

# Hawk TALK

April - June 2024

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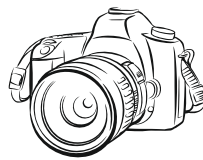




## Upcoming Events

- July 3rd TSgt Release Social
- Fourth of July!
- July 5th AETC Family Day
- Aug. 26th Women's Equality Day
- July 26th 2nd Quarter Award Ceremony
- Aug. 9th SNCO Induction Ceremony
- 15 Sept.- 15 Oct. Hispanic Heritage Month

## Do you need Public Affairs Support?



Public affairs support requests should be submitted through the PA Productivity Portal - photography, video, audio, graphics, and editorial support. Services can be requested [here](#). Be sure to select the 37TRW/PA as the Servicing Team. Submit at least 10 days in advance.

## Mental Health MATTERS

Suicide Prevention Hotline 988

### Commander

Col. Willie L. Cooper

### Deputy Commander

Col. Kelly McElveny  
(Incoming July 15)

### Command Chief

CMSgt. Carlos Damian

### Chief, Public Affairs

Christa L. D'Andrea

### Editor

2nd Lt. Kate Anderson

This Department of Defense newsletter is an authorized publication for members and families of the 37th Training Wing. Contents of the HAWK Talk are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the DoD.

Content for this monthly newsletter should be submitted no later than the 21st of the month prior to publication. Content, including articles and photos, should be submitted to

37trw.pa.inbox@us.af.mil







344 & 343 TRS Drill Down Win!

Juneteenth!

# AROUND THE 37 TRW



Purple Up!







# REOPTIMIZING FOR GREAT POWER COMPETITION



**“You have to be able to understand and communicate to your Airmen WHY. Their understanding of what’s at stake and our guiding principles will be critical as we all serve in this time of consequence.”**

Air Force Chief of Staff  
General David Allvin

## Latest In the News:

[Air Force Leadership Short on Great Power Competition - What is Great Power Competition?](#)

[DAF leaders talk budget, reoptimizing the force](#)

[Allvin adds detail, texture to plans for reoptimizing the Air Force](#)

[Air Force to re-introduce warrant officer rank, other major changes](#)

[US Air Force FAQ](#)

[US Space Force FAQ](#)



### DEVELOP PEOPLE

- Consolidate force development functions under an expanded Airman Development Command to provide Airmen a common, mission-focused development and training path.
- Expand technical tracks for officers and create technical tracks for enlisted Airmen; reintroduce warrant officers in IT and Cyber fields to maintain technical leadership in these highly perishable skills.
- Develop “Mission Ready Airmen” with training focused on a mix of skills needed for wartime operational mission readiness.
- Continue to transform leadership development and training at USAFA, OTS and ROTC to prepare new officers to effectively lead Airmen and Guardians in the context of Great Power Competition.
- Redesign career paths to produce Guardians that meet our high-tech operational demands.

### GENERATE READINESS

- Reorient Air Combat Command to focus on generating and presenting ready forces to combatant commanders.
- Implement large scale exercises and mission-focused training encompassing multiple OPLANS to demonstrate and rehearse for complex, large-scale military operations.
- Incorporate no-notice/limited-notice operational readiness assessments and inspections in the Air Force and Space Force to reflect pacing challenge requirements.
- Restructure key processes related to aviation spares and weapons systems to be data-driven and risk-informed to improve weapon systems health.
- Implement Space Force readiness standards that reflect operations under contested conditions rather than those of a benign environment.
- Conduct a series of nested exercises in Space Force that increase in scope and complexity, fit within a broader DAF-level framework, and are assessed through a Service-level, data-driven process to measure readiness.

### PROJECT POWER

- Structure Air Force Operational Wings as mission ready “units of action” categorized as Deployable Combat Wings, In-Place Combat Wings or Combat Generation Wings. Each will have its own structure, with a redesigned concept of support for ACE, to ensure the wings are prepared to execute their missions with assigned Airmen and units.
- Establish the relationship between Combat Wings and Base Command. Combat Wings will focus on mission level warfighting readiness and Base Commands will focus on supporting Combat Wings and operating the base in competition, crisis and conflict.
- Elevate AFCYBER to a standalone Service Component Command, reflecting the importance of the cyber mission to the Joint Force and across the Department of the Air Force.
- Formalize Space Force Combat Squadrons as Units of Action, complete activation of the remainder of Space Force Service Components and accelerate implementation of the Space Force Generation model.

### DEVELOP CAPABILITIES

- Create a Department of the Air Force Integrated Capabilities Office to lead capability development and resource prioritization to drive DAF modernization investments.
- Combine disparate efforts to create the Office of Competitive Activities to oversee and coordinate sensitive activities.
- Create a Program Assessment and Evaluation Office to establish structure and incorporate a more analytically based approach to resourcing decisions.
- Establish Integrated Capabilities Command to develop competitive operational concepts, integrated requirements, and prioritized modernization plans to align with force design.
- Create a new Information Dominance Systems Center within AFMC to strengthen and elevate the Air Force’s focus on Command, Control, Communications, and Battle Management; Cyber; Electronic Warfare; Information Systems; and Enterprise Digital Infrastructure.
- Strengthen the support to nuclear forces by expanding the Nuclear Weapons Center to become the Air Force Nuclear Systems Center within AFMC. This will provide comprehensive materiel support to the nuclear enterprise: establish a 2-star General Officer as the Program Executive Officer for Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles.
- Refocus the Life Cycle Management Center within AFMC as the Air Dominance Systems Center to synchronize aircraft and weapons competitive development and product support.
- Establish an Integration Development Office within AFMC to provide technology assessments and roadmaps. It will drive alignment and integration of mission systems across centers and provide technical expertise to assess operational concept feasibility.
- Create Space Futures Command as a Field Command to develop and validate concepts, conduct experimentation and wargames, and perform mission area design.

The **Change** We Need to **Win**







# TECH TRAINING TRANSFORMATION



## What is Tech Training Transformation?

Technical Training is transforming from past learning models to the Student-Centered Learning Model.

But what does this really mean? As some of you have experienced, we are changing the curriculum for both students and instructors. We are also updating the equipment we use in the classroom.

All of these modernization adaptations are an effort to better posture for Great Power Competition.

**The Airmen we are training here at the 37 TRW will be the leaders for tomorrow.**



People



Learning Ecosystem



Curriculum

## T3 Initiatives

### Steps and Strides

Every step we take towards modernization is bringing us closer to achieving our goal of excelling in the GPC.

Whether it is an equipment refresh, or the introduction of cutting edge technology we are positioning ourselves for future success.





# Senior leader visit highlights security cooperation, diversity of DLIELC

By Agnes Koterba

**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas** – Graduation marks a significant milestone. It represents the beginning of a journey filled with knowledge, inspiration, and continued education. For Defense Language Institute English Language Center graduates, it signifies partnerships rooted in trust and collaboration.

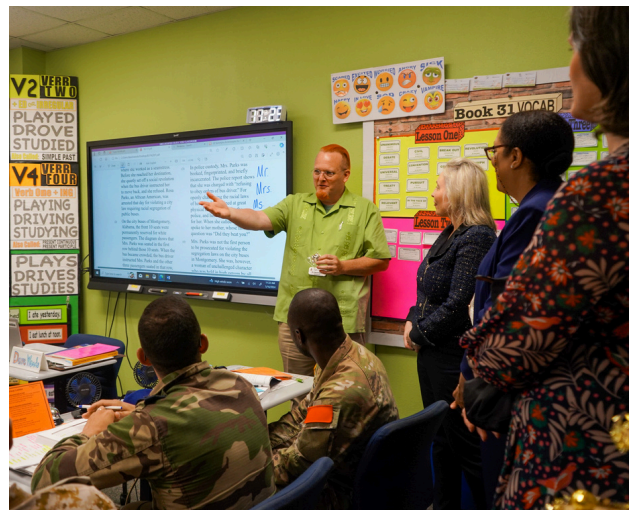
The students will apply the skills and knowledge they gained from their English language studies to their jobs in their home countries and at subsequent training opportunities throughout their careers.

Approximately 56 international military and two U.S. Army Echo Company students graduated from DLIELC on May 16, encompassing 26 partner nations from across the globe.

The graduation ceremony included attendance from several members of the English Language Program Working Group, held on May 16-17.

During the ELPWG, Department of Defense and Air Education and Training Command senior leaders, along with Defense Security Cooperation Agency program managers met with DLIELC leadership to assess the various aspects of programs and growth.

[Read more here!](#)





# Why do you stay?

TELL US YOUR STORY.

By 2nd Lt. Kate Anderson

## **FINDING PURPOSE IN TAKING CARE OF PEOPLE**

For Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Carmona, military service was not merely a career choice; it became a journey marked by personal struggle and a profound belief in the importance of taking care of people- elevating his service to something far greater than a job.



By Jonathan Cotto

## **THE INSPIRING JOURNEY OF STAFF SGT. CODIE LINDEN**

In a world often clouded by uncertainty, there are individuals whose dedication and selflessness shine brightly, illuminating a path for others to follow. Staff Sgt. Codie Linden is one such individual, whose journey of service and sacrifice serves as inspiration to all who come across his story.

If you are interested in telling your story or you know someone who is then contact the 37 TRW PA team at [37trw.pa.inbox@us.af.mil](mailto:37trw.pa.inbox@us.af.mil)





Lt. Col. Adam Dyke 331 TRS



Lt. Col. Kimberly Rigby 320 TRS

a warm welcome  
**TO THE NEWEST  
 COMMANDERS @ THE  
 37 TRW**



Lt. Col. Fritz Samson 37 TRSS



Lt. Col. Matthew Redaja 319 TRS



Lt. Col. Zachariah Thuli 318 TRS



Lt. Col. Jonathan Ely 346 TRS



Lt. Col. Eric Ornelas 323 TRS



Lt. Col. Jason Loucks 345 TRS





# New leadership assumes command of the Gateway Wing

By Christa D'Andrea

**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas --** Col. Willie Cooper III assumed command of the 37th Training Wing from Col. Lauren Courchaine May 30, during a ceremony at the Pfingston Reception Center here.

Maj. Gen. Michele Edmondson, 2nd Air Force commander, presided over the ceremony and acknowledged the pivotal mission of the wing, citing the many accomplishments and innovations that occurred during Courchaine's tenure.

"I want you to think of this as a Continuity of Command instead of a Change in Command," he told the audience, recognizing the challenges of change and identifying wing personnel as the catalysts of the wing's success. Cooper continued to tell the audience that he trusts "each and every one of you," but knows he is the variable, and it is his job to earn trust. He also asked to be granted patience and grace as he learns the mission.



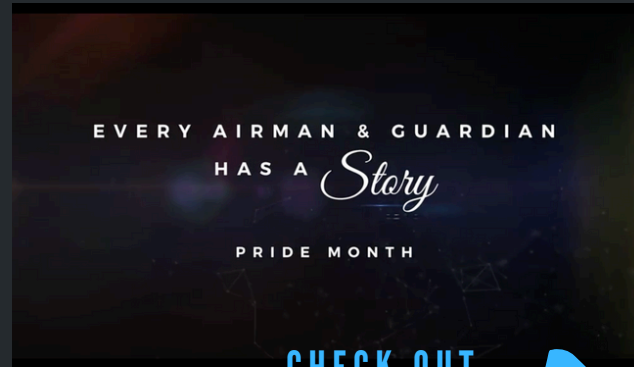


# PRIDE

## PRIDE MONTH: EVERY AIRMAN, GUARDIAN HAS A STORY

WASHINGTON (AFNS) --

By building a force with diverse backgrounds, skills and experiences, the Air Force and Space Force's capabilities will be ultimately enhanced in accomplishing its mission. The Department of the Air Force is committed to fostering a more diverse and inclusive culture across the force.



CHECK OUT  
THE VIDEO!



### SPOTLIGHT

## Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

The Defense Department pays tribute to the contributions and dedicated service of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, past and present, in defense of the nation during May and throughout the year.



In May we honor the AAPI community and all the contributions they have made to our nation and our Air Force. Here at the 37th Training Wing, we strive for a culture of inclusivity where every team member feels valued.

[Check out this video from AFN Tokyo to hear how culture influences our everyday life!](#)

# Second Quarter: Wing's Functional Awards Nominees

# Awards & Recognition



## **2023 AF International Affairs Excellence Awards:**

Enlisted Award: Tech. Sgt. Edwin Acevedo IAAFA

## **2023 Language Capable Airman/Guardian of the Year Awards:**

Enlisted Award: Staff Sgt. Juan H. Solorio IAAFA

Officer Award: Capt. Konrad Bennett IAAFA

## **2023 Language Professional of the Year Award:**

Staff Sgt. Karen Reyes IAAFA

## **2023 General Robert Dutch Huyser Award :**

Master Sgt. Raheem O. Crockett 37 TRG

## **2024 NAACP Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award:**

Military Category:

Tech. Sgt. Denise L. Good 37 TRG

## **2024 National LATINA Style Distinguished Military Service Award:**

Active-Duty Category:

Master Sgt. Sonia Toro Valles 37 TRG

Tech. Sgt. Karla L. De Los Santos 737 TRG

## **2024 Kellog-Loos Military & Civilian Awards:**

JEM : Airman Sean McCool 37 TRG

NCO: Tech. Sgt. Darrian Burris 737 TRG

SNCO: Master Sgt. Sarah Giard 737 TRG

CGO: Capt. Jasmine Archuleta 737 TRG

MTI: Tech. Sgt. Allison Ledford 737 TRG

## **2024 Alison Award for Character and Innovation :**

Officer Category: Maj. Brandon Taylor 737 TRG

## **2024 AETC National Defense Transportation Association Award :**

Instructor Category:

Tech. Sgt. Christoher W. Fredericks 37 TRG

## **2024 Federally Employed Women Military Meritorious Award:**

Tech. Sgt. Terrell, Allyson 737 TRG

## **2024 Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy Award:**

Tech. Sgt. Jolene R. Kojis 37 TRG



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## WARHAWK SOLUTIONS

