

Tehachapi 5th graders embark on learning adventure at

STARBASE Edwards

By Tech. Sgt. Robert Cloys

Edwards AFB, Calif.

A group of fifth-grade students from Cummings Valley Elementary School in Tehachapi, Calif., recently participated in the Department of Defense's STARBASE program at Edwards Air Force Base.

This unique five-day educational experience, lasting five weeks, was the first of its kind for Cummings Valley Elementary, and marked a significant milestone in the program. New DOD guidance expanded eligibility beyond Title I schools.

Teachers Angelica McKay, Haley Sexton, and Lisa Newman led their students through the intensive program, which provides 25 hours of high-quality STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) instruction. The STARBASE program, funded by the DOD, aims to ignite students' passion for science and technology through hands-on learning experiences and real-world applications of STEM concepts.

Edwards Air Force Base, at the heart of the aerospace testing universe, offered an inspiring backdrop for the students. STARBASE Edwards is renowned for providing a unique educational experience, allowing students to access world-class equipment, interact with Air Force STEM experts, and explore cutting-edge military-civilian facilities. The program is structured to give students a deep understanding





Air Force photographs by Tech. Sgt. Robert Cloys Sopfia Perry, a 5th grade student from Cummings Valley Elementary School in Tehachapi, Calif., participates in an experiment at STARBASE Edwards, Sept. 04, 2024.

LEFT: Alena Barlow, a 5th grade student from Cummings Valley Elementary School in Tehachapi, Calif., explores Computer Aided Design at STARBASE Edwards, Aug. 22, 2024 at Edwards Air Force. Base, Calif.



Cummings Valley Elementary School in Tehachapi, Calif., participates in an experiment at STARBASE Edwards, Aug. 28, 2024.

Brooklyn Rolow, Mark Wheat, and Dhalia Devoe, 5th grade students from Cummings Valley Elementary School in Tehachapi, Calif., participate in a robotics activity at STARBASE Edwards, Aug. 27, 2024.



Edwards hosts groundbreaking for first commercial AF apartment complex



Air Force photograph by Chloe Bonaccorsi

Base leadership, prospective tenants, mission partners and other senior officials break ground on a commercial apartment complex at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., Sept. 10, 2024.

by Giancarlo Casem

Edwards AFB, Calif.

Base leadership and Mayroad hosted a groundbreaking ceremony to formally announce the beginning of the Air Force's first commercial apartment complex at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., Sept. 10, 2024.

In a move to address the housing challenges faced by unaccompanied active-duty service members, Mayroad, the Military Housing Privatized Initiative Project Owner at Edwards has announced plans to construct the inaugural commercial apartment complex. The ambitious project, which will feature 142 apartments with a total of 246 beds, aims to alleviate the current housing shortage for service members stationed at Edwards and potentially other remote and isolated installations.

"Many Airmen at the 412 Test Wing have been impacted by the shortage of housing options on or in proximity to the base. That's why we're going to flip the script and try something new, something tailored for the men and women who serve here and to our families," said Ravi Chaudhary, Assistant Secretary of the

Air Force for Energy, Installations and Environment. "I can say this, we hear you, we see you, but now it's time to deliver for you."

The new complex will cater to ranks of Senior Airmen, E-4 and above, as well as students of the prestigious Test Pilot School, a key institution at Edwards AFB, which is slated to double the number of students. The design and cost estimates for the project are slated for review early next year, with construction expected to commence soon after. If all goes according to plan, the first units could be ready for occupancy by the summer of 2026.

Edwards AFB, renowned for its significant contributions to aerospace testing and its multi-billion-dollar economic impact on Southern California, was selected as the site for this pioneering initiative due to its remote and isolated location. The base's critical role in testing cutting-edge technologies underscores the need for adequate and accessible housing for its personnel.

The new apartment complex will serve as a model for future housing solutions at similar installations, potentially setting a precedent for how the Air Force addresses housing shortages in remote locations. As the U.S. Air Force continues to lead in aerospace innovation, ensuring that its personnel have access to quality living accommodations remains a top priority.

The Air Force's commitment to providing robust housing solutions underscores its dedication to the welfare of its members, reinforcing its reputation as a leading institution in aerospace testing and a pillar of national defense.

"Edwards Air Force Base is a place of firsts: our first jet took off on the lakebed just a couple miles that way. We first broke the sound barrier here less than a month after the Air Force was created. Then Mach 2, Mach 3, Mach 3.2, Mach 6.7; all firsts ... Every generation of bombers since World War II has flown here, including the first flight of the B-2," said Col. Douglas Wickert, 412th Test Wing Commander. "There's a reason that we like to say we live for first in flight test and to that long list of historic firsts that have taken place here Edwards Air Force Base, I am so thrilled that we now get to celebrate one more: the Air Force's first commercial apartment complex."

AEROTECHNEWS

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LEFT: Amelia Kelley and Cole Thomson, 5th grade students

from Cummings Valley Elementary

School in Tehachapi, Calif.,

participate in an experiment at

STARBASE Edwards, Aug. 28, 2024.

BELOW: Zane Adams, a 5th grade

student from Cummings Valley

Elementary School in Tehachapi,

Calif., participates in a "Pop goes

the Fizz" experiment at STARBASE

Edwards, Aug. 22, 2024.

STARBASE, from Page 1 -

of Next Generation Science Standards, Common Core State Standards, Career and Technical Education Standards, and the Computer Science Standards for California Schools.

Each day, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., the students engaged in a variety of cross-curricular activities designed to encourage critical thinking, innovation, and creativity. The program emphasizes learning through collaboration, where students work together on projects, gaining insights from each other as they explore new concepts. The lessons were designed to be both fun and educational, offering a blend of theory and practical application that brought STEM subjects to life.

"We are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to bring our students to STARBASE,' said McKay. "Students are able to experience STEM hands-on activities that they would never had the opportunity to do in the classroom environment. We're so excited to be included this year and hope that we can continue giving students this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

The STARBASE program also provided students with invaluable career exploration opportunities. During the week, they had the opportunity to interact with guest speakers and visit Edward's Fire Station 1. These visits not only broadened their horizons, but also sparked potential future career interests.

Sexton emphasized the significance of the experience: "Kids thrive when they have the freedom to play, explore, and have fun. The STARBASE program provides that opportunity by immersing them in hands-on experiences and technology. Through STARBASE, my students not only engage in exciting learning but also gain the inspiration and skills that could lead them to pursue a future in STEM careers."

Newman, who also played a key role in guiding the students through the program, echoed this sentiment.

"Starbase was a wonderful experience for my students. The multiple days provided them with the opportunity to learn, experience, question, and find solutions to science-based questions through trial and error using hands-on STEM activities which they do not have the opportunity to do on such a large, detailed scale within the classroom," she said." This program seemed to ignite a desire to learn more and as a teacher that is inspiring."

For many students, the highlight of the week was engaging directly with professionals who work in the STEM fields. Guest speakers from the Air Force shared their expertise and experiences, giving students a firsthand look at the challenges and rewards of careers in

science and technology. These interactions were not only educational but also inspiring, providing students with role models who demonstrated the real-world impact of STEM education.

The inclusion of all Tehachapi elementary schools in the STARBASE program this year is a promising development, ensuring that a greater number of students can benefit from this exceptional learning experience in the future.

"As a whole we are trying to expand from about 1,200 to 2,500 students a year. We want to expose more students to STEM careers in and around the Aerospace Valley," said Dr. Sam Duchscherer, STARBASE Edwards director.

The program aims to reach students from kindergarten through 12th grade soon, and with a recent building addition at STARBASE Edwards, this goal is

expected to become a reality by 2025.

As more schools gain access to programs like STARBASE, the hope is that future generations of students will be better prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The program not only equips students with essential

knowledge and skills but also instills in them the confidence to innovate, create, and lead in a rapidly evolving world.

For more information about the STARBASE program and its impact on students across the country, visit eafbstarbase.org.



Air Force photographs by Tech. Sgt. Robert Cloys Brighton Pearsall and Gracey Kay-Morris, 5th grade students from Cummings Valley Elementary School in Tehachapi, Calif., participate in a "Pop Goes the Fizz" experiment at STARBASE Edwards, Aug. 22, 2024 at Edwards Air Force. Base, Calif. The STARBASE program, funded by the DOD, aims to ignite students' passion for science and technology through hands-on learning experiences and real-world applications of STEM concepts.



Lisa Newman, Cumming Valley Elementary School 5th grade teacher, works with her students at STARBASE Edwards on Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., Sept. 4, 2024.

TPS begins transformation for great power competition

by Col. James Valpiani

Edwards AFB, Calif.

On the cusp of its 80th anniversary, the Air Force Test Pilot School at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., is undergoing a major transformation to better prepare Airmen and Guardians for the complex and rapidly evolving challenges of modern warfare.

Highlighting the need to adapt to an era of Great Power Competition, TPS has introduced a new strategic plan to modernize its curriculum, enhance staff development, and expand research capabilities.

The strategic plan is inspired by Lt. Gen. Jimmy Doolittle, a pioneer in flight testing and a model for test leadership. Doolittle's dedication to inno-

- See **TPS**, on Page 5



Air Force photograph by Harley Huntington

On the cusp of its 80th anniversary, the Air Force Test Pilot School at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., is undergoing a major transformation to better prepare Airmen and Guardians for the complex and rapidly evolving challenges of modern warfare. Highlighting the need to adapt to an era of Great Power Competition, TPS has introduced a new strategic plan to modernize its curriculum, enhance staff development, and expand research capabilities.









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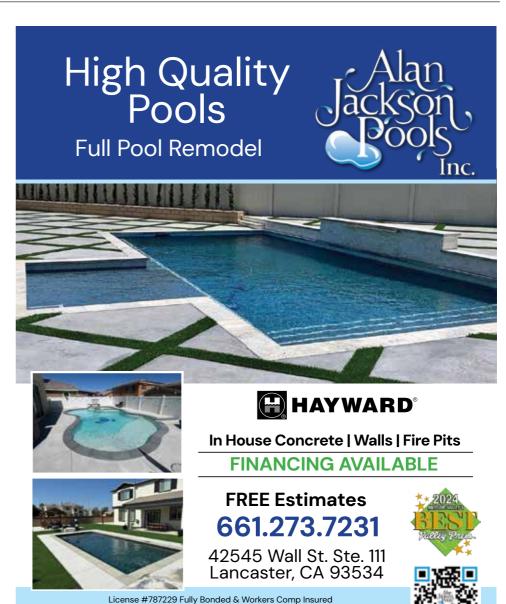
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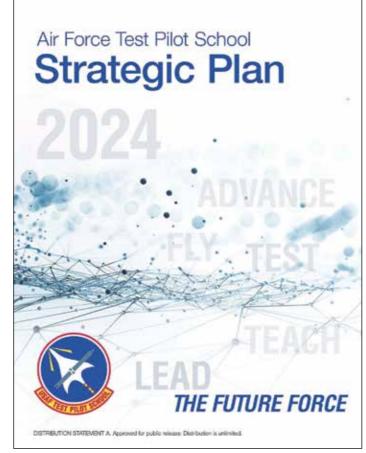
vation, critical thinking, and leadership under adversity is a guiding principle for the school's future.

"We are proud to carry on the tradition of excellence that Lt. Gen. Doolittle exemplified," said Maj. Gen. Scott Cain, commander of the Air Force Test Center. "Our goal is to prepare our graduates to be the test leaders of tomorrow, capable of leading multidisciplinary teams and advancing new capabilities for our warfighters."

The plan outlines a comprehensive roadmap that aligns the school's mission with the broader goals of the Air Force Test Center. It emphasizes developing test leaders who are not only experts in their fields but also critical thinkers and innovators.

"Our mission is to create leaders who can navigate the increasingly complex landscape of military testing and evaluation," said Col. James Valpiani, commandant of the Air Force Test Pilot School. "We are committed to equipping our graduates with the mindset, knowledge, and skills necessary to lead in an era defined by rapid technological change and great power competition."

A sweeping modernization of the curriculum has already begun. As the mili-



tary increasingly relies on big data, artificial intelligence, and machine learning, TPS is updating its programs to ensure graduates are proficient in these areas.

This includes adding courses in machine learning and test of data-driven control systems.

TPS is working alongside leading industry and academic partners to familiarize students with the latest advances in technology and the challenges associated with testing at the technology frontier. This year also marks the first year-long student cohort dedicated specifically to space testing.

Staff development is also being refined. The school has established a formal Test Instructor Course to leverage nearly 80 years of flight test knowledge, ensur-

ing that faculty development remains top-notch. It has also implemented TPS Fellowships for instructors to immerse with teams such as NASA's

Johnson Space Center and DARPA to broaden their understanding of the test profession. "Our instructors are the backbone of the school, and we are investing in their continuous development to maintain the highest standards of educational excellence," Cain added.

The strategic plan also underscores the importance of advancing test research, particularly in data-driven test applications. TPS is committed to expanding its research capabilities, focusing on developing novel test techniques, frameworks, and tools to address pressing challenges in the test community. Interagency partnerships, academic research, and private industry collaborations continue to grow as TPS advances the state-of-the-art in critical areas such as combat autonomy.

By modernizing its curriculum for data-driven test, investing in formal faculty development, and advancing test research, TPS is ensuring its graduates are prepared to deliver the multidomain capabilities that warfighters need. "This strategic plan is our roadmap to the future," said Valpiani. "It reflects our commitment to preparing our graduates to effectively lead test teams in an era of unprecedented technological and strategic change."



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AIR FORCE PROVIDES B-21 RAIDER PROGRAM UPDATES



Air Force photograph

A B-21 Raider conducts flight testing, which includes ground testing, taxiing and flying operations, at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. The B-21 will be the backbone of the service's future bomber force, and will possess the range, access and payload to penetrate the most highly-contested threat environments and hold any target around the globe at risk. The bomber platform is being developed through the Department of the Air Force Rapid Capabilities.

Secretary of the Air Force

Public Affairs

Department of the Air Force leaders and industry partners provided updates on the B-21 Raider, the Air Force's newest bomber, during a panel at the Air and Space Force Association's Air, Space and Cyber Conference, Sept. 18, 2024.

The B-21 will incrementally replace the B-1 Lancer and B-2 Spirit bombers to become the backbone of the Air Force's flexible global strike capability. The airframe is a long-range, highly survivable stealth bomber capable of delivering a mix of conventional and nuclear munitions and will be the "air leg" of the nuclear triad, critical to deterring conflict.

Panelists who provided updates included Gen. Thomas Bussiere, Air Force Global Strike Command commander; Maj. Gen. Jason Armagost, Eighth Air Force and Joint-Global Strike Operations Center commander; William Bailey, Department of the Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office director; and Thomas Jones, Northrop Grumman Aeronautics Systems sector president.

Bailey and Jones provided updates about how the B-21 program is progressing.

"We're really starting to strike up quite a cadence [and] generate two flight test flights in a given week," Jones said. "When we started this journey, we made a vow that we were going to design this system to be

a daily flyer. It's been a phenomenal year of progress, and we hope to continue that through the next year."

The panelists also described a significant milestone in which the B-21 completed its static test on the G-1 asset, a ground-based test article used to evaluate the structural integrity of the aircraft. This test was essential to "confirming the structural design of the aircraft is sound and validated confidence in the digital models," Bailey said.

The aircraft is now going through a fatigue testing campaign.

Armagost discussed how the B-21 program is preparing for the delivery of the aircraft to Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., to include laying the foundation for AFGSC squadrons to be sufficiently equipped, trained, and certified for aircraft delivery, while Bailey spoke to the teamwork that has been essential to the program's development.

"We're very clear as a team what the priorities are day after day," Bailey said. "That collaboration between operators and acquirers has been a key component of this success ... that has got to be a consideration [in Great Power Competition]."

Bussiere addressed current strategic threats posed by adversaries and the necessity of the bomber force, and the future capabilities the B-21 will provide, to keep pace with those threats.

"We are the free world's only bomber force. We're probably not going to see a decreased demand signal

from our regional combatant commands on bomber task forces," Bussiere added. "That demand signal, in my opinion, is only going to go up in the years ahead. As we transition from legacy to new, the B-21 fleet will provide great comfort to our allies and should provide great pause to any potential adversary."

He added, "Nobody on the planet can do what we're doing right now. Nobody on the planet can build an exquisite, technologically-advanced platform like the B-21, and quite frankly, nobody on the planet can hold at risk what we can hold at risk at a time and place of our choosing."

Bailey echoed Bussiere's comments about the adaptability of the B-21 systems, which were "designed with flexibility in mind."

"Agility and flexibility — they can't just be buzzwords. These are the kind of things that you need to be able to demonstrate over time. Why? Because it's going to be changing on you, and we've had the benefit of employing a lot of those strategies on this program," Bailey concluded.

The B-21 program has a production goal of a minimum of 100 aircraft.

When the B-21 enters the service, Ellsworth AFB, S.D., will be the first B-21 main operating base and location of the formal training unit. The Air Force recently announced the second and third basing locations for the B-21, Whiteman AFB, Mo., and Dyess AFB, Texas, in that order.



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Northrop Grumman's program strategy driving B-21 Raider forward in flight test, production

Northrop Grumman

Northrop Grumman's B-21 Raider program is making great progress as the team executes a robust flight test campaign and scales into production. In collaboration with the U.S. Air Force, Northrop Grumman's program management approach on B-21 centers around producibility and adoption of digital technology to ultimately deliver an effective, affordable system to the warfighter that is adaptable to future threats.

Verifying through test

Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., renowned as "The Center of the Aerospace Testing Universe," is home to the Combined Test Force, made up of Northrop Grumman and Air Force personnel responsible for evaluating capability ranging from flight sciences and hardware functionality to mission systems, software integration and beyond.

Early feedback from test pilots confirms the first test vehicle is performing well in flight and flying like the simulators used for training.

Overall, I am pleased to see the performance of our test jet. The handling qualities are better than expected coming out of the simulated environment — validating the accuracy of the digital models the team has developed and analyzed over many years," said Chris "Hoss" Moss,



B-21 Raider test pilot, Northrop Grumman. Flight testing continues to expand the operational envelope, and model predictions are matching flight test data, demonstrating the $value\ and\ efficacy\ Northrop\ Grumman's\ digital\ ecosystem$ is delivering on B-21.

"Flight test is an exciting time, and we're making great progress on B-21," said Tom Jones, corporate vice president and president, Northrop Grumman Aeronautics Systems. "The CTF team has demonstrated we can execute multiple flight test events within the span of a week. Northrop Grumman's digital ecosystem is enabling that progress,

LEFT: As the B-21 Raider flight test program progresses, performance data continues to align with digital model predictions. Northrop Grumman's digital ecosystem is enabling the team to analyze data between test flights with speed and efficiency, evidenced by the Combined Test Force's (CTF's) demonstrated ability to perform multiple test flights in the span of a week.

allowing us to analyze test data, make updates and return to flight test with speed and efficiency."

Ground test performance is another essential piece of aircraft development. Northrop Grumman successfully verified the B-21 structural design with the completion of static testing, thus validating original models and signifying a solid structural design. Northrop Grumman has also begun fatigue testing on another ground test article to simulate a lifetime of flight conditions on the aircraft structure.

"The progress we've made on B-21 in the last 12 months is remarkable. The consistent alignment of our digital models both on the ground and in flight gives us additional confidence as we look ahead to delivering on B-21," Jones said.

-See **B-12**, on Page 12





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WWI Ace Capt. Hamilton Coolidge is reinterred in Chevières after 106 years

by Tech. Sgt. Matthew **Coleman-Foster**

Chevières, France,

Capt. Hamilton Coolidge, a World War I flying ace from the 94th Aero Squadron and the third great-grandson of U.S. President Thomas Jefferson, was reinterred in the village of Chevières, France, on Sept. 15, 2024, where he was shot down during an aerial engagement 106 years ago.

The reinterment was organized to ensure the protection of his remains, which were at risk due to erosion from the Aire River near his original burial site.

The ceremony, attended by U.S. and French officials, was the result of a year-long coordinated effort involving the Coolidge family, the village of Chevières and the 94th Fighter Squadron. During the ceremony, current pilots from the squadron served as pallbearers, and the squadron had a formation in place to pay tribute to Coolidge's service.

"To capture what [Hamilton] Coolidge means to the Hat-inthe-Ring Gang you have to look at the events that led to his untimely death. He died executing the same mission we do today. Escorting and protecting those who could not protect themselves," said Lt. Col. Harrison Garlick, 94th FS commander.

More than 450 local villagers and visitors from neighboring communities and beyond gathered to honor Coolidge's sacrifice. The ceremony took place approximately 800 meters from the original crash site, which also served as his initial resting place, and has been maintained by the



Air Force photographs by Airman 1st Class Albert Morel



Air Force photograph by Staff Sgt. Nicole Molignano

Col. Jake Brittingham, Defense Attache to U.S. Embassy France, pays his respects during the reinterment of Capt. Hamilton Coolidge in Chevières, France, Sept. 15, 2024. The ceremony included a traditional military tribute to Coolidge, who served as a fighter pilot with the 94th Aero Squadron in World War I.



Air Force photograph by Airman 1st Class Albert Morel

Paul Suace, local pilot, flies a Nieuport 28 during the reinterment ceremony for Capt. Hamilton Coolidge in Chevières, France, Sept. 15, 2024. Coolidge, who flew a similar aircraft frame in combat during World War I, was posthumously honored with this ceremony more than a century after his death.

resting area during a reinterment ceremony in Chevières, France, Sept. 15, 2024. The ceremony included military honors for Coolidge, who served as a fighter pilot and flight lead with the 94th Aero Squadron in World War I. The 94th FS is currently based at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va.

LEFT: Airmen from the 94th Fighter

Squadron escort the remains of

Capt. Hamilton Coolidge to his final

Air Force photograph by Airman 1st Class Albert Morel

John-Charles Genty, Mayor of Chevières, gives a speech during the reinterment ceremony for Capt. Hamilton Coolidge at the Eglise Saint Martin in Chevières, France, Sept. 15, 2024. Coolidge, who flew in combat during World War I, was posthumously honored with this ceremony more than a century after his death.

village since Oct. 27, 1918, when Coolidge was shot down.

Coolidge's remains were originally buried by his friend and fellow ace, Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker, and a local priest shortly after the crash. Rickenbacker described Coolidge as "One of the finest men I ever knew." His remains were later moved to the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, but at the request of his mother, they were reinterred back in Chevières.

The village of Chevières has not only preserved Coolidge's remains, but also the wreckage of his Nieuport 28 aircraft. Key pieces of the wreckage, including the machine gun Coolidge was firing at the time of the crash and the aircraft's engine, have been restored and are displayed in the village as part of an ongoing tribute to the fallen aviator.

During the reinterment ceremony, members of the 94th FS, the Coolidge family, and senior leaders in attendance were invited to take pieces of the wreckage and place them in a basket that was lowered into the grave with Coolidge. This gesture symbolized the enduring connection between Coolidge's legacy and the modern-day warfighters of the 94th FS.

"This ceremony was something that had never happened before and will likely never happen again. The efforts of the Coolidge family, village of Chevières and the 94th FS highlighted and secured a vital piece of Air Force history. Today's life-changing experience helped rekindle a special relationship and will hopefully assist our Airmen to better understand their aviation heritage and the sacrifices required during war," the 1st FW Historian said.

The village of Chevières has pledged to continue maintaining Coolidge's new resting place as a memorial to his legacy, ensuring that his contributions during World War I are remembered.



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Air Force realigns to ensure readiness, future competitiveness

Secretary of the Air Force

Public Affairs

The U.S. Air Force is organizing its major commands, or MAJCOMs, into Institutional Commands, responsible for organizing, training, and equipping Airmen, and Service Component Commands, responsible for preparing Airmen for warfighting in a combatant command's area of responsibility.

The changes are part of the Department of the Air Force's Great Power Competition

"Over the last three decades, our Air Force has incrementally become more fragmented," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Allvin. "This gradual diffusion was the result of decisions made in the context of a different strategic environment. After some deep introspection, it has become clear that to dominate in this challenging strategic environment, we must have

a force structure that is better aligned, clearly understood, and agile enough to exploit the rapid pace of change."

The current major command structure has significant variances in how the U.S. Air Force organizes, trains and equips, and how it presents forces. Some MAJCOMS have the responsibility of capability development (e.g., Air Force Materiel Command), some strictly for presenting forces as a service component to a combatant command, and some MAJCOMs have both responsibilities. Some service component commands are also Numbered Air Forces, or NAFs, that report through MAJCOMs, while other service component commands are themselves MAJCOMs.

While this has been made to work in practice, it has evolved with new entities being bolted on, instead of baked in. Through the Reoptimization initiative, the U.S. Air Force has the opportunity to reset both definitionally and structurally. The foundation of the senior command structure in the Air Force will consist

REOPTIMIZINGFOR TO POWER COMPETITION Courtesy graphic

of two types of commands: Institutional Commands and Service Component Commands.

Institutional Commands will serve as enterprise integrators for capability modernization, acquisition and sustainment, developing human capital and generating readiness, while Combatant Commandaligned Service Component Commands will employ operational forces in pursuit of Combatant Command missions.

Institutional Commands will include the existing commands with the following modifications:

- Air Education and Training Command is expected to evolve into Airman Development Command, which will train and develop Air Force personnel across the entirety of their career.
- The new Integrated Capabilities Command is planned to accelerate force modernization by aligning capability development efforts to a singular, prioritized demand signal for future airpower capabilities, aligned with the Force Design. The transition of capabilities

development into one institutional command will enable the service component commands to focus on readiness.

- Air Combat Command will integrate readiness for CONUS-based serviceretained forces and prepare and present mission-ready forces to combatant com-
- Air Force Materiel Command will consolidate and establish new centers to rapidly develop, procure, field and sustain a pipeline of competitive capabilities to deliver decisive advantages to
- Air Force Reserve Command and the Air National Guard will provide strategic and operational depth and surge capacity by developing and managing an experienced, modernized and accessible Reserve Force.

Service Component Commands project air power to the joint force combatant commands through theater-assigned and rotationally allocated Air Force units in each of the CCMDs.

To streamline how the Air Force

presents force offerings to Combatant Commanders, the Component Numbered Air Forces listed are planned to become Service Component Commands, reporting directly to the Secretary of the Air Force through the Chief of Staff of the Air Force.

This alignment ensures the Air Force better prepares, presents and generates airpower effects for the Joint Force and enables service component commands to focus on preparation and presentation for their combat missions.

- Activate Air Forces Southern
- Activate Air Forces Central
- Activate Air Forces Northern and Air Forces Space
- Elevate and redesignate Air Forces Cyber. Note: The ultimate makeup and structure are still being finalized.

Pacific Air Forces; U.S. Air Forces in Europe - U.S. Air Forces Africa; Air Force

Special Operations Command; Air Mobility Command; and Air Force Global Strike Command will be considered SCCs and will retain their current Combatant Command force alignment and readiness-related roles, responsibilities and authorities.

Streamlining Air Force organizations into either Institutional Commands or Service Component Commands will allow them to focus solely on developing Airmen, generating readiness and sustaining and delivering capabilities, or projecting airpower to the Joint Force, respectively.

Air Forces Southern, or AFSOUTH, will become the first Service Component Command under the new construct. AFSOUTH's operational mission as the Air Force Component to US-SOUTHCOM will not change. However, as a Service Component Command, AFSOUTH will be better positioned to advocate for service-related matters such as personnel, administration and unit training.

B-12, from Page 8-

Scaling into production

Another key strategy behind delivering the B-21 Raider was to build the first test aircraft like the production aircraft. Transitioning away from a standard industry practice of taking a demonstration-like vehicle to flight test, the B-21 workforce is already familiar with production tooling and materials and has come forward with innovative ways to establish repeatable processes for an optimal build.

The B-21 team has embraced the deployment of

advanced manufacturing and digital tooling across the factory. "We are expanding the use of augmented reality tools and advanced robotics to drive efficiency and accuracy with repeatable, precision processes," Jones said. "Northrop Grumman is finding innovative ways to introduce advanced technologies in a restricted manufacturing environment today, while paving the way for sustainment processes at the depot and flight line of the future over the B-21 program life cycle.'

For example, Northrop Grumman manufacturing technicians utilize augmented reality headsets to support installation of subsystem components and robotic tools for specialized aircraft coatings in the factory.

Preparing for tomorrow, today

The driving force underpinning Northrop Grumman's approach on B-21 is delivering the nation's next gen airborne strategic deterrent to meet the threat. These strategies are yielding desired results as Northrop Grumman executes the test campaign and scales into production. The digital ecosystem supporting flight test progress today will enable the future technology and capability insertion that will keep B-21 ahead of future threats for years to come.

58th RQS **Airman** receives Airman's Medal



Air Force photograph by Airman 1st Class Elizabeth Tan

Col. Scott Mills, left, commander of the 355th Wing at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., awards Staff Sgt. Austin Kier, a Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape specialist assigned to the 58th Rescue Squadron, the Airman's Medal certificate during an awards ceremony at Nellis AFB, Nev., Aug. 26, 2024. Kier distinguished himself by heroism and selfless action to save the lives of three collision victims from trauma and hypothermia. The Airman's Medal is an award bestowed upon outstanding individuals who displayed and distinguished themselves by a heroic act at the voluntary risk of their life.













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Nellis gives recognition during POW/MIA ceremony





Police officers from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Honor Guard, prepare for a 21- gun salute during a National Prisoner of War and Missing in Action (POW/MIA) Recognition Ceremony at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Sept. 20, 2024. National POW/MIA Day serves to remember those who were captured during battle or who are still unaccounted for and is observed on the third Friday of every September.



Marvin Carter, a Cold War Prisoner of War, U.S. Marine Corps Major, speaks during a National Prisoner of War and Missing in Action Recognition Ceremony at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Sept. 20 2024. Carter was in a plane crash in the desert of Djibouti when he was captured by rebel forces and held for several months.



Honor Guard Airmen post the colors during a National Prisoner of War and Missing in Action (POW/MIA) recognition ceremony at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Sept. 20, 2024. POW/MIA Recognition Day honors all those who are missing and unaccounted for.



Col. Ethan E. Sabin, the deputy commander assigned to the 57th Wing, gives opening remarks during a Prisoner of War and Missing in Action (POW/MIA) recognition ceremony at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Sept. 20, 2024. Each year, the third Friday of September is a day set aside to remember the more than 83,000 U.S. service members who remain classified as either prisoners of war or missing in action.

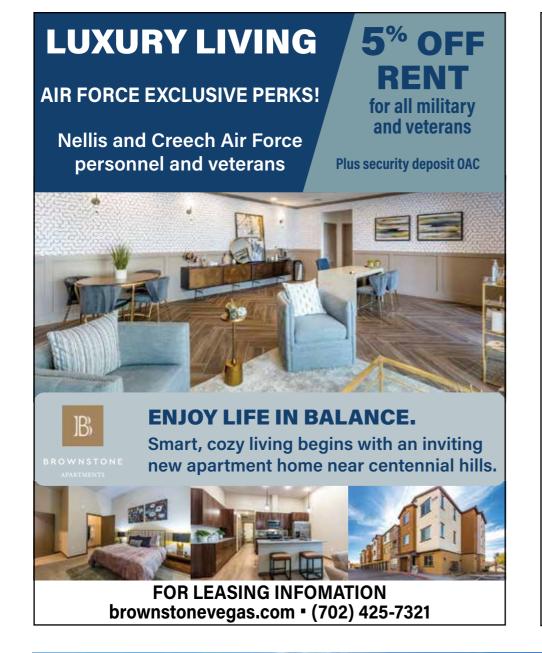


Air Force photograph by Staff Sgt. Samantha Krolikowski

Honor Guard airmen put flowers on a memorial wreath during the memorial wreath dedication and remembrance ceremony at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Sept. 20, 2024. The dedication was part of the National Prisoner of War and Missing in Action Recognition Ceremony.



Guests listen while the meaning of the Prisoner of War and Missing in Action (POW/MIA) table is explained during a National POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Sept. 20, 2024. The single rose in the vase, signifies the blood that many have shed in sacrifice to ensure the freedom of the United States and the family and friends of our missing comrades.



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Two historic A-10 squadrons inactivate at DM

355th Wing

Public Affairs

The 355th Wing's 354th Fighter Squadron and 354th Fighter Generation Squadron inactivated at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., Sept. 13, 2024.

Known as the Bulldogs, the squadrons conducted 35,000 combat sorties, where they fired more than a quarter million 30 mm rounds, supported 1,300 troops in contact, flew missions against numerous high-value targets and provided close air support in 71 successful rescues.

"The Bulldogs have a rich history," said Col. Clarence McRae, 355th Maintenance Group commander. "You were a part of something much bigger than what the Bulldogs have done."

The first A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft arrived at DM in 1976. With the inactivation and the U.S. Air Force's divestment plan, the two squadrons have retired and transferred all 36 of their A-10s.

Originating in 1942, long before the first A-10 arrived at DM, the 354th FS had a history of activation and inactivation to support threats of the times. In 1992, the squadron was redesigned to exclusively support the A-10s at DM.

"The Bulldogs have been drawing upon decades of combat aviation, some lessons stemming back from World War II," said Col. Sean Hall, 355th Operations Group commander. "The Bulldogs built the attack culture that surrounded the Hog then and it will outlast the Hog now."

For more than 30 years, the 354th FS consisted of A-10 pilots who conducted close air support, forward air control in airborne, and close air support, for theater commanders worldwide.

"Readiness, it was a core part of the Bulldogs; their bags were packed and Bulldogs were ready," said Hall. "They were ready for that call, when someone on the ground was having their worst day."

Maintenance professionals also powered the Bulldogs' capabilities through servicing aircraft starting from P-51 Mustangs and ending with the A-10. These dedicated maintainers provided key functions to include general maintenance,



Air Force photographs by Staff Sgt. Abbey Rieves

Past and present members of the 354th Fighter Squadron pose for a group photo during the 354th FS inactivation ceremony at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., Sept. 13, 2024. The A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft was the last Air Force fixed-wing aircraft that was dedicated to the Combat Search and Rescue mission.



weapons loading, and launch and recovery of the Air Force's premier ground attack platform, the A-10.

"You men and women are the backbone of the operation," said McRae. "You always ensured the Warthog remained reliable, and a lethal asset that our enemies feared whenever it was on the battlefield."

Although the inactivation is a solemn event for many, the future of Davis-Monthan remains bright as the Air Force plans to open the 492nd Special Operations Wing, an Air Force Special Operations Command wing, over the next few years.

Additionally, in August, DM received its first of 10 planned EA-37B Compass Call aircraft, which will replace the aging EC-130Hs and continue the mission



LEFT: Maj. Benjamin Abshire, 354th Fighter Generation Squadron commander, right, sheaths the guidon with Col. Clarence McRae, 355th Maintenance Group commander, left, during the 354th FGS inactivation ceremony at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., Sept. 13, 2024. Sheathing the guidon is an Air Force tradition, which signifies that the squadron's history and lineage was preserved with that flag.

of the 55th Electronic Combat Group for years to come.

"Even though we are inactivating this squadron, your legacy will live on forever," said McRae. "And know that you are the foundation for what future Airmen will have to live up to."



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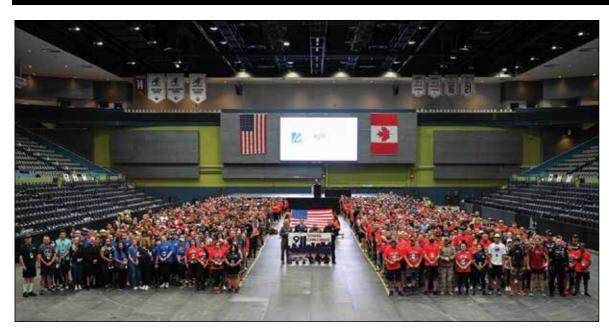
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Tucson 9/11 Tower Challenge Climb





First responders, military personnel and citizens of Tucson await the official commencement of the 9-11 Tower Challenge Climb in Tucson, Ariz., Sept. 11, 2024. Participants climbed 2,071 steps symbolizing the ones of the World Trade Center's Twin Towers.

LEFT: A ceremonial bell is in the middle of the Tucson Convention Center for the 9-11 Tower Challenge Climb in Tucson, Ariz., Sept. 11, 2024. After completing the 9-11 Tower Challenge Climb, each participant rang the bell to finalize the 9-11 ceremony.



Air Force photographs by Senior Airman Andrew Garavito

Airmen pose after climbing 2,071 steps for the 9-11 Tower Challenge Climb in Tucson, Ariz., Sept. 11, 2024. The 9-11 Tower Challenge Foundation raised \$57,000 to support charitable causes that provide support for families of first responders and military personnel.



Members from the Tucson Police Department and Tucson Fire Department color guard perform at the opening ceremony for the 9-11 Tower Challenge Climb in Tucson, Ariz., Sept. 11, 2024. Photos of fallen first responders were placed throughout the Tucson Convention Center to honor their sacrifice.



Chief Master Sgt. Anthony Marquez, 214th Attack Squadron senior enlisted leader, awaits the start of the 9-11 Tower Challenge Climb in Tucson, Ariz., Sept. 11, 2024. Participants ran in lanes of two throughout the Tucson Convention Center to reach the total 2,071 steps for the Tower Challenge Climb.



Chief Master Sgt. Michael Becker, 355th Wing command chief, provides honorary remarks at the start of the 9-11 Tower Challenge Climb in Tucson, Ariz., Sept. 11, 2024. The mission of the 9-11 Tower Challenge Foundation is to honor all those who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001.



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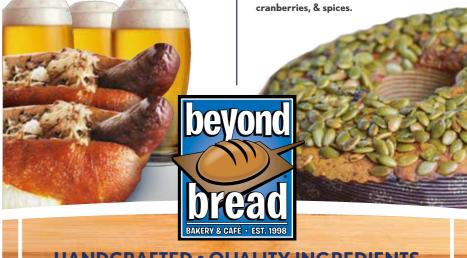
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An empty space in local cemetery waits for a lost airman

by Bob Alvis special to Aerotech News

Modern technology has made sure that the modern soldier will never likely become an MIA (Missing in Action). But that's not to say that it will never happen, especially for the sailors of the military who can be lost at sea and never recovered.

Soldiers and airmen now fly and fight in combat zones with high-tech equipment keeping track of their movement and locations. Sadly, the POW aspect of war will always be that one undeniable that can create an MIA status.

Here, in my last installment of the Russell Godde story, we see just how far we have come in tracking our missing soldiers when they are lost in battle.

In World War II, the United States ended up losing 78,750 Americans at the end of the war, who were considered MIA, with roughly half in the Indo-Pacific due to the Pacific War.

Our Airmen Russell was one of those lost.

That simple number of one does not really tell the story when you understand the far-reaching loss of that one soldier. Family, loved ones, and friends take that staggering number and multiply it by the ones who were a part of his life, and how that aftermath was dealt with for the years to come.

The unknown versus the final end carries a heavy burden. When families' loved ones who made the ultimate sacrifice have a final resting spot, closure can begin the healing process. But when that patriot falls into the category of the missing, it leaves a void that is hard to fill for family.

On the day that the Godde family received the letter of Russell's status it was not the way the movies portray it. It wasn't a Western Union man with a telegram, but rather a let-

ter opened at the family dinner table and read by Russell's dad that left the family numb. The missing in action status left the possibility that he could return home, but as the letters began to stack up, it was the beginning of saying that he was not.

Russell's mom held on to hope. As the war dragged on, she did all she could, reaching out to other families and the military hoping for a miracle. Over time, even those avenues became a dead end. After the war other family members also did their best to find the final resting place of Russell but those efforts also came up blank.

At some point after the family received Russell's foot locker, they had to move on and get on with life and the footlocker became like his casket. All the artifacts of Russell's military life and all the letters that came and went in hopes of finding him were placed in the locker and closed. The footlocker remained unopened for many decades, stored in

an attic

Russell is out there somewhere, and for the rest of their lives the family would lay their heads on pillows at night and think about where Russell's was laying his head. Many reports said local partisans in Romania would rush to crash sites, remove the bodies of American airmen, and bury them in unmarked graves to keep the Germans searching, thinking that the airmen had escaped.

It was a tactic of war but also created the possibility of never returning a lost airmen home. I was thinking that when the U.S. Army Air Corps officially moved Russell to Killed in Action, we must also realize as never being discharged he in fact is still serving our nation as are all our nations' POWs and MIAs.

As painful as it is, Russell's family of that era never got to see him come home but in their final acts here on earth they still held out for hope that maybe, just maybe he would find his way home to the



Photograph by Bob Alvis

Bob Alvis shared Russell's story at the Antelope Valley Rural Museum.



Photograph by Bob Alvis



Russell Godde in flight school in Santa Ana, Calif.



Photograph by Bob Alvis Remembering Russell at the Antelope Valley Rural Museum where his uniform is on display.

place that held all the sweet memories of his life, and rest with his mother and dad in the green field of a Lancaster Cemetery in Southern California.

There in that field of grass, between a mother and father, is an empty plot that waits for their son to come home. And we as a nation also wait for his return, as we do for all the other thousands that never made it back home

God bless all those that serve, God bless all those that make the ultimate sacrifice, and God bless all those that never came home.

"An empty chair at every dinner table, parents missing essential milestones in a child's life and those who will never know the missing part of their family. These are the costs paid in blood by those who stood up when their country called upon them." — Disabled American Veteran quote.

Thank you for being a part of my sharing this story and I hope it touched your heart and soul in a special way.

Until next time. Airmen Bob out ...





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E16 Vasquez, Rene
F06 Garcia, Edgar
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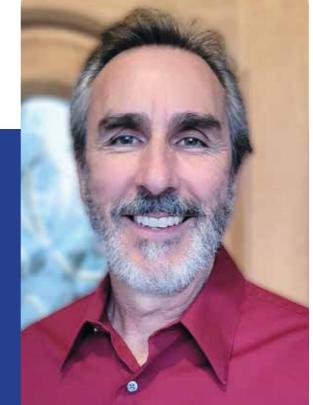
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F14A Mutton, Samantha F66 Acosta, Amber C36 Edwards, Nicole C16 Turnupseed, Thomas C32 Lupian, Jessica E13 Palacio, Ashinae B18 Brown, Christina C09 De Witt, Tracy C12 Davis, Weneka C05 Rayford, Byron

Date: September 26th, 2024 Signed NOVA STORAGE

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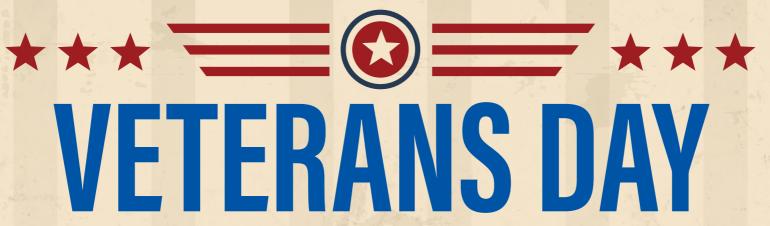
BEST SELF-STORAGE IN THE AV



Individual Unit
Alarms/Security
Extended Access
Drive-up Convenience



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HONOR THEIR SERVICE. CELEBRATE THEIR STRENGTH.

On Veterans Day, we honor the courage, sacrifice, and dedication of our nation's heroes. To show our deepest gratitude, *Aerotech News and Review* will publish a Veterans Day Special Edition on **November 1, 2024**

When you advertise your business in this special edition you can show your support and appreciation to the veterans community and expand your military reach.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to advertise.

Advertising reservation deadline is **October 17, 2024**

Advertising material deadline is **October 24, 2024**

| SIZE | RATE |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Business card • 3.325" x 2" | \$111.54 |
| 1/8 page • 3.325" x 5" | \$226.60 |
| 1/4 page • 5" x 6.5" | \$418.28 |
| 1/2 page• 10.25" x 6.5" | \$821.53 |
| Full page • 10.25" x 13" | \$1587.30 |



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Serving the Aerospace, Military and Veteran Community of the Desert Southwest.

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There's No Place Like Home

Five Spacious New Home Communities Near Military Bases

At K. Hovnanian® Homes, we understand what home means. It's where your heart takes you at the end of a long day. It's where you enjoy quality time with family and friends. It's a place where neighbors connect at the park with their dogs or over a delicious BBQ meal in the gorgeous California sunshine. If this is what you're looking for, consider creating new memories at one of our five new-construction communities of beautiful, single-family homes each located near military bases.

Our Communities Offer:

- Convenient commutes to military bases and employment hubs like Edwards Air Force Base, Beale Air Force Base, Air Force Plant 42, and Mojave Air and Space Port
- Each home features one of our interior design Looks, a simple and transparent way to ensure designer-curated style is cohesive throughout your new home

Designed with You in Mind:

- Ø Affordable homes are within reach with prices starting in the upper \$400s
- For added comfort and privacy, we offer Extra Suite and Extra Suite Plus on select plans and select communities, perfect for multi-generational living or housing extended guests
- Our Hometown Heroes promotion offers you \$1,000 off of options or closing costs for military, aerospace employees, and others working for the safety of their community^



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Single-family homes from the mid \$500s



TEHACHAPI HILLS
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^See khov.com/california for full details. Offer applies to select homes. Value of Heroes incentive not to exceed \$1,000. Unless otherwise specified, incentives may be applied towards closing costs, upgrades or options. Seller contribution limits may apply and may affect maximum financing. Maximum closing cost assistance may vary based on the purchase price, product, and occupancy. Seller is not a lender. A portion of incentives and/or closing costs are based on the use of affiliated lender, K. Hovnanian American Mortgage, L.L.C. ("KHAM") for financing or an all cash purchase. If KHAM or all cash is not used, the incentives (other than a home price reduction) will be reduced by the greater of \$10,000 or 3\% of the purchase price. Offer may not be available in all communities. Incentive must be included at the time of contract. Offer valid for owner occupants only. Additional conditions or restrictions may apply. To qualify for the incentive, applicant must show proof of eligibility at the time of contract signing. To be eligible the applicant on the contract and mortgage must show proof of military or employment status with an ID card or other official documentation. Void where prohibited by law. Incentive is per applicant. The home price reduction incentive is unrelated to and distinct from the other incentives offered and does not require the use of KHAM for financing to receive the price reduction incentive. The list price for certain homes may already reflect a base sales price reduction and/or may be subject to prior sale. Offer not available on all homes, communities or states. Incentives, special interest rate financing options, builder options, upgrades, and/or closing costs will way by home, homesite and community. Offer subject to change without notice. K. Hovnanian American Mortgage, L.L.C. 3601 Quantum Boulevard, K. Hovnanian Arizona New GC, LLC; ROC 277023. Artist renderings and photographs; illustrative purposes only. All dimensions are approximate. Features and options may vary. Unless stated har

