

# Desert Lightning News

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## Kessel Run's C2IMERA featured at Red Flag

by Richard Blumenstein

Nellis AFB, Nev.

Red Flag-Nellis 23-1 integrated a Kessel Run application into its operations for the first time this past January.

Close to 100 aircraft and 3,000 coalition service members participated in this large force air combat training exercise centered on readiness and interoperability between joint and allied forces. This iteration focused on the Indo-Pacific theater and the pacing challenge, alongside allied partners.

Red Flag is a multinational exercise held at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., three times a year, meant to test and prepare service members and coalition partners' capabilities through various real-world scenarios.

Exercise planners used Kessel Run's C2IMERA, or Command and Control Incident Management Emergency Response Application. Its software focuses on reporting, planning, force generation, emergency management, and command and control monitoring and execution.

"Aligning the development of agile combat employ-

ment concepts with this critical capability has been a priority of the 505th since Air Combat Command directed the fielding of C2IMERA at all installations in August 2021," said Col. Adam Shelton, 505th Test and Training Group commander, Hurlburt Field, Fla. "Merging new employment concepts, maturing technology, and redesigned wing organizational structures is a complex task. However, the teamwork between the 705th Training Squadron cadre and Kessel Run professionals enabled the integration of C2IMERA into Red Flag 23-1 for the first time. This development will continue to improve future Red Flag training for wing command and control force elements and will set the stage to better prepare and certify wings prior to their commit phase of the Air Force Force Generation model."

The application uses a common operating picture and dashboarding capabilities as communication tools, which consolidates and shares information for leaders, and boasts a plethora of features to provide C2 capabilities. These tools are customizable and optimized based on the individual needs of the installation and also focus on updating and communicating data in real time to

give commanders a constant picture of their installations, environment, assets and personnel.

C2IMERA was employed throughout the training to give exercise participants in multiple locations a continuous picture, in real time, of assets, personnel, mishaps, aircraft, and munitions according to Master Sgt. Kirsten Sigerson, 355th Wing Command Post superintendent.

Multiple scenarios included downed aircraft, mishaps and personnel recovery. Sigerson said she was able to leverage C2IMERA to track information and report it to leadership in real time.

"C2IMERA is a system where we have a common installation picture," said Sigerson. "You have a full picture of what is happening real time at the location viewing such as road closures, threats to buildings, or any kind of medical responses. Anyone with an account can see what's happening in real time."

Kessel Run is a Division within Air Force Life Cycle Management Center's Digital Directorate. Kessel Run is an Agile Software Development unit building a scalable software factory to architect, manufacture and operate wing and operational-level C2 systems.



Courtesy photo

# Trust connects people to each other and mission

by Master Sgt. Matthew Adelman  
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

Having trust in an organization is one of the most foundational principles that can help people feel connected to each other and the mission.

Trust plays an enormous part in positively shaping the organization's culture. According to a Harvard Business Review study, high-trust organizations experience less stress, have more energy, are more productive, experience fewer absences, cultivate engaged subordinates, and lead people to be more satisfied with their lives in general.

So, how do you cultivate trust? Leaders build trust through applying transparency, authenticity, credibility, and reliability.

Transparency is essential to communicating the organization's goals and

intentions. It forces leaders to be open and candid with their subordinates and ensures employees are armed with as many resources as possible.

This is key to leveraging the very best in people and processes. Leaders should offer regular and candid feedback that seeks to refine skills and set standards while being constructive and informative. However, leaders should be attentive and willing to accept feedback in return. Seeking feedback on how to better train, equip, and organize their force forms long lasting, high performing teams.

Authenticity starts with being aware of yourself. Knowing your own values is essential to valuing and honing qualities in others and the organization. This principle can be cultivated by developing a high level of emotional intelligence.

A foundational aspect of authenticity is having a true desire to know and help your subordinates do well leading to organizational and personal successes. Another important aspect of this is showing vulnerability by owning your mistakes, admitting when you are wrong, and using lessons learned in the past to show your own humanity, especially when employees tend to put leaders on pedestals.

Reliability and credibility mean that you are consistent and follow-through with your commitments. Your actions align with your values and those of your organization and naturally forges paths to success. It also means making well-informed, timely decisions. When leaders change positions or even their core values, it confuses subordinates and causes the organization to lose its identity.

Paralysis by analysis is a real threat to reliability and credibility alike. Leaders are not expected to know everything. When they are not the experts, they should appoint and rely on those who are to make decisions. Additionally, leaders must demonstrate integrity and fairness, especially when it comes to offering opportunities to lead teams and advance within the organization. A final component of reliability is accountability in yourself and your subordinates against well-defined standards.

Trust is a highly dynamic principle, often subjective to our personal biases and perspectives. It is difficult to gain and even more difficult to regain after it is lost. However, applying these principles can go a long way in building an organization that cultivates trust at its core allowing employees to be truly connected to each other and the mission.

## 2023 Air Force Trials begin!



Air Force photograph by Airman 1st Class Jordan McCoy

Master Sgt. Scott Caroon, left, assigned to Stratton Air National Guard Base, N.Y., retired Senior Airman Christian Vega, middle, and Tech. Sgt. Kevin Greene, assigned to the 920th Force Support Squadron, participate in the opening ceremony for the 2023 Air Force Trials at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Feb. 24, 2023. More than 120 Airmen along with 47 caregivers from around the globe will compete for a coveted slot on Team Air Force.

— See additional photos on page 4.



Air Force photograph by Airman 1st Class Jordan McCoy

Members of the Nellis Air Force Base Honor Guard prepare to present the colors before the opening ceremony of the 2023 Air Force Trials at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Feb. 24, 2023. The Air Force Wounded Warrior Program offers wounded warriors a professional coaching staff, many of whom are competitive athletes themselves.



Air Force photograph by Airman John Lewis IV

Air Force Wounded Warrior athletes train for the 2023 Air Force Wounded Warrior Trials, Feb. 21, 2023, at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. Air Force Trials are a paralympic style competition that features adaptive sports such as seated volleyball and wheelchair basketball. It also features traditional Olympic style sports such as swimming, track and field, cycling, powerlifting, archery, air rifle and air pistol, all of which uses equipment adapted to the needs of the athletes.



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For all submissions, a name and phone number of a person to contact must be included in the event questions arise.

All material is edited for accuracy, brevity, clarity and conformity to the AP Style Guide, to include military ranks and proper writing etiquette.

Corrections: Desert Lightning News staff members strive for accuracy each week. If you notice an error in fact, contact the Desert Lightning News staff at 334-718-3509, or e-mail editor@aerotechnews.com, and we will consider publishing a correction when appropriate.

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# RAF Voyager fuels the fight at Red Flag 23-1

by Senior Airman Megan Estrada

Nellis AFB, Nev.

The Royal Air Force's Voyager aircraft took part in Red Flag-Nellis 23-1, Jan. 23-Feb. 10, 2023.

Red Flag is a major coalition military exercise that takes place at Nellis Air Force Base and on the Nevada Test and Training Range.

The Voyager plays a crucial role in meeting the pacing challenge and supports the United States and allied air forces to overcome the tyranny of dis-



A Royal Air Force Typhoon FGR4, flies during a Red Flag-Nellis (RF-N) 23-1 mission over the Nevada Test and Training Range, Jan. 26, 2023. Red Flag-Nellis increases interoperability between partner nations and across the joint force as service members train together against high-end realistic scenarios.

tance. Throughout the three-week long exercise, it will fly twice a day refueling U.S. Marine Corps F-35B Lightning IIs, RAF FGR4 Typhoons and Royal Australian Air Force EA-18G Growlers.

"Red Flag provides the highest possible level of planning and training with our coalition partners," said RAF Air Commodore Howard Edwards,

Combat Air commander. "Here we are exposed to tactics, techniques and procedures that could be used against a peer adversary, and we can practice using a full spectrum of capabilities, some of which can only be practiced over the NTTR."

The exercise provides a realistic training environment for the Voyager's



A Royal Air Force pilot and co-pilot from the 10/101 Squadrons, fly a Voyager in participation of Red Flag-Nellis 23-1 over the Nevada Test and Training Range, Jan. 26, 2023. Red Flag provides a realistic training environment for aircrews, allowing them to practice and improve their skills in a simulated combat environment.



Air Force photographs by Senior Airman Megan Estrada

U.S. Marine Corps F-35Bs from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron-211, await refueling from a Royal Air Force Voyager in participation of Red Flag-Nellis 23-1 (RF-N) over the Nevada Test and Training Range, Jan. 26, 2023.

LEFT: Royal Air Force mission systems operator, monitors and directs the air-to-air refueling of a U.S. Marine Corps F-35B in participation of Red Flag-Nellis 23-1 over the Nevada Test and Training Range, Jan. 26, 2023.

aircrew, allowing them to practice and improve their skills in a simulated combat environment while maintaining their mission of providing aerial refueling for participating aircraft.

"As a key enabler for jets, exercises like this allow us to practice how we can effectively get to them, to the fight and back again also maximizing their training benefit," said Edwards.

The Voyager's capabilities give military commanders greater flexibility that allows them to respond to a broader range of scenarios. Its ability to provide aerial refueling and transportation support allows other aircraft to operate at a higher tempo and stay in the air for extended periods.

"Modern warfighting occurs across a range of environments and is almost always done in coalitions with our

partners and allies," said Sqdn. Ldr. Helen Train, the RAF Voyager detachment commander. "Exercises like this allow us to meet these allies face to face and learn how we can best integrate and enable their operations."

The Voyager has proven it is a true coalition force multiplier during this iteration of Red Flag.

"The Royal Air Force Voyager's versatility and capabilities make it a valuable asset to the coalition force and its ability to provide aerial refueling and transportation support is essential to the success of the future fight," said Col. Jared Hutchinson, 414th Combat Training Squadron commander. "Its participation in Red Flag 23-1 highlights its importance in supporting the United States and other allied nations in military operations."

# The 2023 Air Force Trials Begin!



Air Force photographs by Airman 1st Class Jordan McCoy

Air Force Trial participants, service members and wounded warriors gather for a group photo at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Feb. 24, 2023. The Department of Defense created the Military Adaptive Sports Program to enhance warrior recovery by engaging wounded, ill and injured service members in ongoing, daily adaptive activities, based on their interests and ability.



Air Force Trials participants carry the ceremonial torch during the opening ceremony at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Feb. 16, 2023. The Air Force trials are a Paralympic-style competition that features adaptive sports such as seated volleyball and wheelchair basketball. The trials also feature traditional Olympic-style Sports such as swimming, track and field, cycling, powerlifting, archery, air rifle, and air pistol; all of which use equipment adapted to the needs of the athlete.

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# Nellis helps Swissport International redefine airfield safety



Air Force photographs by Airman 1st Class Jordan McCoy



Swissport International employees discussed safety policies at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Feb. 16, 2023. Airmen and Swissport International employees exchanged ideas and compared safety protocols to see what they could learn from one another.

LEFT: Tech. Sgt. Omar Salih, a 99th Air Base Wing occupational safety manager, leads a safety presentation at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Feb. 16, 2023. While creating programs for mishap prevention, the 99th ABW Safety Office highlighted the importance of effective training, risk management, and near-miss reporting to get to the core reason behind safety management systems, as well as how they take a holistic approach to implement and sustain them.



Bruno Stefani, left, Swissport International chief executive officer, left, and Tech. Sgt. Omar Salih, a 99th Air Base Wing occupational safety manager, pose for a photo before touring Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Feb. 16, 2023. Swissport and Nellis worked together to improve upon airfield safety standards and programs. Through this collaboration, both parties walked away with new and inventive ways to approach air transportation procedures on a day-to-day basis.



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1:6.5"

# Red Flag night launch with civic leaders

by Airman 1st Class Josey Blades  
Nellis AFB, Nev.

Senior leaders at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., welcomed both civic leaders and honorary commanders to the base on Jan. 31, 2023, to observe the launch of U.S., joint and allied aircraft from the flight line during Red Flag-Nellis 23-1.

The event served as an opportunity to highlight the importance of Red Flag exercises to honorary commanders from Nellis AFB and Beale AFB, Calif. Civic leaders who witnessed the night launch got a behind-the-scenes look at the significance of these exercises. Red Flag operations provide civic leaders with meaningful insight into what happens at Nellis. These large-scale, cutting-edge exercises focus on readiness and interoperability between joint and allied forces.

“Being an honorary commander for six years, I have always enjoyed seeing how Red Flag operates at the grassroots level,” said Kameron Kildea, 757th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron honorary commander. “More importantly I like to share it with others from our community and see their amazement on how everything comes together to train the world’s greatest Air Force! I appreciate every chance I get to engage with my squadron and their military counterparts.”

Honorary commander programs strengthen bonds between base leaders, their personnel and leaders from neighboring communities. The Nellis program creates opportunities to edu-

cate key community members about the missions of the U.S. Air Force and Nellis AFB. Because of this program, military members have the opportunity to share ideas and experiences while also fostering a supportive relationship with the community.

“Red Flag is core to the 57th Wing Mission — training the next generation of warfighters for the high-end fight — the Air Force, the Joint Force, and our allies and partners,” said Brig. Gen. Richard Goodman, 57th Wing commander. “It’s an honor to showcase the capabilities of our aircraft, and more importantly our incredible Airmen, to our community partners.”



Second Lt. Jamie Moul, Airfield Operations Flight Systems Officer, explains preparation before a launch during a Red Flag Night Launch at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Jan. 31, 2023. Honorary commander programs introduce the surrounding civic leaders to Airmen and their mission sets.



LEFT: Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., honorary commanders and Beale AFB, Calif., civic leaders learn about different aircraft during a Red Flag Night Launch at Nellis, Jan. 31, 2023.



Maj. Gen. Case Cunningham, U.S. Air Force Warfare Center commander, briefs Nellis Air Force Base Nev., honorary commanders and Beale AFB, Calif., civic leaders before Red Flag Night Launch at Nellis, Jan. 31, 2023. This event served as an opportunity to highlight the importance of Red Flag exercises to honorary commanders from Nellis AFB and Beale AFB.



Airmen speak to Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., honorary commanders and Beale AFB, Calif., civic leaders during a Red Flag Night Launch at Nellis, Jan. 31, 2023. Honorary commander programs create opportunities to educate key community members about the missions of the U.S. Air Force and Nellis AFB.

Air Force photographs by Airman 1st Class Josey Blades



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# 55th RQS provide CSAR support



First Lt. Trevor Pratt, a standardization and evaluation liaison officer assigned to the 55th Rescue Squadron, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., performs pre-flight inspections before taking off for a Red Flag-Nellis 23-1 combat search and rescue mission at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Feb. 7, 2023.



Capt. Shane Anthony, a pilot assigned to the 55th Rescue Squadron, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., performs pre-flight inspections before taking off for a Red Flag-Nellis 23-1 combat search and rescue mission at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Feb. 7, 2023. Red Flag-Nellis 23-1 provides realistic combat training that saves lives while increasing combat effectiveness.



Pararescuemen assigned to the 55th Rescue Squadron, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., run back to an HH-60G Pave Hawk with a down pilot during a Red Flag-Nellis 23-1 combat search and rescue mission on the Nevada Test and Training Range, Nevada, Feb. 7, 2023.



RIGHT: An evaluator special missions aviator, assigned to the 55th Rescue Squadron, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., performs pre-flight inspections before launching out for a Red Flag-Nellis 23-1 combat search and rescue mission at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Feb. 7, 2023. Red Flag-Nellis 23-1 provides realistic combat training that saves lives while increasing combat effectiveness.



An evaluator special missions aviator, assigned to the 55th Rescue Squadron, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., performs pre-flight inspections before launching out for a Red Flag-Nellis 23-1 combat search and rescue mission Feb. 7, 2023. Red Flag-Nellis 23-1 provides realistic combat training that saves lives while increasing combat effectiveness.



# ort during Red Flag-Nellis 23-1



Pararescuemen assigned to the 55th Rescue Squadron, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., rush off an HH-60G Pave Hawk to recover a down pilot during a Red Flag-Nellis 23-1 combat search and rescue mission on the Nevada Test and Training Range, Nev., Feb. 7, 2023. The Nevada Test and Training Range is the U.S. Air Force's Premier military training area with more than 12,000 square miles of airspace and 2.9 million acres of land.



An HH-60G Pave Hawk assigned to the 55th Rescue Squadron, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., flies over the Nevada Test and Training Range during a Red Flag-Nellis combat search and rescue mission Feb. 7, 2023.



An evaluator special missions' aviator, assigned to the 55th Rescue Squadron, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., searches for a down pilot over the Nevada Test and Training Range during a Red Flag-Nellis 23-1 combat search and rescue mission Feb. 7, 2023.

Air Force photographs by Senior Airman Zachary Rufus

Special missions' aviator, assigned to the 55th Rescue Squadron, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., searches for a down pilot over the Nevada Test and Training Range during a Red Flag-Nellis 23-1 combat search and rescue mission Feb. 7, 2023. The Nevada Test and Training Range is the U.S. Air Force's Premier military training area with more than 12,000 square miles of airspace and 2.9 million acres of land.



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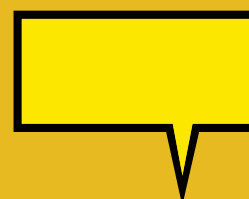
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# DAF issues guidance on COVID-related adverse actions; Religious Accommodation Requests

The Department of the Air Force has issued guidance on removal of adverse actions and handling of Religious Accommodation Requests related to refusal of COVID-19 vaccinations effective Feb. 24, 2023.

The DAF will remove adverse information from records of those currently serving service members who sought an exemption on religious, administrative, or medical grounds and who received adverse actions solely due to their refusal to take the vaccine. Members will be notified by their command or the Air Force Personnel Center/Air Reserve Personnel Center.

Current service members do not need to initiate any actions for their records to be updated.

### Adverse information actions include:

- Letters of admonishment, counseling or reprimand, and records of individual counseling will be rescinded.
- Nonjudicial punishments issued solely for vaccine refusal will be set aside in their entirety.
- Referral performance reports issued solely for vaccine refusal after requesting an exemption will be removed from personnel records and replaced with a statement of non-rated time.

• Promotion records will be corrected by the DAF who will remove or redact all adverse actions related to vaccine refusal.

- Current involuntary discharge



Air Force photograph by Senior Airman Dwane R. Young

An Airman at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., receives the COVID-19 vaccine. The requirement to receive a COVID-19 vaccine is no longer in place, and the Department of the Air Force has released guidance on the removal of adverse actions for those who did not receive the vaccine.

proceedings will be terminated.

Additionally, the department has cancelled all outstanding Religious Accommodation Requests for COVID-19 vaccination exemption.

Members who submitted an RAR for non-COVID-19 vaccination exemptions may update and resubmit their request for other mandated vaccination exemptions. To expedite

processing, members are asked to resubmit within 30 days.

The DAF has until March 17 to update records and notify affected members.

# DOD warns service members to avoid eating poppy seeds

by Jim Garamone

DOD News

Service members may want to hold off ordering that “everything” bagel.

It’s not an urban legend: Eating poppy seeds can cause diners to test positive for codeine on a urinalysis, Defense Department officials said in a memo released Feb. 21, 2023.

“Recent data suggests certain poppy seeds varieties may have higher codeine contamination than previously reported,” said Gilbert R. Cisneros Jr., the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness. “Consumption of poppy seed products could cause a codeine-positive urinalysis result and undermine the department’s ability to identify illicit drug use.”

This comes as something of a surprise for the department. At one point, some meals ready-to-eat contained lemon poppy seed cake, and dining facilities often served poppy seed salad dressing.

Officials became aware of the problem in 2022 and have worked to review the “limited scientific studies



Courtesy photo


and also contracted with an independent laboratory to have the codeine and morphine contamination of multiple poppy seed brands analyzed,” officials said. “The analysis and other recently published studies were the catalyst for the warning regarding poppy seeds.”

The poppy seed memo calls on the Army, Navy and


Air Force to notify service members “to avoid consumption of all poppy seeds, including food products and baked goods containing poppy seeds.” Bagels, rolls, salads and salad dressing are the most common foods with poppy seeds, but there are many other foods where poppy seeds are used as spice. Many foods contain poppy seeds in the Balkans, the Middle East, and central and eastern Europe.

It’s possible that some service members have been disciplined or discharged for “innocent or unknown ingestion” of poppy seeds, an official said. “We are currently working that analysis and focusing on codeine-only positive tests from fiscal year 2019 to present,” the official continued. “This timeline is based on currently available information. The amount of poppy seeds consumed, concentration of codeine detected in urine and time of consumption relative to the drug test are also important factors. As we gather more information, we will reassess and update, as appropriate.”

In his memo, Cisneros said service members should work with their local legal office for any related concerns with urinalysis results.



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The Pipe Trades Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee sponsored by the UA Local #525 Plumbers/ Pipefitters and the Mechanical Contractors Association of Las Vegas will accept applications for the Plumbers and Pipefitters and HVAC Apprenticeship programs **April 3, 2023 through February 08, 2024 for the September 2024 school year.** Applications will only be accepted the first 10 business days of each month with the exception of any holidays. Applications must be filled out and submitted in person at the Pipe Trades Training Center located at 750 Leigon Way. *Applications are available Monday through Thursday afternoons from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM only.* **APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED ON FRIDAYS. The deadline for applying is February 08, 2024** Applicants must have **all** required documents before receiving an application. You may only apply once per application period. This program is a minimum five-year commitment which does not guarantee employment. This is not a job opportunity; it is a career path.

**The sponsor will not discriminate against apprenticeship applicants or apprentices based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity) sexual orientation, genetic information, or because they are an individual with a disability or a person 40 years or older. The sponsor will take affirmative action to provide equal opportunity in apprenticeship and operate the apprenticeship program as required under Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 30, as amended.**

## APPLICANTS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS: (NO EXCEPTIONS)

1. Minimum age -18 years. No maximum age limit.
2. Must possess the natural aptitudes essential to acquiring the skills of the trade.
3. Must be physically able to perform all work of the trade.
4. Must be legally residing in the United States, genuinely interested in learning the trade, and willing to comply with all terms and conditions of the Apprenticeship Standards, Rules, and Regulations.
5. Possess a High School Diploma, G.E.D. Certificate or Certificate of High School Equivalency
6. **Provide copies of the following documents at the time of application:**  
**NO EXCEPTIONS**
  - a. **Birth Certificate or Passport**
  - b. **High School Diploma or a Certificate of High School Equivalency or G.E.D**
  - c. **Legible High School Transcripts from graduated High School or Certificate of High School Transcripts if available.**
  - d. **Photo ID- (A valid Driver's license will be required if you are indentured into the program)**
  - e. **Social Security Card**
  - f. **Military DD-214 Release Papers and Military Transcripts (If Applicable)**
  - g. **Transcripts of Trade School, College, Work Investment Program etc. (optional)**
7. Take a mandatory basic math exam administered by the Committee on the day assigned. **\*Please note: In order to test, you must have submitted the application and all the required documents.\***
8. Appear before the J.A.T.C. Committee for an oral interview.
9. All Applicants selected are subject to a Substance Abuse Test prior to being indentured into the September 2024 Plumbers and Pipefitters Apprenticeship Program.

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