight chow with them. It was always about the people."

His assignments spanned Strategic Air Command, Pacific Air Forces, Air Mobility Command, and, ultimately, Air Force Reserve Command - the organization he said felt closest to home.

"AFRC is a close-knit family," Morris said. "I never experienced that feeling anywhere else. We're a family, a community, and in my opinion, we're the best MAJCOM in the Air Force."

He recalled a moment from a deployment to Sather Air Base at Baghdad International Airport, Iraq, in 2006, when his brother—also an Air Force colonel—flew in to visit.

"We sat above our group headquarters building smoking cigars that night, talking and watching the lights of Baghdad twinkle in the distance," he said. "Just two brothers serving a day and night together in a combat zone. I'll always remember that."



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For Morris, military service is a family tradition, with ancestors who served in the French and Indian War, the Civil War, and beyond, inspiring pride and respect in the community.

"I had an ancestor who served with British Gen.
John Forbes in his expedition against the French in
1758," he said. "Three ancestors served in the
Revolutionary War, two in the War of 1812, 17 family
members served in the Union Army in the Civil War,
and other relatives served in the Spanish-American
War, World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War,
and the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Now I've got a
great-niece who's a captain in the U.S. Air Force. It's
a proud family tradition."

His father, an enlisted Airman who joined in 1948 as the newly formed U.S. Air Force took shape, worked as a jet mechanic on some of the earliest jet aircraft.

"Dad used to tell us stories about working on those first jets," Morris said. "My brothers and I all followed in his footsteps. We all joined the Air Force and became officers. It's what we do."



As a civilian, Morris brought decades of experience and leadership to March ARB, and he has served in multiple staff roles across the installation.

One of the highlights of his career came when he was hired as the first Chief of the Special Security Office (SSO) at March ARB.

"Mr. Miller and I got the program established and moving," he said. "It took a lot of effort, but we did it as a team. I also handled the wing's civilian time and attendance program, served as the wing's security manager, and wore many other hats. I enjoyed all of it."

When his duty position was first created, Morris applied and was selected.

"I got lucky and was hired," he said. "I love March, and I love our wing. We're all employees of the United States government working for the common good of the country, but we're also a family. That's how it should be."

Morris and his wife, Josie, arrived at Headquarters, Fourth Air Force, on June 4, 2001, and have spent nearly 25 years as part of the March ARB and Inland Empire communities.

As he prepares for retirement, Morris plans to honor one final tradition. On Dec. 30, the evening before his last duty day, he plans to attend retreat at the base flagpole.

MARCH CIVILIAN CAPS MORE THAN 40 YEARS OF COMBINED SERVICE

BY WENDY DAY

"I want to pay my respects one last time as a member of the Air Force during taps and salute the flag," he said.

On Dec. 31, he will work a half day, turn in his civilian CAC card, and head home to celebrate New Year's Eve with his family.

"On Jan. 1, I'll wake up as a retired member and a full-time civilian," he said," I told Josie, once I retire, I'm hers 100 percent. Whatever she wants to do or wherever she wants to go, that's what we will do together. I could not have done my job over all these years without her undying love, support and dedication. She took care of our two girls and kept the home front going while I was TDY on numerous deployments serving my country. Josie is the true Airman in our family! Thank you. Mahal!"

Travel is at the top of their list—Italy next summer with their daughters and sons-in-law, a future return to the Philippines, and time on his 30-acre Ohio farm, which he hasn't been able to visit in 3+ years.

What Morris says he will miss most is the camaraderie, reminding us of the strong bonds and community spirit that define our service.



"You still get that sense of family in civil service," he said. "It's something you don't get other places. I will miss working with Mr. Miller and all of my friends and colleagues, past and present, throughout the base and our Air Force. It has been my honor and privilege to serve with all of you!

While Morris looks forward to what comes next, he is confident March is in good hands.

"I'm tired now," he said, smiling. "It's time to go enjoy life with my family. The 452d Air Mobility Wing is in good hands."



HAVE YOU MET MARCH'S NEW FINANCIAL COUNSELOR?

BY WENDY DAY

MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE, Calif. – Service members and families at March Air Reserve Base have a new resource to strengthen their financial future. Kevin Apolinar, the base's newly appointed personal financial counselor, is on hand to provide guidance, education and tools to help Airmen achieve financial stability.

Apolinar began his role just over three weeks ago but is no stranger to personal finance. After serving in the Army from 2011 to 2024, including eight years on active duty before joining the Alaska Army National Guard on 2018, he pursued advanced education in financial planning. He recently completed a master's degree in Financial Planning and earned the Accredited Financial Counselor credential.

"This program is about more than numbers on a page," Apolinar said. "Financial counseling looks at both the math and the behaviors that affect a person's financial goals. My role is to help identify challenges, provide resources and guide service members from where they are now to where they want to be."



The personal financial counselor position is a contracted role under Magellan Federal, working in partnership with the Department of Defense's Office of Financial Readiness. Apolinar's services are offered free of charge to service members and their families, covering everything from budgeting and debt management to preparing for transition out of the military.

At March, Apolinar has already found ways to integrate his work with existing programs. "The food security program here is an incredible tool," he said. "By combining commissary cards with financial education, we can create not just short-term relief, but long-term, life-changing plans for our Airmen."

In his first weeks on the job, Apolinar said he has already seen immediate impact. One service member sought guidance on a challenging financial situation. Through detailed budget analysis, Apolinar helped the individual identify both mathematical issues—expenses exceeding income—and behavioral patterns contributing to the problem. "With just a few hours of conversation, we were able to shift their perspective and give them breathing room," he said.

Looking ahead, Apolinar hopes to build trust with the March community by being visible at unit events and working one-on-one with Airmen and families. He emphasizes three key points:

1. Know the resource exists. 2. Build trust by using it. 3. Prioritize an emergency fund.

HAVE YOU MET MARCH'S NEW FINANCIAL COUNSELOR?

BY WENDY DAY

"An emergency fund is foundational," Apolinar said. "Without it, people can feel like they're underwater—gasping for air, overwhelmed by debt or financial stress. An emergency fund lets you come up for air, see where you're going, and start moving toward safety."

For Apolinar, financial readiness is directly tied to mission readiness. "When service members are financially secure, they can focus more on the mission and less on stress at home," he said. "That makes us all stronger."

How to Contact March's Personal Financial Counselor Kevin Apolinar

Personal Financial Counselor
Military & Family Readiness Center
March Air Reserve Base
Services include: Budgeting, debt reduction, savings strategies, credit
management, retirement planning, transition preparation, and emergency fund guidance.

Cost: Free for all service members and their families.

Appointments:

Available by request at the Military & Family Readiness Center.



HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY

MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE, Calif. — As the holidays approach and new gadgets arrive under trees and in mailboxes, March Field Fire Emergency Services is reminding Airmen and families to practice safe charging habits as part of this year's holiday fire prevention efforts.

This season's holiday fire prevention theme, "Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home," developed by the National Fire Protection Association, highlights the fire risks associated with rechargeable batteries.

"Lithium-ion batteries are powerful, convenient and they're just about everywhere," said Mark Hanenberger, fire protection inspector with the 452nd Air Mobility Wing. "We want everyone to enjoy



their holiday gifts, but also to stay safe by following simple guidelines: buy quality products, charge safely and recycle batteries the right way."

From smartphones and power tools to scooters, heated clothing and other popular holiday items, lithium-ion batteries are now part of daily life. Improper charging, counterfeit equipment or damaged batteries can lead to overheating and fires.

"Use the charger that came with the product," said Assistant Fire Chief Robert Wichner. "Don't leave items plugged in overnight, and always unplug them once they're fully charged. These small habits can prevent big problems."

"Fire safety isn't just a home issue — it's a mission-readiness issue," said Col. Bryan Bailey, 452nd Air Mobility Wing commander. "We want our Airmen to enjoy the holidays with their families safely and responsibly. If we take care of our people at home, they can take care of the mission when it matters most."

Holiday Fire Prevention Tips

- Buy only products tested by UL, ETL or another nationally recognized safety lab.
- Charge devices on flat, hard surfaces never on beds, couches or under pillows.
- Use only the charger that came with the product or one approved by the manufacturer.
- Unplug items once they are fully charged.
- Recycle batteries at an approved recycling site never throw them in household trash.

For more information, visit fpw.org or contact March Field Fire Emergency Services at 951-655-2075.

TEAM MARCH RALLIES COMMUNITY FOR HOLIDAY CAN FOOD DRIVE AND SANTA EVENTS

MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE, Calif. – This holiday season, Team March is bringing together Airmen, families, and the local community for a mission rooted in generosity, connection, and fun. The annual Holiday Can Food Drive, hosted in support of the March Trading Post, will kick off on December 10 with a special Santa appearance and a festive challenge: guess Santa's weight—in cans.

The event begins at 10:30 a.m. across from the Base Tower, just ahead of the Ugly Sweater 5K Run at 11 a.m. Participants are encouraged to bring non-expired canned foods, diapers, and toiletries to donate. For every 10 cans donated, guests will receive an entry to guess Santa's weight in cans. The closest guess will win a free family photo shoot at Le May Park, adding an extra layer of holiday excitement to the charitable drive.

This time of year can be stressful for many families, and every donation truly makes a difference," said Briarly Wilson from the Military and Family Readiness Center.

The Trading Post directly supports our Airmen and their loved ones. When Team March comes together like this, it shows what community really means. Even a few cans or a pack of diapers can have a real impact."

Donations collected will help stock the March Trading Post, providing essential food and household items to military families throughout the holiday season. To make giving easier, the Military & Family Readiness Office will also serve as an additional weekday drop-off location, Monday through Friday.

Adding spirit to the day's events, Santa himself—played by local volunteer Pat Day—will be on hand for free photos before the 5K run. Pat has become a familiar face during the holidays at March ARB, bringing joy through his festive appearances.

"It's an honor to put on the suit each year and be part of something that brings smiles to kids and helps families in real need," Day said. "Team March has a special way of coming together, and if taking photos and spreading cheer helps boost donations, then I'm all in."

TEAM MARCH RALLIES COMMUNITY FOR HOLIDAY CAN FOOD DRIVE AND SANTA EVENTS

For families unable to make the December 10 event, Santa will return during local school winter break. Free Santa photos will be offered again on December 22 from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. at Bldg. 625 on Riverside Drive. Following the morning photo session, families are invited to enjoy Lunch with Santa at the March Club from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

With multiple opportunities to donate, connect, and celebrate, the Can Food Drive highlights the strength and generosity that define the March community. Whether dropping off toiletries, canned food, or simply showing up to share in the festivities, members of Team March are invited to help make the season a little brighter for those who serve alongside them.

"This is what the holidays are all about," Wilson said. "Giving, supporting one another, and creating memories together. We're grateful for everyone who takes part."



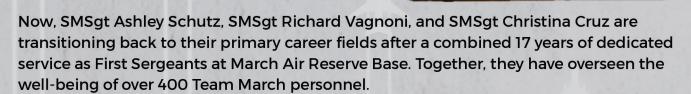
FREE PHOTOS WITH SANTA



TEAM MARCH BIDS FAREWELL TO THREE DEDICATED FIRST SERGEANTS

As the Air Force Reserve prepares for the future as outlined in the Enlisted Force Development 2025 CONOPS, Team March is acknowledging the contributions of three outstanding First Sergeants concluding their special duty assignment tour. These Senior Non-Commissioned Officers, identified by the diamond insignia within their chevrons (previously with a 1SGT duty identifying tab), have dedicated a significant portion of their careers to serving as vital resources for Airmen outside their primary Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC).

First Sergeants, holding the AFSC 8F000, are carefully vetted and selected from diverse career fields to serve as trusted advisors, focusing on the health, morale, and welfare of their assigned units. This typically involves a 3-6 year commitment, after which they return to their original AFSC, enriched with newfound leadership skills, broadened perspectives, and invaluable experience gained from working in a different environment, a different culture.



"On March ARB, there are 2x more Chief Master Sergeant's then there are First Sergeants and to lose three Senior Diamonds with that much experience and knowledge is a huge loss to those units, the first sergeant council, and this wing," 1Sgt Morales.

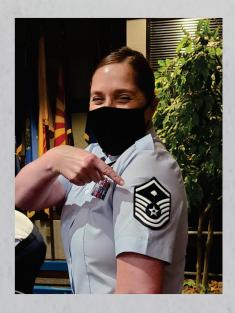




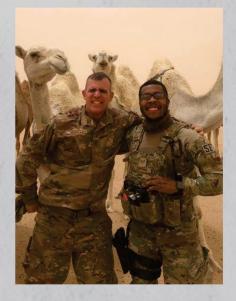
TEAM MARCH BIDS FAREWELL TO THREE DEDICATED FIRST SERGEANTS



SMSgt Schutz, initially from the medical field, served at the 729th Airlift Squadron and the 452d Maintenance Squadron. She also deployed in 2022 supporting the 332d Air Expeditionary Wing. She will now be assigned to the 452d Aeromedical Staging Squadron.



SMSgt Cruz, also from a maintenance AFSC, served as a First Sergeant for the 452d Communications Squadron and later for the 56th Aerial Port Squadron. Her new assignment will be with the 452d Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.



SMSgt Vagnoni, with a background in maintenance, began his First Sergeant duties at the 926th Security Forces Squadron at Nellis AFB before transferring to March ARB to serve at the 50th Aerial Port Squadron. He deployed in 2021 supporting the 387th Air Expeditionary Group. He will now be joining the 452d Maintenance Squadron.

"Once a Diamond...always a Diamond!" exclaimed 1Sgt Garcilazo. "It was an absolute pleasure taking care of the men and women on this base alongside these amazing people. I won't see them in our council meetings anymore, but glad all three are staying here at March."

The First Sergeant Council has recognized their extraordinary service with a symbolic statue, representing the core role of the First Sergeant. Furthermore, they have been awarded the Order of the Diamond certificate, approved by the AFRC First Sergeant functional manager, acknowledging them as "Diamonds among Diamonds" for their exceptional dedication.

Team March is encouraged to acknowledge and thank these dedicated SNCOs for their invaluable contributions. Their commitment to the well-being of our Airmen has left an enduring positive impact on the base. They proved that the First Sergeant position is not easy but they did an amazing job.



Our mission is to provide guidance and foster growth within the Non-Commissioned Officer Corps. We dedicate our time and resources to develop the Airmen under our leadership and assist in enhancing the innovation and capabilities of March ARB.

Join us for the monthly Unit Training Assembly (UTA) meeting at 10:00 AM Saturday morning at the March ARB Chapel located at 880 Baucom Ave SE, March ARB, CA 92518

Our Organization Tree
President: SSgt Bolton, Collier 452 MXS
Vice President: TSgt Romualdo Kathleen 452 CS
Secretary: SSgt Garcia Adam 452 CS
Treasurer: SSgt Worrell Michael 452 SFS

We currently have 54 members, including traditional reservists (TRs), active reserves, technicians (ART), and Active Guard Reserve (AGR).

452AMW.5-6Council.ProfessionalOrgs@us.af.mil

Join us today, your Unit needs a voice!

United States Air Force Reserve

Fly, Fight, Win!

UTA HOLIDAY EVENTS



AIRINEN'S AIRINE

LOCATION

BUILDING #405, NEAR THE INTERSECTION OF GRAEBER AND MEYER



IS FREE!

WHAT YOU CAN FIND:

- MILITARY UNIFORMS
- UNIFORM ACCESSORIES
- BOOTS & SHOES
- MEN'S CLOTHING
- WOMEN'S CLOTHING
- CHILDREN'S CLOTHING
- HOUSEHOLD GOODS
- BEVERAGES
- GAMES & TOYS





HOURS OF OPERATION

UTA: 1100-1200

WED: 1400-1500

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

SIGN UP USING THE QR CODE

BENEFITS INCLUDE

- EPR BULLET
- NETWORKING
- VOLUNTEER HOURS
- BOOST MORAL



452D MARCH FSS

Follow Us On Social Media











JOIN OUR NEWSLETTER





March Inn

Peyton C. General Store OPEN 24 HOURS!

Swing by our 24-hour sundry store in the March Inn lobby for all your cravings and essentials! Stocked with a variety of chips, sodas, alcoholic beverages, frozen foods like burritos & breakfast sandwiches, candy, and toiletries such as toothbrushes and floss, we've got you covered day or night!



Marketing & HAP Print Shop

HAP Print Shop CLOSED

Hap Arnold Printing TEMPORARILY CLOSED until further notice due to change in personnel.



















MARCH FSS EVENTS



FITNESS CENTER

FOR MORE INFORMATION **951-655-2284**

SALLY'S/ACES BAR

FOR MORE INFORMATION **951-655-4920**

EVERY WED AT 1600 | SALLY'S ALLEY | 655-4920



HAP ARNOLD CLUB

FOR MORE INFORMATION **951-655-4920**





Join us for a heartwarming afternoon filled with joy, laughter, and holiday cheer! Bring the family and make unforgettable memories at our Lunch with Santa Claus himself! Lunch available for purchase + Free Cookies!

MONDAY, 22 DECEMBER 2025 1100-1300 BLDG 110

More Information
Follow us on social media
@marchfss

BACKSTREET GRILL -UTA MENU & NEW MONTHLY SPECIALS

MENU

UTA HOURS (SAT & SUN)

Breakfast 0530-0900 Lunch 1100-1330 Dinner (Sat ONLY) 1600-2000

BREAKFAST AT BACKSTREET COUNTER TOP SERVING LINE

Drinks Choice of (1) Coffee, tea, 1% milk, or orange juice

Bacon/Turkey Bacon or Sausage Patties Scrambled Eggs

Home Fried Potatoes

Pancakes or French Toast Will alternate Sat & Sun

Wheat toast, Asst. Cereals and Oatmeal Choice of (1) Assorted Muffin Choice of (1) Orange or Apple

LUNCH AT BACKSTREET

Pound of Wings Choice of Sauce: Barbecue or Buffalo (Hot) With Choice of Side Salad, Freedom Fries, or Onion Rings 8 Oz. Hamburger or Cheese Burger ... \$15.95 Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato and Onions With a Choice of Side Salad, Freedom Fries, or Onion Rings Philly Cheesesteak Sandwich \$18.00 Grilled Onions, Peppers and Mozzarella Cheese With a Choice of Side Salad, Freedom Fries, Grilled Chicken Sandwich..... Kaiser Roll with Lettuce, Tomato, Onion & Cheese With a Choice of Side Salad, Freedom Fries, or Onion Rings Grilled Chicken Salad with Dinner Roll

Orders come with:

Dessert Choice of (1)

Chocolate Cake, Carrot Cake, Chocolate Brownie Drinks Choice of (1)

1% Milk, Coffee, Snapple, Fountain Drinks.

Choice of (1)

Orange or Apple

DINNER AT BACKSTREET COOKED TO ORDER MENU

Served with your Choice of French Fries or Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Seasonal Mixed Vegetables, and Garlic Bread Grilled or Crispy Chicken Salad \$15.95 Served with Garlic Bread Sweet and Sour Chicken Breast.......... \$16.95 Served with Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Mixed Vegetables,

12" Medium Assorted Pizza\$14.00 Pepperoni, Sausage, Supreme, or Cheese

Personnel signing AF-79 Orders come with:

Dessert Choice of (1)

Chocolate Cake, Carrot Cake, Chocolate Brownie Drinks Choice (1)

1% Milk, Coffee, Snapple, Fountain Drinks Choice of (1)

Orange or Apple

BOTTLED BEVERAGES

\$3.00
\$2.00
\$2.00
\$3.00
\$3.00
\$2.50

FOUNTAIN DRINKS

Small - \$2.00 • Medium - \$2.50 • Large - \$2.75

- Iced Tea
- Powerade
- Fanta Orange Soda Iced Tea
- Fruit Punch
- Fanta Orange Soda
- Lemonade
- Fruit Punch



NEED A QUICK SPECIALTY COFFEE & PASTRIES

AT BACKSTREET GRILL

Caffe Latte · Cappuccino · Café Vanilla · Mocha · French Vanilla · Hot Chocolate · Espresso · Black Coffee · Flat White · Assorted Muffins · Scones · Donuts · Donut Holes

Holiday Special* MONTH OF DECEMBER

Soup and Salad or Soup and Grilled Cheese for \$8!







ON BY OR ORDER AHEAD **SOME DELICIOUS GRUB!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION 1-655-3663 SCAN QR FOR FULL MENU

