



# U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command FLIGHT

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## Doss takes over as new AMCOM CSM



The Aviation and Missile Command welcomed a new senior enlisted leader during a change of responsibility held June 14 at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama.

During a ceremony hosted by AMCOM Commander Maj. Gen. Tom O'Connor, outgoing Command Sgt. Maj. Bradford Smith relinquished the unit colors and incoming Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Doss received them. The colors symbolize the unit's lineage and honors, as well as the loyalty and unity of its Soldiers. The command sergeant major is the custodian of the colors.

O'Connor said that during Smith's 33 months as the AMCOM command sergeant major, he was not only a principal advisor to the commander but also a voice for the AMCOM workforce and the Soldiers in the field. Smith was extensively involved in establishing high-velocity training at the depots, capturing the generational knowledge of the artisans and ensuring that knowledge was used to build the bench and train incoming personnel. He visited the depots, labs and maintenance sites to understand the challenges facing AMCOM employees and the warfighters, and he brought those issues back to headquarters to find solutions that would make their jobs easier and ensure the equipment remained ready.

"Sergeant major went out and recognized people... [READ MORE](#)

## Resources, risk drive discussions at AMC update

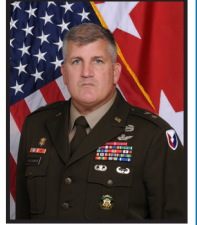
Leaders from throughout the Aviation and Missile Command gathered at AMCOM headquarters on Redstone Arsenal, Alabama May 28 to provide an update to Lt. Gen. Chris Mohan, Army Materiel Command deputy commanding general and AMC acting commander.

Updates from the major subordinate commands occur quarterly to inform the commander about ongoing initiatives and priorities, as well as to seek his guidance and assistance on issues that should be elevated to the Department of the Army. AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Tom O'Connor said the update is also an opportunity to showcase the AMCOM workforce.

"I'm honored and humbled to come to work every single day," he said. "We have some incredible people who are committed to their... [READ MORE](#)



*As my time as the AMCOM Commander comes to an end, I would like to thank you for your unwavering support. Each and every day, I am honored and humbled to come to work because of the incredible Soldiers, civilians and contractors who make up Team AMCOM. In addition to our amazing workforce, we are fortunate to have a support system across the communities that the global footprint of AMCOM touches, former commanders and command sergeants major, as well as industry partners. Together, we enable readiness for our warfighters.*



*As I look back over my time in command, I can't help but be proud of all we have accomplished as a team across the board, from implementing high-velocity training and modernization efforts at our depots to optimizing the supply chain. Over the past 24 months, we welcomed hundreds of Soldiers from throughout the aviation and missile communities to our AMCOM 101s — providing them a forum to network, discuss common challenges and learn how AMCOM can make their jobs easier. We used data analytics to drive our decision-making and incorporated technology into every aspect of this command, from virtual hiring efforts to tele-maintenance to predictive logistics. We are now taking data and transporting it to the enterprise to ensure we can see and understand it and make decisions at echelon.*

*As Maj. Gen. Lori Robinson steps into her new role as the next AMCOM Commander, I am confident there will be a seamless transition, and I know she will lead this command to even greater heights. I ask for your continued support to ensure AMCOM is continuously modernizing, reforming and changing, but most importantly, reducing the burden on the Soldiers in the field so they can deter aggression and fight and win if asked to do so.*

*It has been an honor and privilege to serve with you, and I look forward to continuing to support this great command from afar and amplifying your efforts at the Department of the Army level. Thank you for what you do every day. You are what makes this command better able to help our warfighters succeed.*

*Thank you for who you are and what you do!*

*Be all You Can Be!*

*Maj. Gen. Tom O'Connor Jr.,  
AMCOM Commanding General*

## AMCOM HHC welcomes Salih as new commander

The Aviation and Missile Command hosted a change of command ceremony for Headquarters and Headquarters Company May 31 in the Bob Jones Auditorium on Redstone Arsenal, Alabama.

During the ceremony, Capt. Jeremy Myles passed the guidon to Capt. Maria Salih, signifying her new role as the commander of HHC. AMCOM Chief of Staff Col. Aaron Martin

facilitated the ceremony.

Martin spoke about the role of the company commander but added that with 13 general officers and 550 active-duty Soldiers located within 27 unit identification codes across Redstone Arsenal, HHC AMCOM is "a little bit different."

"Every single Soldier in the Army, even our most senior officers and sergeants major, is... [READ MORE](#)



## Calibration managers from throughout world train at Redstone



Calibration is one of the most unseen yet important Army missions, and it belongs to the United States Army Test, Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Activity.

Although headquartered on Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, USATA is a global organization with 42 support activity sites located in 22 states, seven countries and three continents. It ensures Army weapons systems operate safely and properly through routine calibration.

Once a year, the USATA leadership brings the site managers from each support activity together for training, agency updates and networking. This

year, it was held May 14-16 at Toftoy Hall on Redstone Arsenal, and 39 site managers were in attendance.

"This is an annual event to provide updates on the Army TMDE enterprise and the organization," said Robert Mitchell, USATA deputy director for management and operations. "We also provide some mandatory training and updates on equipping issues and procedural issues and the future of the organization." [READ MORE](#)

## Army aviation leaders seek transition to the future of warfighting

Leaders from the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command attended the 2024 Army Aviation Mission Solutions Summit, April 24-26 in Aurora, Colorado.

The annual event, hosted by the Army Aviation Association of America, is the only opportunity for the entire Army aviation community to gather in one place, at one time, to focus solely on Army aviation issues. This year's theme was "Transforming Aviation Warfighting - Strengthening

our Sacred Trust."

The three-day event included professional sessions hosted by Army leaders, including Under Secretary of the Army Gabe Camarillo, and media roundtables and working groups. Most of the discussions centered around future initiatives, artificial intelligence, maintenance and warfighting.

Maj. Gen. Tom O'Connor, AMCOM commander, was a key participant in... [READ MORE](#)



**P2P** Performance-to-Promise is a measurement of how an organization holds itself accountable to the commitment to meet worldwide customer-required delivery dates.

**Letterkenny Army Depot**  
96.4%  
As of June 2024

**Corpus Christi Army Depot**  
91.0%  
As of June 2024

**Missile SA**  
70.49%  
Second pass  
As of June 2024

**Aviation SA**  
84.63%  
Second pass  
As of June 2024

**SA** Supply Availability is defined as the percentage of demands placed on the wholesale echelon of supply that are not backordered, excluding future material obligations.

**Aviation Center Logistics Command**  
Mission-capable aircraft  
54.4%  
15.3%  
Non mission-capable supply

## LARs go where the Army goes, keep the Army rolling along



Shortly before he left the Army in 1999, Jason Soto met “Mr. Bill” at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Bill helped Soto’s aviation unit blend out damage on their weapons and taught the Soldiers how to complete additional repairs not found in the technical manuals.

Unbeknownst to Soto at the time, Bill was a Logistics Assistance Representative.

Now, 25 years later, Soto is a branch chief and career manager for LARs like Bill, who are stationed worldwide in support of the operational force.

The Aviation and Missile Command has more than 200 LARs embedded with units across the Army to repair and sustain weapons systems on-site. Soto oversees approximately one-third of them, ensuring they are trained and ready to go when and where the Army goes.

“We’re called LARs, which stands for Logistics Assistance Representatives, but in actuality, logistics is just a small portion of it,” he said. “The primary function of a LAR is to assist and advise on maintenance issues, supply issues and really any issue you can imagine having to do with our equipment; we run... [READ MORE](#)

## AMCOM scores big at BEYA: thirty new employees accept offers

If you ask most government employees how long the hiring process takes, you will likely get a chuckle and an answer ranging from a couple of months to nearly a year.

All of the answers are correct and usually have legitimate reasons — security clearances, qualification checks, syncing calendars to coordinate panel interviews — but all of these steps take time. However, extended hiring timelines are one of the reasons the Army is losing the war for talent. It is also why the Army Materiel Command piloted a new program called Rocket Vetting for Rapid Hiring at the Becoming Everything You Are Science, Technology, Engineering and Math career fair held Feb. 16-17 in Baltimore, Maryland.

The program allowed real-time vetting of applicants for hiring officials to make on-the-spot employment offers at the event.

The Aviation and Missile Command, a major subordinate command of AMC, took full advantage of the new program and issued 37 tentative job offers at the BEYA hiring event.

“If you look at all of the different Army commands that went to BEYA, AMCOM had the... [READ MORE](#)



## Symposium brings together Army, industry leaders across OIB enterprise



The Aviation and Missile Command brought representatives from the Army and industry together for the fourth annual Organic Industrial Base Modernization Symposium and Industry Day held April 2-4 at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama.

The symposium is one of the few opportunities for industry representatives to showcase their capabilities directly to their government partners. The focus is OIB modernization — a 15-year, multi-billion process launched in October 2023 to overhaul the Army’s 23 depots, arsenals and ammunition points. Although AMCOM returned as host for

the event, new this year was sponsorship by Army Materiel Command, which opened up the discussion to all OIB sites Army-wide.

The National Center for Manufacturing Sciences organized the industry day portion of the symposium, which offered vendors the opportunity to showcase next-generation technologies that could contribute to maintenance solutions for the Army. The exhibitors gained high visibility for their products and services, as well as learned about opportunities for collaboration among the leading technology experts who serve the... [READ MORE](#)

## Intelligence branch honored at White House, receives Presidential award

A team from the Aviation and Missile Command intelligence and security division received a presidential award during a ceremony held at the White House in Washington, D.C., April 16.

Sponsored by the President's Intelligence Advisory Board, the Killian Award is presented to an organization, unit, or individual within the intelligence community each year to recognize excellence in five categories: analysis, collection, science and technology, mission support or intelligence oversight. The PIAB advises the president of the United States on the quality and effectiveness of intelligence and counterintelligence. The award is named for Dr. James Ryne Killian, the board's first chairman and the first presidential assistant for science and technology.

The AMCOM G2 Threat Support Branch received the award in the mission support category for their significant contributions in support of the Program Executive Office — Missiles and Space.

While most of what they do is classified, Threat Branch Chief Frank Vegerita II said the team provided technical intelligence support while directly contributing to the safety of allied forces deployed into harm's way. Many systems developed at Redstone Arsenal are currently deployed and engaged in different theaters worldwide. Vegerita's team identifies tactics and countermeasures that can directly affect the systems in real-time overseas.

“When the PEOs are developing a new weapons system or platform, or when they are updating and improving a legacy system, the intelligence analysts look at the near-peer threats to see if they have the capability to combat... [READ MORE](#)



## Washington: from king's dominions defender to leading revolutionary



Eventually known by 1778 as the "father of his country," George Washington's life began along a well-laid course of social distinction among what was later dubbed the first families of Virginia. The death of his father in 1743, shortly after George's 11<sup>th</sup> birthday made him a landowner and slaveholder, as well as caused him to shoulder early responsibility for his younger siblings. Unfortunately, it also deprived him of the chance for a formal education in England like that of his older half-brothers, a lack that led to Washington's lifelong habit of continual self-education and dedicated reading. Denied his father's guidance, young Washington looked to his much-loved older half-brother Lawrence as a role model and mentor. Although he was 20 years old when he first met 6-year-old George, Lawrence subsequently had a profound influence on the younger Washington. He provided his half-sibling with numerous experiences and important social connections that facilitated young George's steady move into the upper echelon of the Virginia gentry. Lawrence also helped make possible George's first career as a land surveyor. Regrettably, Washington's loss of his older brother to tuberculosis in 1752 opened new opportunities for him as lessee and ultimate heir

of the primary family estate of Mount Vernon. That second major bereavement also led Washington away from the field of land surveying toward a life of military service.

Despite his unsuitability due to a lack of experience combined with his young age, Washington ambitiously used his family and social connections to follow in Lawrence's footsteps as one of Virginia's four adjutants responsible for training the colony's militia. His initial foray into military life coincided with the escalating Anglo-French imperial rivalry over North America, into which the English colonies had been drawn sporadically between 1688 and 1763.

The French and Indian War that started in 1754 in the Ohio River valley territory claimed by Virginia became the opening shots of the larger, worldwide Seven Years War of 1756-1763. First, as a special courier and scout, then as combatant for his colony, Washington made missteps in the first years of the conflict, but he learned much about tactical operations and military leadership. When British Maj. Gen. Edward Braddock arrived in February 1755, Washington volunteered to serve as an unpaid aide-de-camp "to attain knowledge of the military profession." However, the British refusal to accord combat-proven colonial officers... [READ MORE](#)



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