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RNLAF takes part in Red Flag-Nellis 24-2

By Senior Airman
Jose Miguel T. Tamondong

57th Wing Public Affairs

Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the U.S. and Dutch F-35 Lightning IIs flew missions together on the eastern flank to protect NATO airspace.

Being two hours away by air from the conflict, Air Commodore Johan van Deventer, commander of the Royal Netherlands Air Force Air Combat Command, recognized the importance of keeping the RNLAF ready and enhancing their fifth-generation fighter interoperability with coalition partners. As such, he knew providing his team with the top-tier training only Red Flag-Nellis can offer was a strategic necessity.

The Air Force holds that allies and partners are a force multiplier and one of the greatest strategic assets for this nation, and future success depends on how well U.S. forces combine with the broad range of allied and partner capabilities and expertise to secure common interests and promote shared values.

"The Royal Netherlands Air Force, Air Combat Command specifically, is here at Nellis to get the high-end training that we need," said Van Deventer. "We live in a very unstable world, and we must be ready to fight tonight and win from any aggressor."

Red Flag-Nellis 24-2 affords its participants the opportunity to fly and train in the Nevada Test and Training Range that spans more than 12,000 square miles and 2.9 million acres of



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jose Miguel T. Tamondong

Members of the Royal Netherlands Air Force prepare to launch out F-35A Lightning IIs during Red Flag-Nellis 24-2 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, March 13, 2024. The integration of the F-35 brings unprecedented capabilities including enhanced stealth, sensor fusion and network connectivity which are crucial in maintaining air superiority and deterring potential adversaries.

land which is roughly the size of the Netherlands.

"With the big piece of airspace and the big range that's below it, it's a golden opportunity for us to get this training," said Van Deventer. "It's very good to have almost no limits and to get all the threats around and prepare our pilots for the first couple of missions that they have to fly during wartime."

Another priority of this Red Flag iteration is fifth-generation interoperability, specifically with the F-35s. These advanced aircraft bring unprecedented capabilities, including enhanced stealth, sensor fusion, and network connectivity, which affords the ability to maintain air

superiority and deter potential adversaries. Coordination and joint operations during critical missions can be enhanced by operating with a common platform and leveraging advanced communication systems.

"Our F-35 is a fifth-gen platform and an aircraft you want to cooperate with in a coalition," Van Deventer said. "The way it's getting and exchanging information is typical for a fifth-gen platform. So, you want to share that information with all your coalition partners to make the coalition stronger and better, and this is the place to train to the full extent."

With the Netherlands' close proximity to Russia and Ukraine, Van Deventer reiterated the importance of getting high-end quality training to ensure its readiness to integrate with coalition partners.

"Back in Europe, the threat is very close. We only live an hour and a half away [by air] from Kaliningrad, Russia. And the war in Ukraine is only two hours away from us," said Van Deventer. "We need to be ready to fight tonight and to deter the aggressor and make sure that peace stays in Europe."

In his first visit to Nellis Air Force Base as the new commander of the Air Combat Command, U.S. Air Force Gen. Ken Wilsbach recognized the ongoing challenges in the world and highlighted the strategic

importance of strengthening our relationship with our allies and partners.

"We have many nations that are like-minded with us and if we can incorporate them into a strategy against those challenger nations," said Wilsbach. "Those challenger nations don't have to just deal with the United States, they also would have to deal with our allies and partners. That's a strength and we should propagate that as much as we can because it's effective."

In Europe, there are multiple NATO nations flying the same airplane, using each other's Special Access Program facilities, and passing tactical data over advanced datalinks on a frequent basis. As one of the United States' European coalition partners and a long-standing NATO ally, Van Deventer expressed the importance of strengthening the interoperability between the RNLAF and the United States.

"My airmen and I are very excited about this exercise," Van Deventer said. "Interoperability is key to coalition warfare and that's why we go and do what we do here. We plan together, we brief together, we fight together, and we debrief together. And even after the debrief, the coalition is built with a cup of coffee so that we make sure that we can fight tonight with the complete team as one strong coalition."



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jose Miguel T. Tamondong

Members of the Royal Netherlands Air Force prepare to launch an F-35A Lightning II during Red Flag-Nellis 24-2 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, March 13, 2024. The presence of the F-35s offers the U.S., allies, and partners a versatile and highly capable system, enhancing collective defense measures while reinforcing the NATO alliance's commitment to leveraging top-tier military capabilities for regional security and deterrence.

Air Force, Marine Corps Trials 2024 opening ceremony at Nellis AFB



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jose Miguel T. Tamondong

LEFT: Attendees watch as a member of the U.S. Air Force team competes in the 2024 Air Force and Marine Corps powerlifting competition at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, March 8, 2024. Each athlete is competing to earn one of 40 primary slots on their service team to represent their individual branches at the 2024 Department of Defense Warrior Games.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jose Miguel T. Tamondong

Retired U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Chris Ferrell, left, bumps fist with Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Harry Harth IV, both torch bearers for their respective teams, during the opening ceremony of the 2024 Air Force and Marine Corps trials at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, March 8, 2024.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jose Miguel T. Tamondong

LEFT: Trial team members from Ukraine and the Republic of Georgia attend the opening ceremony of the 2024 Air Force and Marine Corps trials at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, March 8, 2024. Teams from Ukraine and the Republic of Georgia joined the U.S. Air Force, Space Force, Army, and Marine Corps in this year's trials.

RIGHT: U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to the Air Force Special Warfare Exhibition team complete a fast rope infiltration. The exhibition team consists of Pararescue jumpers, combat controllers, special reconnaissance and tactical air control party.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Elizabeth Tan



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Elizabeth Tan

The Air Force Special Warfare Exhibition team performs a fast rope infiltration demonstration off a HH-60W Jolly Green II in honor of the 2024 Air Force and Marine Corps Trials competition at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, March 8, 2024. The Jolly Green II is a combat rescue helicopter used to recover isolated personnel from hostile territory and perform civil search and rescue.



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New ACC commander, command chief pay first visit to Creech

By 432nd Wing

Public Affairs Staff

432nd Wing/432nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

U.S. Air Force Gen. Ken Wilsbach, commander of Air Combat Command and Chief Master Sgt. David Wolfe, ACC command chief, visited the 432nd Wing/432nd Air Expeditionary Wing at Creech Air Force Base, Nevada, March 4.

After taking command of ACC on Feb. 29, Wilsbach, along with Wolfe, visited Creech AFB to see the home of the remotely piloted aircraft enterprise, which supports a worldwide, 24/7/365 mission.

The mission consists of conducting persistent attack and reconnaissance, airstrikes, close air support, search and rescue, and support to civil authority missions for multiple combatant commands.

“It’s great to visit Creech and put a face to the accomplishments the wing is constantly pushing out and to see how they’re innovating ways to employ the MQ-9 in Great Power Competition,” said Wilsbach. “I am impressed with everything the Hunters are doing.”

The 432nd Wing/432nd Air Expeditionary Wing is testing and implementing new tactics, techniques and procedures to employ the MQ-9 in Great Power Competition. These new methods allow RPAs to



U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Victoria Nuzzi

ACC commander U.S. Air Force Gen. Ken Wilsbach; Col. Nicholas Pederson, 432nd Wing/432nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, Chief Master Sgt. David Wolfe, ACC command chief, and Chief Master Sgt. Cory L. Shipp, 432nd Wing/432nd Air Expeditionary Wing command chief, walk on the flight line at Creech Air Force Base, Nevada, March 4, 2024. The ACC command team visited Creech to hear from wing leadership and Airmen and see the Hunters’ mission firsthand.

move more fluidly across theaters, making them more agile.

“It was an honor to host General Wilsbach and Chief Wolfe and showcase how our Airmen are shaping the future,” said

U.S. Air Force Col. Nicholas Pederson, 432nd Wing/432nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander. “Instead of reacting to a future threat, we’re taking proactive steps to prevent it. We’re tackling all five threats outlined in the National Defense Strategy, and our constant presence and intelligence gathering serve as a powerful deterrent.”

The 432nd Wing, as the only

stateside Air Expeditionary Wing, is at the forefront of the Air Force’s persistent attack and reconnaissance combat mission to support multiple combatant commands, and joint and combined force commanders in numerous areas of responsibility around the world.

Throughout 2023, the wing commanded combat lines that generated over 8,579 sorties,

222,000 Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance hours, in support of European Command, Africa Command, Indo-Pacific Command and Central Command.

The 432nd Wing’s accomplishments in 2023 earned the Meritorious Unit Award and the Air Force Historical Foundation’s James H. “Jimmy” Doolittle Award.



U.S. Air Force Maj. James Baker, 432nd Aircraft Communications Maintenance Squadron director of operations discusses his squadron’s mission with Chief Master Sgt. David Wolfe, ACC command chief, at Creech Air Force Base, Nevada, March 4, 2024. The squadron provides MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft satellite communications support.



U.S. Air Force Gen. Ken Wilsbach, commander of Air Combat Command, and Chief Master Sgt. David Wolfe, ACC command chief, are shown a portable air control station by Senior Airman Joseph Halsey and Airman 1st Class Anika Manabat, 432nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron avionics journeymen, at Creech Air Force Base, Nevada, March 4, 2024. Wilsbach and Wolfe saw its role in enhancing the 432nd Wing/432nd Air Expeditionary Wing’s operational agility and responsiveness.

Nellis hosts students as part of Project Quesada

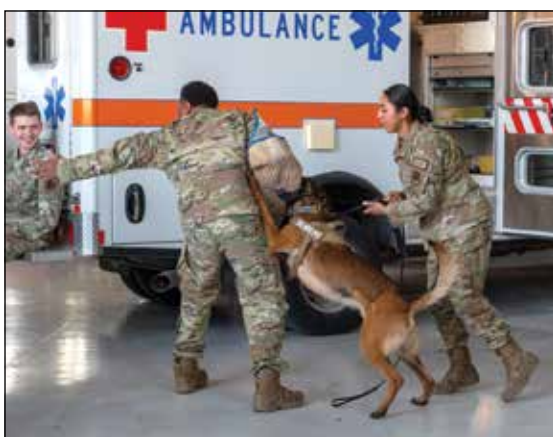


U.S. Air Force Airmen pose for a photo with students on Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, Feb. 26, 2024, as part of the Project Quesada initiative.



U.S. Air Force photos by Airman Brianna Vetro

U.S. Air Force Tech Sgt. Halligan Matthew, 99th Security Forces Squadron, introduces students to the Vision 60 "Robot Dog" on Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, Feb. 26, 2024. Airmen from the 99th Security Forces Squadron supported the Project Quesada initiative, an Air Combat Command wide initiative designed to provide young people from diverse backgrounds an exposure to aviation career fields by partnering with Hispanic Serving Institutions and Minority Serving Institutions.



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Yarithza Arista and U.S. Air Force Tech Sgt. Albert Middleton, 99th Security Forces Squadron Military Working Dog handlers, participate in demonstrations with military working dogs on Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, Feb. 26, 2024.



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Rosamaria Munoz, 757th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Strike Aircraft Maintenance Unit, speaks with students about the 7-15E Strike Eagle on Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, Feb. 26, 2024. Airmen from the 757th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron supported the Project Quesada initiative.

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EFMP Central Cell visits Nellis to better programs

By Staff Sgt. Samantha Krolikowski
57th Wing Public Affairs

The Exceptional Family Member Program Central Cell visited Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, March 4-8 to talk to teams from the medical facilities, the Military and Family Readiness Center and the School Liaison Program, about available programs.

The EFMP Central Cell visit coincided with the Air Force Wounded Warrior Program's 2024 Air Force Trials. Both the EFMP Central Cell and Wounded Warrior Program fall under the Air Force Personnel Center.

"We came to assess the Wounded Warrior program and figure out how we can take some of the things they've done and how we can bring them to the EFMP," said U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Amanda Frederick, Exceptional Assignment Programs Division senior enlisted leader.

This opportunity allowed the Cell to ensure they're taking care of caregivers of EFMP members as well as keeping up with medical and educational needs of Nellis and Creech providers.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Samantha Krolikowski

Members from the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) Central Cell pose for a photograph during a visit to Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, March 4-8, 2024. The visit allowed the EFMP Central Cell to ensure they are taking care of caregivers of EFMP members as well as keeping up with medical and educational needs.

According to Frederick, the EFMP Central Cell was established to provide expert guidance for assignment, medical, family support, legal, special education needs, and the ability to follow-up with base level partners to connect families with the right resources.

"The EFMP Central Cell was the first effort to bring all agencies together; special education, medical, the family support center and assignments section of the Military Personnel Flight, to provide

comprehensive support," said Frederick.

The cell hopes to share and give suggestions on how other bases conduct EFMP programs and how to better connect agencies, while also providing ideas for progressing forward and sharing best practices.

"What's really beneficial about coming to visit Nellis is that we get to see and hear from Nellis families about what they may be struggling with," said Frederick. "It's a good way to ground

ourselves and make sure we aren't making policy decisions without being involved."

Frederick stated the area has a unique challenge as there are two bases, Nellis and Creech with different needs. Families who may have a child on the spectrum may face challenges due to resource availability within the local area.

"EFMP is a readiness issue, and those families have different complexities they must navigate through," Frederick said. "Making sure families are connected to the resources that are available on an installation, and more importantly to each other is important to ensure, in the event we are called upon, we know these families are taken care of."

Frederick also reflected on how our leaders can take care of Airmen when they are PCSing in and ensuring they get the support they need. Each base in the Air Force has family members enrolled in EFMP, so it is important leadership know when there are issues and how to best support them. What may be a temporary need will be a long-term benefit to each mission we will face in the present and future.



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RED FLAG 24-2:

ADVANCING F-35 INTEROPERABILITY AT NELLIS



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jose Miguel T. Tamondong

A Royal Netherlands Air Force F-35A Lightning II sits on the flightline during Red Flag-Nellis 24-2, at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, March 13, 2024. The integration of the F-35 brings unprecedented capabilities including enhanced stealth, sensor fusion and network connectivity which are crucial in maintaining air superiority and deterring potential adversaries.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jordan McCoy

From left: U.S. Navy Aviation Ordnancemen Ivania Gomez-Diaz, Melani Nunez and Kelvin Fells, assigned to Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 135, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Washington, download an advanced anti-radiation guided missile during Red Flag-Nellis 24-2 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, March 13, 2024.

By 1st Lt. Jimmy Cummings

57th Wing Public Affairs

Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, welcomed more than 1,500 participants from the U.S. Air Force, Marine Corps, Navy, Air National Guard and the Royal Netherlands Air Force for Red Flag-Nellis 24-2 March 10-23.

Red Flag is a large-force exercise during which the 414th Combat Training Squadron designs complex scenarios designed to elevate air combat skills for the 15 participating units' diverse set of aircraft, including the RNLAF's F-35 Lightning II.

"Red Flag-Nellis is a pivotal exercise for fostering F-35 interoperability on an international scale," said U.S. Air Force Col. Eric Winterbottom, 414th CTS commander. "It forges bonds and strategies for seamless cooperation among our diverse airframes, emphasizing the importance of interoperability in modern warfare."

Recently, an increasing number of European nations have begun adding F-35s to its force. By 2030, more than 600 F-35s are expected to be operational in the region. NATO countries including Finland, Switzerland, Germany and Czechia have committed to purchasing the fifth-generation fighter.

"The F-35 has been one of the most effective integration tools for NATO since the end of the Cold War," said U.S. Air Force Gen. James Hecker, U.S.

Air Forces in Europe commander. "We have U.S. and non-U.S. personnel flying the same jet and passing tactical data over advanced datalinks on a monthly, if not daily basis."

Hecker continued to iterate fifth-generation integration in Europe plays a crucial role in building a credible and robust deterrent posture. The objective is for any F-35, regardless of the owning nation, to land at any F-35 base to refuel, repair, rearm and return to the fight.

The integration of fifth-generation assets in Europe play a crucial role in building a credible and robust deterrent posture. The objective is for any F-35, regardless of the owning nation, to land at any F-35 base to refuel, repair, rearm and return to the fight.

Red Flag-Nellis 24-2 introduced complex target areas, camouflage techniques and realistic scenarios focused on the European theater. The 64th, 65th, and 706th Aggressor Squadrons refine threat replication with advanced advisory air capabilities, intensifying training in contested environments.

The 366th Fighter Wing from Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, served as the core wing for this iteration of Red Flag. Both, F-35 and F-15 aircraft, will participate as blue forces. The 56th Fighter Wing from Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, brought F-16 Top Aces, a private ADAIR service contractor, to provide adversary support.



U.S. Air Force photo by William R. Lewis



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jordan McCoy



U.S. Air Force photo by 1st Lt. Jimmy Cummings

LEFT: A U.S. Navy EA-18G Growler takes off for a Red Flag-Nellis 24-2 night mission at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, March 18, 2024. Red Flag provides participants the opportunity to plan and employ together in the air, domain (supported by space, and cyber) in a contested, degraded and operationally limited environment.

TOP CENTER: Staff Sgt Cody VanNurden, a crew chief assigned to the 857th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, conducts pre-flight checks of an F-16C Fighting Falcon prior to a Red Flag-Nellis 24-2 mission at Nellis AFB, Nevada, March 13, 2024. Red Flag is an opportunity to increase our cooperation, collaboration and interoperability to deter adversaries.



U.S. Air Force photo by William R. Lewis

TOP RIGHT: U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Andrew Garcia, a Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 323 fixed wing aircraft head plane captain, Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar, California, communicates with a pilot before the launch of an F/A-18C Hornet during Red Flag-Nellis 24-2 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, March 11, 2024. Exercise participants conducted a variety of scenarios, including defensive counter air, offensive counter air suppression of enemy air defenses and offensive counter air interdiction.

LEFT: U.S. Air Force Maj. Nathan Persons, left, and Capt. Annie Braun, Weapon Systems Officer, assigned to the 366th Fighter Wing, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, depart an F-15E Strike Eagle after finishing a Red Flag-Nellis 24-2 mission at Nellis AFB, Nevada, March 18, 2024. Red Flag exercises provide aircrews the experience of multiple, intensive air combat sorties in the safety of a training environment.

Department of the Air Force releases 2025 budget proposal

Secretary of the Air Force

Public Affairs

The Department of the Air Force unveiled a \$217.5 billion budget request March 11, designed to continue modernizing the Air Force and Space Force, maintain readiness to respond to current threats, and address key capability gaps while investing to manage risks that are increasing with time.

The \$217.5 billion proposal that Congress will now consider for fiscal year 2025 includes \$188.1 billion for the Air Force and \$29.4 billion for the Space Force. If enacted into law, the Department's overall budget would grow by 1.1 percent, \$2.4 billion, from last fiscal year's budget.

Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall stressed the importance of adequately funding the military for competitiveness in a rapidly evolving global landscape.

"I think that 2025, while difficult, is at a level that I think we can accept, and it will still allow us to make progress on the modernization we need," Kendall said.

The fiscal 2025 budget was built for each service's unique mission.

"The Air Force's core functions remain unchanged: air superiority, global strike, rapid global mobility, command and control, and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance," said Kristyn Jones, performing the duties of the Under Secretary of the Air Force. "The Space Force's efforts reflect the indispensable



Air Force graphic

support that underpins all other joint operations and its continued transformation into a warfighting service to secure our interests in, from and to space."

The budget request includes:

- \$14.9 billion investment to enhance competitive capabilities and maintain air domain lethality
- \$24.9 billion to ensure unmatched ability to deliver global strike around the world
- \$29.4 billion in readiness while continuing to make maximum possible investment in modernization
- \$4.7 billion to proliferate a multi-orbit

missile warning architecture to counter near-peer threats

- \$538 million for Agile Combat Employment to build the right mix of capabilities to defend against current and future threats
- \$6.2 billion in commercial space launches and resilient space data network to deliver capabilities to the Joint Force in, from and to Space
- \$4.4 billion in funds for integrating satellite communications to increase space superiority by connecting and supporting our allies and partners
- \$3.4 billion in the Next Generation Air Dominance Family of Systems to augment current and future platforms in highly contested environments

Acknowledging the practicalities of economic factors, the budget proposal accommodates inflation and rising fuel costs, and for quality of life and retention of personnel:

- \$42.9 billion to improve quality of life for Airmen and Guardians including a 4.5 percent pay raise
- \$1.1 billion for bonus and retention programs for 118,000 critically skilled positions

This budget proposal represents the Department's priorities for maintaining the nation's security and interests.

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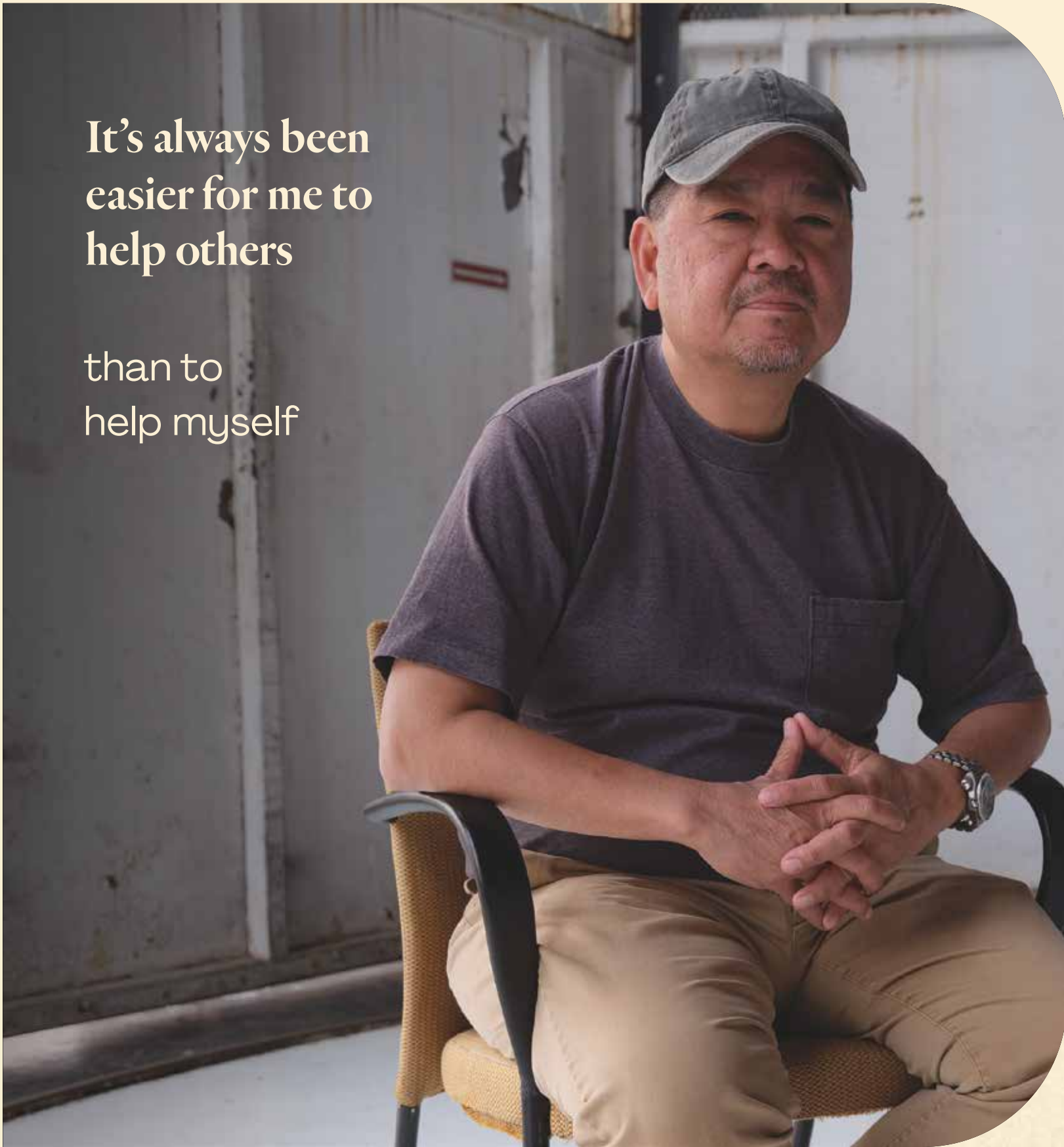
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May through August is "PCS Season" for the military. Military members and their families prepare to make a new home, wherever they are sent.

How can your business serve military families who are moving to your area?

By advertising in Aerotech News' special PCS guide, you will be well-placed to attract new customers as they arrive in our community. We offer our advertisers a targeted, employed readership due to our distribution agreements with military installations and defense industry contractors. You will also have access to thousands of readers who follow us online. New arrivals are typically in need of:

- **Housing** - Where to live (especially if base housing is in short supply)?
- **Education** - Charter or private school options for children, higher education for adults
- **Food/ Entertainment** - What are options for eating out, recreation and socializing?
- **Transportation** - Who has military financing for vehicle purchase or leasing?
- **Worship** - Where are the local churches, synagogues, etc?
- **Specialized medical and dental care** - What providers are available in the community to supplement on-base services?
- **Pre-school and child care** - Who can be trusted to care for children of dual-income families?
- **Goods and services** - Where are the best places to go for furniture and home goods, car repair, and specialty goods and services?

NOW IS THE TIME TO GET THEIR ATTENTION!
Call (877) 247-9288 today to reserve your ad space.
Or email Sandi at sbueltel@aerotechnews.com

Publish Date: May 17, 2024
Advertising Deadline: May 10, 2024



ADVERTISING RATES		
AD SIZE	Black White	Full Color
Full Page (10.25" x 13")	\$1794 ⁰⁰	\$2496 ⁰⁰
Half Page (10.25" x 6.5")	\$975 ⁰⁰	\$1326 ⁰⁰
Quarter Page (5" x 6.5")	\$535 ⁰⁰	\$710 ⁵⁰
1/8 page (3.325" x 5")	\$295 ⁰⁰	\$385 ⁰⁰
Business Card (3.325" x 2")	\$127 ⁰⁰	\$163 ⁰⁰
PREMIUM POSITIONS		
Inside Cover	N/A	\$2895 ⁰⁰
Back Cover	N/A	\$3295 ⁰⁰
Circulation - 25,000		

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