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FAA, Nellis AFB partner to expand Red Flag airspace arena

By Airman 1st Class Makenna Gott *Nellis AFB, Nev.*

The 414th Combat Training Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., and the Federal Aviation Administration have collaborated to expand the available training area during Red Flag-Nellis 22-3 by almost three times the size as prior iterations.

This is the first Red Flag exercise featuring dedicated fifth-generation aggressors, who are using longer-range offensive and defensive measures to provide exercise participants more realistic threat replication. The expansion of the airspace has allowed for training to more closely align with the National Defense Strategy's focus on the pacing challenge.

"The airspace expansion agreement is a critical bridge that allows Red Flag to more accurately replicate an advanced threat," said Lt. Col. Jonah R. Brown, Director of Operations for the 65th Aggressor Squadron.

The partnership with the FAA consists of connecting the airspaces of the Nevada and Utah Test and Training Ranges and the R-2508 Complex through airspace corridors. Connecting the ranges almost triples the area being used for combat training to a total of nearly 36,000 square miles of airspace.

The 414th CTS conducts three Red Flag exercises Annually to provide aircrews the experience of multiple, intensive air combat sorties in the safety of a training environment. Red Flag is designed to simulate the first 10 combat sorties for a pilot in order to increase their survivability in battle.

Prior Red Flag exercises have been held within the Nevada Test and Training Range airspace alone, a 12,000-square-nautical mile range that provides a realistic arena for operational testing and training aircrews to improve combat readiness.



Air Force photograph by Senior Airman Zachary Rufus

An F-16 Fighting Falcon piloted by Capt. Tim "Reef" Joubert, instructor pilot assigned to the 64th Aggressor Squadron, flies over the Nevada Test and Training Range after participating in a Red Flag-Nellis 22-3 mission at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., July 12, 2022. The Nevada Test and Training Range is the U.S. Air Force's premier military training area with more that 12,000 square miles of air space and 2.9 million acres of land.

"As our adversary capabilities have advanced with respect to both aircraft and longer-range weapons, the size of the Nevada Test and Training Range has become one of the biggest limiting factors to accurate training," said Brown. "The air bridges between the NTTR, the UTTR, and R-2508 in California enable Red Flag to present Blue forces the necessary range and time to accurately train against our adversary's most advanced capabilities."

"In the past, Red Flag has only flown

in the NTTR with their assets," said Richard Johnston, 57th Operations Support Squadron chief of airspace management.

Although this is the first time Red Flag is using the airspace expansion, the partnership with the FAA to expand the training area is not new. Johnston said the FAA understands the military's needs. When it comes to the testing and fielding of fifth-generation and soon-to-be sixth-generation aircraft, more airspace will be needed to operate and optimize their systems in an environment as close to what warfighters would see in conflict.

According to Johnston, this current expansion is just one step in a plan to expand exercise airspace even further.

"We came up with a proposal that we're going to send to the FAA, asking to connect all of the ranges on the west coast," said Johnston.

"To train like we would fight in wartime, it is necessary to have a larger airspace," said Brown.

Self-acceptance necessary for success

by Chaplain (Capt.) Chase Rotman Luke AFB, Ariz.

We all have parts of us that we don't like — whether it's the way we communicate, look, talk or think.

The parts of us we do not like or appreciate are often met with denial rather than self-acceptance, much like Nasrudin — the protagonist of many Middle Eastern, Greek, and Russian folktales.

In one story of these folktales, Nasrudin was approaching the door of his house one night when he suddenly realized he had lost his key. He tried to look around for it, but the night was so dark he could hardly see the ground. So he got down on his hands and knees and examined the ground where he was standing; however, it was still too dark to see anything.

Moving back toward a streetlamp, he again got down and began a meticulous examination of the area. A friend came by and noticing him asked what he was doing. Nasrudin replied, "I lost my key and am looking for it." So, the friend got down on his hands and knees and began to search as well. After a while the friend asked, "Do you remember where you might have lost the key?" "Certainly," answered Nasrudin, "I lost it in my house." "Then why are you looking for it out here?" asked the friend. "Because," answered Nasrudin, "the light is so much better here."

We are all much more like Nasrudin than we would like to acknowledge. Searching for the missing key of self-acceptance, but we tend to look for it outside of ourselves where it seems easiest to inspect.

However, the key is inside, in the dark.

For example, we think if we spend our income on big vacations, expensive jewelry, or the newest technology we will finally be loved like we desire. Yet the key is inside, in the dark, where we can truly see ourselves as we are.

Freud noted that the things about ourselves that we avoid will most tyrannize us. Self-acceptance does not increase the power of things that need to be eliminated, rather it weakens them. It robs them of the power they develop when they operate in our denial.

Before we can move forward and encounter progress in our lives, relationships and work, we must accept who we are because we cannot give up what we do not possess.

If you're feeling stuck and lost, know that you are not alone. It can be scary to see ourselves for who we really are right now. However, if you are afraid to make this journey alone, I want to encourage you to sit down with one of your Chaplains. Regardless of your personal faith background or belief, the chapel team is here to support you. We are trained to help as you continue to grow into who you truly are.

As we make the journey to self-acceptance remember that we cannot give up what we do not possess.

Before we can become ourselves, we must accept ourselves, just as we are.

Semper Gumby: Empowering our teams through flexibility

by Lt. Col. Erin Sturgell Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

We have all heard the old sayings:

"adapt and overcome," "strength and flexibility are the keys to airpower," and my personal favorite - "Semper Gumby (always flexible)."

The common thread through these phrases is that flexibility and adaptability are qualities we should all strive to possess. I'm sure you've also heard, "Change is the only constant in the military." The capacity to be flexible in both mindset and actions is paramount to our teams' ability to complete the mission amidst the challenges we encounter on a daily basis.

I had a pre-Air Force boss who would always get upset when anyone referred to us as staff. He would always say, "Staff is an infection, we're a team!"

While his spelling knowledge may have been questionable, his point was the two completely different mental pictures and concepts those two words conjure. "Staff" brings to mind a group of people that do a specific job with little to no interaction among the

Flexibility in actions is great, but maintaining flexibility in our mindset is also crucial.

members, whereas the word "team" automatically implies a group of people working together to achieve a common goal.

That mindset lends itself to increased feelings of personal ownership and intra-operability in each individual who is part of the team. Working together and gaining a solid understanding of each other's jobs allows for better flexibility and adaptability to deal with our ever-changing operational environment.

Our job as leaders is to lead that charge and demonstrate the Semper Gumby mindset to our teams. The more our personnel see leadership changing plans for the day and jumping in to backfill for a member who is out unexpectedly, the more they will understand why flexibility is key to completing the mission.

Our total force numbers and budget may have decreased in the last several years, but for many of us, the ops tempo has remained high. "Do more with less" is a saying I'm less fond of; it really should be "do differently with less." The conditions that created the need and ability to do things the way we used to likely no longer exist, and we must empower our people to adapt their processes to accommodate the new conditions without compromising the primary mission requirements.

Flexibility in actions is great, but maintaining flexibility in our mindset is also crucial. While it is extremely important to know our team members as people, it is just as important that we, as leaders, understand how each cog in the "machine" functions. We must work with each member of our teams to appreciate the thought processes involved in their part of the mission.

This understanding allows multiple things to happen: First, it builds trust. The more your team feels you understand the nuances and challenges of their job, the more they will buy into any suggestions you propose and are more likely to feel confident offering suggestions of their own. Mindset flexibility also allows you to put yourself in your member's shoes to better anticipate what benefits or challenges new operational requirements will have on each position. By accurately anticipating these challenges, we can minimize the mission impact during transitions.

Lastly, promoting flexibility in mindset means we need to be ready to encourage our teams to pivot to a different idea when the current line of effort isn't working and bounce back quickly from those setbacks.

Maintaining a Semper Gumby attitude is critical to leading a successful team, and as one of your base physical therapists, I also highly recommend applying that attitude to your personal fitness as well.



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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.

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B-52 OT, WPS, Ops squadrons collaborate during test, weapons school roadshow

by 1st Lt. Lindsey Heflin *Eglin AFB, Fla.*

The 49th Test and Evaluation Squadron recently integrated with the 340th Weapons Squadron, 69th Bomb Squadron, and 23rd Bomb Squadron during the B-52 Test and Weapons School Roadshow at Minot Air Force Base, N.D., July 5-8, 2022.

The 49th TES is based at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., and falls under the 53rd Wing at Eglin AFB, Fla. The 340th Weapons Squadron is located at Barksdale, but falls under the auspices of the 57th Wing at Nellis AFB, Nev.

The 69th and 23rd Bomb Squadrons fall under the 5th Bomb Wing at Minot AFB.

Four sorties were executed during the event to validate Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures developed by the TES and WPS through close collaboration, integrated flight test, and detailed post-mission analysis.

"Aircrew can read Tactics and Flash Bulletins, but there is no better way to teach new tactics than hands-on interactive instruction from the tactics developers themselves," said Maj. Brent Drabek, 49th TES B-52 OT pilot.

Operational Test and Weapons squadrons developing TTPs for the Combat Air Force and B-52 communities is nothing new, but their integration has traditionally occurred on the ground meshing separate works into written products and guidance. Integrating in flight with a mixed crew allowed the 69th and 23rd BS to get an early look at future software and the opportunity to provide inputs and recommendations to the 49th TES, who will continue to test and optimize the systems prior to fielding.

The WPS instructors involved were also qualified OT Aircrew, therefore the 340th WPS was able to fly with the same test software as the 49th TES. This enables the instructors who participated in the Minot Roadshow to pass their hands-on-knowledge of new programs and tactics to the current class of Weapons Instructor Course students back at Barksdale AFB, who in-turn will deliver that knowledge to the units they serve in as tier one patches, training the future crew force.

"We see this a win-win-win for OT, WPS, and the Warfighter," said Drabek. "We in OT can leverage the community's top instructors to experiment on





Air Force photographs by Airman 1st Class Alexander Nottingham

A B-52H Stratofortress assigned to the 69th Bomb Squadron is pictured alongside another B-52 assigned to the 49th Test and Evaluation Squadron on July 7, 2022. Both bombers participated in the B-52 Minot Roadshow event where the 49th TES, 340th Weapons Squadron, 69th BS, and 23rd BS executed combined sorties allowing for close collaboration and validation of Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures previously developed by the TES and WPS through integrated flight test.

A B-52H Stratofortress assigned to the 69th Bomb Squadron is pictured alongside another B-52 assigned to the 49th Test and Evaluation Squadron on July 7, 2022. Both bombers participated in the B-52 Minot Roadshow event where the 49th TES, 340th Weapons Squadron, 69th BS, and 23rd BS executed combined sorties allowing for close collaboration and validation of Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures previously developed by the TES and WPS through integrated flight test.

new tactics relevant to OT. This allows the WPS to be directly involved in the latest programs coming to the platform, ultimately keeping their curriculum relevant and producing patch wearers with experience and advanced knowledge of

the new programs." Following the roadshow in Minot, the 49th TES and 340th WPS plan to continue monthly formation flying at Barksdale AFB, building on a test point list that the 340th WPS plan to implement throughout their student syllabus. The new 22B WIC class will also develop Weapons School papers on emerging standoff weapons tactics and how to employ next-generation B-52 software. main lines of effort in this collaborative event according to Lt. Col. T.J. May, 340th WPS commander. The first is to continue working hand-in-hand with the 49th for tactics development, experimentation, and preparation of the community through adjustments to existing TTPs. The second is to carefully review and revise the B-52 WIC syllabus to ensure the curriculum remains relevant and the squadron can maintain a posture that enables them to absorb new capabilities without delay.

on emerging standoff weapons tactics and how to employ next-generation B-52 software. "The B-52 has crossed the Rubicon in terms of modernization; we expect continuous changes to our weapons

system for the next decade," said May. "The magnitude of this effort demands detailed integration within the Warfare Center to ensure our aircrews have the skills necessary to deliver combat power without delay."

Events like this roadshow not only allow additional Tactics Development & Evaluation trials, but enable more holistic and operationally relevant trials, ultimately producing a better product to equip the warfighter.

"This type of integration is undoubtedly what we need for the sake of efficiency moving forward, not just in the bomber community but for all test platforms." said Lt. Col. Matt Spinelli, 49th TES commander.

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Reserve Defenders excel at international shooting competition

By Tech. Sgt. Nicole King

Robins AFB, Ga.

Four Air Force Reserve Command defenders represented the command well at the Danish Army's annual international shooting competition at Halk Range, Hadersley, Denmark, in June.

The AFRC team of Master Sgt. James Miller, 926th Security Forces Squadron, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Tech. Sgt. Caleb Giddings, 934th SFS, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Air Reserve Station, Minn., Tech. Sgt. Nikolas Infante, 482nd SFS, Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla., and Tech. Sgt. Seth Guyer, 439th SFS, Westover ARB, Mass., took home first place in the Viking Stage event and third place in the overall team competition.

In addition, Giddings placed second in the Best Individual Shooter category, and Guyer received the Danish Marksmanship Badge and placed fifth overall in the Best Individual Shooter category.

"I couldn't be more proud of our defenders," said Chief Master Sgt. Barry Haukoos, chief of AFRC's Security Forces Branch. "Once again our Citizen Airmen represented the best of our career field. They built on relationships with our allies and partners in that part of the world."

The Reserve Airmen were the only U.S. military personnel participating in the event.

"These four members were chosen through a selection process," Haukoos "These members are the best shooters in the command, and all of them are traditional Reservists."

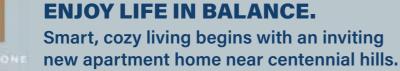


F Courtesy photographs

From left: Master Sgt. James Miller, 926th Security Forces Squadron, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Tech. Sgt. Nikolas Infante, 482nd SFS, Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla., Tech. Sgt. Caleb Giddings, 934th SFS, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Air Reserve Station, Minn., and Tech. Sgt. Seth Guyer, 439th SFS, Westover ARB, Mass., pose for a photo with their awards at the Danish Army's annual international shooting competition at Halk Range, Hadersley, Denmark. The four defenders took home first place in the Viking Stage event and third place in the overall team competition. Giddings placed second in the Best Individual Shooter category, and Guyer received the Danish Marksmanship Badge and placed fifth overall in the Best Individual Shooter category.

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NTTR gets new commander

In a July 22, 2022, ceremony, Col. Michael G. Rider assumed command of the Nevada Test and Training Range from Col. Cameron Dadgar. The ceremony was at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., and was presided over by Maj. Gen. Case Cunningham, commander of the U.S. Air Force Warfare Center.





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1st Lieutenants Richard Caesar and Bethany Karlberg Nellis AFB, Nev.

From the U.S. Air Force's inception 75 years ago through today, there has been no shortage of visionaries who have selflessly and honorably served to drive the Air Force into the future.

Five of these great leaders shared their wisdom and experiences with Airmen, during the Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., leg of the Air and Space Forces Association's Air Force 75th Anniversary Legends tour July 27, 2022.

Gen. (Ret) John Jumper, Gen. (Ret) Lori Robinson, Gen. (Ret) Lloyd Newton, Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force (Ret) Gerald Murray and Chief Master Sgt. (Ret) Harold Hutchison, visited Nellis to connect Airmen and Guardians with their living heritage as well as to provide mentorship, advice and encouragement to those currently serving in uniform.

"With the Airmen and the Guardians that are involved in our force today, we should feel very, very proud that we're in good hands," said Newton, former four-star head of Air Education and Training Command and the first African American pilot to fly with the USAF Thunderbirds.

The group kicked off the visit observing various aircraft launch for Red Flag night missions, late into the evening. The next morning, the legends meet with Nellis senior leaders who were also able to demonstrate the level of change and innovation driven by the U.S. Air Force Warfare Center through mission briefings and installation tours.

Jumper, a former Chief of Staff of the Air Force, spoke about how encouraged he was with the strategic level of understanding he heard from the Airmen he encountered at briefings and during panels.

"Their understanding of the digital world, it's complexity and the necessity to deal with complex command and control issues, information processing and the articulation of what we need to understand the enemy better, all these are things I've worried about, especially in the intelligence world but ... they know what it's going to take to fix it," Jumper said. "I was very impressed with that."

The legends participated in two panels, where they were able to speak directly to Airmen, civilians and a detachment of cadets from University of Nevada Las Vegas' AF ROTC program.

"I was mesmerized by the fact that of every person who was asked, none were happy with the status quo, they were asking, 'How do I make it better, what can I do?" said Robinson, who broke the status quo herself when she became the first-ever female combatant commander in history. "Chief Murray had a great conversation with a maintenance professional about some of the things that are out of their control but also some of the things you can do to make it better, and they all wanted to make it better."

Nellis was just the first stop on a multi-installation tour conceived by AFA to not just bring attention to the Air Force's 75th anniversary but also to provide today's Airmen with a living link to their heritage.

"Nellis is the home to Red Flag, the Weapons School, the Thunderbirds, and all these legends played an important role in all of those," said Roberta Oates, AFA National Director for the West Area. "Plus, as we all know, Nellis is the Crown Jewel of the Air Force — where better a place to start?"

Oates went on to speak about the great opportunity the tour would provide to positively impact the Airmen and Guardians stationed at Nellis by giving them this living link to their past.

"For today's Airman to listen to the history of how we got to where we are today is fantastic. I remember the events we had at Williams AFB [near Phoenix, Ariz.] for the 40th [AF anniversary], I know I had the opportunity to meet Brig. Gen. Robin Olds as a young Airman, and that has stayed with me to this day."

The AFA was incorporated in 1946 to educate and advocate for the Air Force to become a separate military service branch. Today, AFA continues this education and advocacy through events, symposiums, publications and programs.



Air and Space Forces Association legends pose for a group photo in front of an F-35 Lightning II assigned to th flight line tour on Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., July 27, 2022.



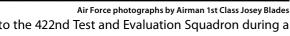
Air and Space Forces Association legends meet with senior leadersnip at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., July 27, 2022. The AFA mission is to promote dominant U.S. Air and Space Forces as the foundation of a strong National Defense as well as honoring and supporting Airmen, Guardians, and their families.



The 17th Chief of 9 Force Gen. Lori Ro to the 422nd Test Air Force Base, Ne to advocate and p resourcing decisio

GETHER PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE







The 14th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Gerald Murray, looks out at various aircraft during a flight line tour at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., July 27, 2022. Murray has been involved with the AFA for 15 years, advocating and promoting aerospace power to favorably shape policy and resourcing decisions. Murray served as CMSAF from 2002 to 2006.



The 17th Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Gen. John Jumper, begins a flight line tour at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., July 27, 2022. Jumper recorded more than 5,000 flying hours, including 1,400 combat hours. Jumper served as chief of staff from September 2001 to September 2005.



Retired U.S. Air Force Gen. Lori Robinson, speaks during an Air and Space **Force Association Legends** panel at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., July 27, 2022. Robinson was the first female officer to command a major unified combatant command when, from May 2016 to May 2018, she commanded of USNORTHCOM and NORAD. Prior to that assignment she served as commander of Pacific Air Forces. Robinson is not a stranger to Nellis having served in numerous positions at the Fighter Weapons School during her career.



Retired Chief Master Sgt. Harold Hutchinson, answers questions during an Air and Space Forces Association Legends panel at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., July 27, 2022. Hutchinson served as command senior enlisted leader for USNORTHCOM and NORAD from October 2016 to January 2018.



of Staff of the Air Force Gen. John Jumper and retired U.S. Air ori Robinson, reminisce in front of an F-35 Lightning II assigned Test and Evaluation Squadron during a flight line tour at Nellis e, Nev., July 27, 2022. The Air and Space Force Association works and promote aerospace power to favorably shape policy and ecisions.



Maj. Gen. Case Cunningham, United States Warfare Center commander, greets retired U.S. Air Force Gen. Lloyd Newton, during a tour of Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., July 27, 2022. Newton, among many accomplishments, was the first African American pilot in the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds.



The 17th Chief of Staff of the Air Force, retired Gen. John Jumper, talks with an Airman about flight line operations during a flight line tour at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., July 27, 2022. The Air and Space Forces Association mission is to promote dominant U.S. Air and Space Forces as the foundation of a strong National Defense as well as honoring and supporting Airmen, Guardians, and their families.



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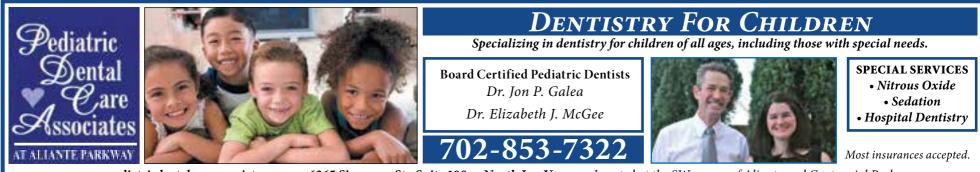


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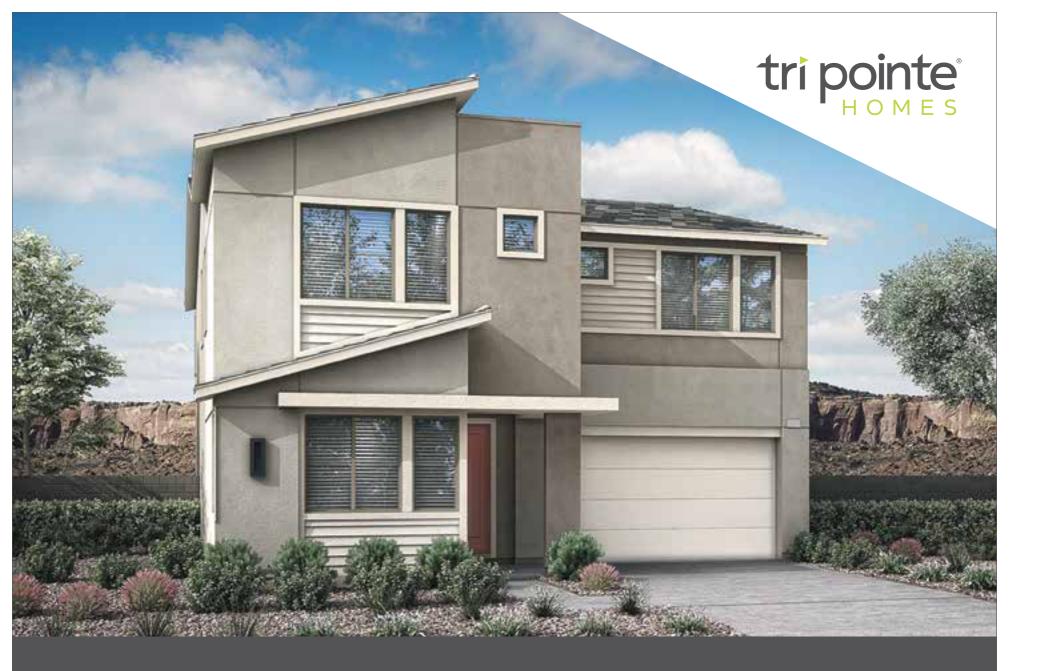






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