



U.S. AIR FORCE

11 Sep 2016

USAF Liaison Report



OVERVIEW

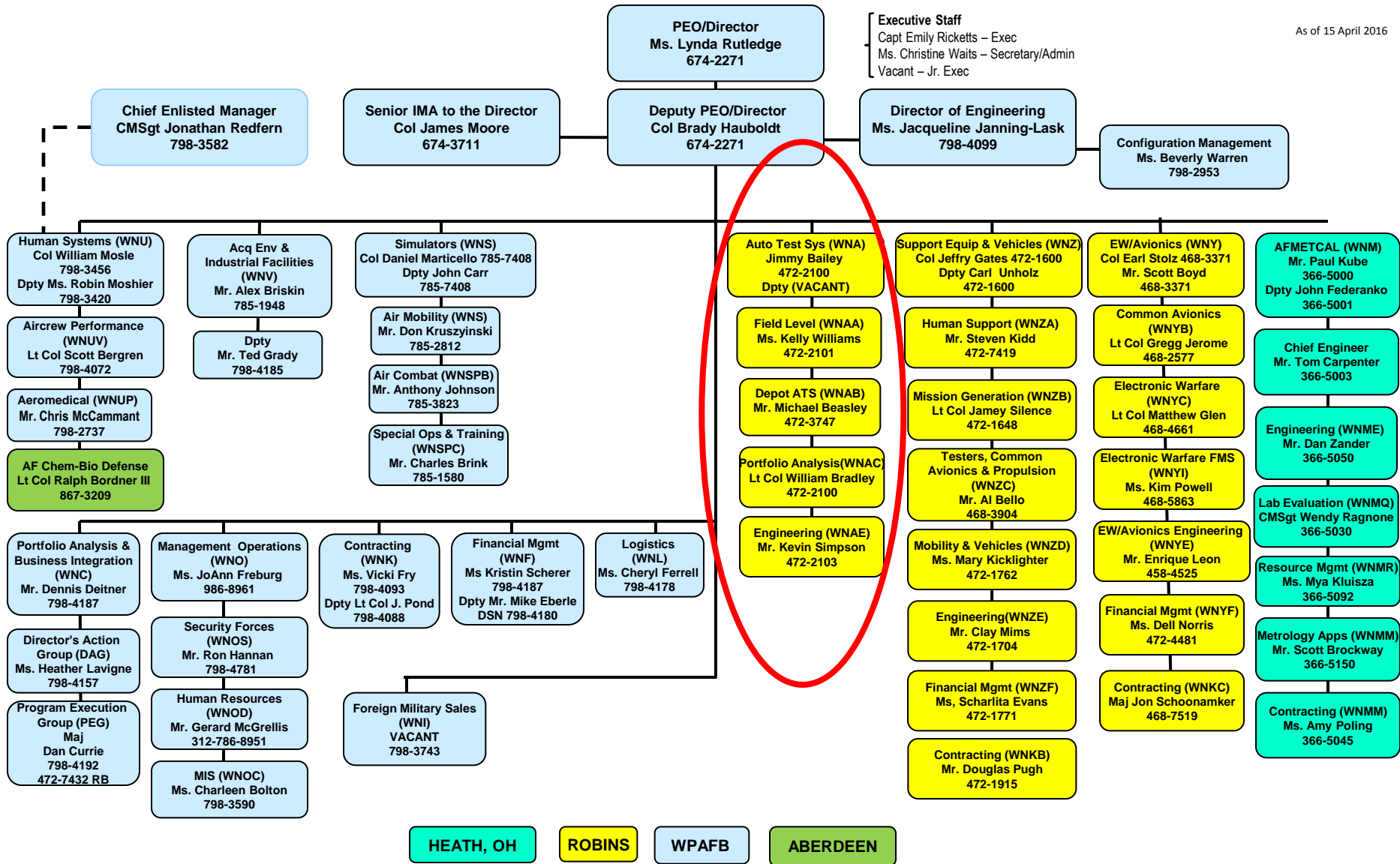
- ATS/PGM Update

- AF Budget
- AF News

Agile Combat Support Organizational Chart



As of 15 April 2016



- HEATH, OH
- ROBINS
- WPAFB
- ABERDEEN

ATE Opportunities

■ Armament Testers (O-Level Testers/ I-Level Testers)

- Bomber Armament Tester (B-52/B-1/B-2); decrease the number of testers for each platform
- RFP released in May; Source Selection ongoing; Contract Award Feb 17

■ VDATS® Progress

■ VDATS® PRODUCTION & DELIVERIES:

- Approximately 111 VDATS fielded / in production for Legacy and New customer requirements
- Delivered for Legacy ATS replacements: 64 Digital-Analog (DA) stations
- Delivered for new workload requirements: 36 DA stations
- Being Manufactured for Legacy and New requirements: 11 DA stations

■ VDATS® CORE CONFIGURATIONS: DA-1 and DA-2

- **VDATS Customers:** AF Depots (Robins ALC, Tinker ALC and Ogden ALC), Tobyhanna Army Depot, BAE and currently one intermediate level location

- **VDATS® TPS REQUIREMENTS:** All TPS efforts (Contractor or Organic) must be developed IAW the VDATS® TPS Style Guide & MIL-PRF-32070A

- Approximately **1064 TPSs** developed and approved for production, and used on VDATS®

- VDATS® currently supports over 30 weapon system program workloads for numerous weapon system platforms such as:

A-10, AC-130, B-1B, B-2, B-52, C-130J, C-17, C-5, E-8 (JSTARS), F-15, F-16, KC-135, MC-130H, Navy: EP-3, P-3C, SH-60B, UP/VP-3A, Navy Ships: OC-135, and UH-1N

ATS PGM Update

■ JSECST

- Production of 670A testers & retrofit kits = 160 delivered to date
- CCB approval for retrofit kit installation ECD Oct 16. Robins AFB Depot to install

■ CBATS Progress

- PXI based systems with 2 configurations
 - 101 (70) deployed at Hill AFB and Kadena AFB
 - 201 (54) deployed at Hill AFB, Kadena AFB, and Robins AFB
 - CBATS DXR Roll-up – In-use at Ogden ALC

■ ATS Challenges

- **Cyber Security (aka Information Assurance)**
 - Requirement for ALL ATS systems
 - Improvements for legacy ATS
 - Standards for future ATS acquisitions

**NOTE: Embedded Systems at risk, Study launched to focus on RPAs.
(Scientific Advisory Board)**

■ Changes in ATS Leadership

- ATS Division Chief: Jimmy Bailey
- ATS Deputy Director: **vacant**
- New Arrival: ATS Business Integration Branch Chief – Lt Col William S. Bradley

Air Force Budget Status: Aug '16

- FY17 Budget Request: \$167B (Base + OCO); Up 3% from FY16
- WASHINGTON (AFNS) – Per Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James and Chief of Staff of the Air Force David L. Goldfein:
 - James pointed out Airmen are busier than ever with the **oldest fleet in its history** before talking about the budget
 - **60 U.S. Air Force acquisition and upgrade programs could be affected** if the Congress approves stopgap legislation instead of passing the Fiscal Year 2017 defense appropriations bill
 - Lesser funding would **limit production of Boeing's JDAM precision guidance tail kits**—much in demand for overseas contingency operations against the Islamic State and other extremists—to FY2016 level
 - **Northrop Grumman B-21** program, now at the engineering and manufacturing development stage, would be **capped at the FY2016 level**

AF Budget

- According to Goldfein, the Air Force is fully engaged in providing **airpower solutions to counter aggressive activity from China, Russia, Iran, North Korea and violent extremists**, and working with its sister services to carry out missions
- **“Airpower has become the oxygen the joint force breathes,” Goldfein said. “Have it and don’t even think about it. Don’t have it, and it’s all you think about. Air superiority, ISR, space and lift are but a few examples.**
- A reporter asked if the situation represents a crisis. **“I believe it’s a crisis,”** Goldfein said. **“Air superiority is not an American birthright. It’s actually something you have to fight for and maintain.”**

AF News

- U.S. Air Force is struggling to fill a **shortage of 700 fighter pilots** by the end of the year, even as the U.S. battles in three air wars against ISIS in Iraq, Syria and Libya
- Airmen told Fox News, in addition to the pilot shortage, they are **4,000 mechanics short as well**
- **Shorthanded crews are forced to scrounge for spare parts** in museums and the “boneyard,” a graveyard of planes in the Arizona desert to fix their planes because the parts are not made anymore
- **Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James said she is planning to pay drone pilots a \$35,000 bonus.** The \$35,000 a year retention bonus would be an increase over \$25,000 bonus the service has been allowed to provide, and all drone pilots would be eligible once their service contract is up

F-35 IOC: 2 Aug '16

- PENTAGON: Critics of [the F-35](#) warned it was too heavy. They warned its stealth wasn't good enough. They warned [stealth, however good, wasn't enough](#) against advanced detection methods. They warned its range was too short and its weapons load too light. They warned it was [too hot and too loud](#). There was the "[bad rub](#)" that caused an engine to rip itself apart. They warned [concurrency](#) was crippling the ability to build and test aircraft fast enough and to high quality. **Above all, they said it was too expensive and too late**
- **"I am proud to announce this powerful new weapon system has achieved initial operational capability,"** [Gen. Hawk Carlisle, head of Air Combat Command](#), said at the Pentagon this afternoon. [Gen. David Goldfein](#), the newish Air Force Chief of Staff, stressed the plane's contribution to the joint fight in a statement (15 F-35As at Hill Air Force Base)
- The declaration of initial operational capability marks **an important milestone as the Air Force will operate the largest F-35 fleet in the world with more than 1,700 aircraft**

KC-46

- The KC-46A Pegasus program received Milestone C approval from Frank Kendall, the under secretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics, signaling the aircraft is ready to enter into production.
- The first aircraft deliveries will be to McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas, and Altus AFB, Oklahoma. A total of 18 tankers are scheduled to be delivered by early 2018.
- 18 Aug '16: The Air Force on Thursday awarded Boeing a \$2.8 billion contract for 19 KC-46A tankers, just days after the company received the green light for low rate initial production.
- The award covers the first two lots of LRIP aircraft —seven aircraft in the first batch and 12 in the second — as well as spare engines and refueling pod kits. Boeing is expected to deliver 18 aircraft to the Air Force by January 2018.

C-130J

- The Air Force Life Cycle Management Agency at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, has awarded Lockheed Martin a contract worth up to \$10 billion for the **production of all future C-130J aircraft delivery orders, including foreign military sales.**
- Work will be completed at Lockheed's Marietta, Ga., facility and is **slated for completion by Aug. 18, 2026.** Roughly \$14 million from the Fiscal 2014-2016 aircraft procurement funds are being obligated at the time of award for the first delivery order, according to the contract announcement.

Meet the U.S.'s First Ever Cyber Chief

- The White House has named Retired Air Force Brigadier Gen. Gregory Touhill as the first ever federal chief information security officer, a role that is focused on bolstering the U.S. government's digital defenses. The Obama administration first announced the creation of the position in February as part of a \$19 billion "cybersecurity national action plan" that included IT investments and new hires.
- Touhill currently serves as the deputy assistant secretary for cybersecurity and communications within the Department of Homeland Security. In the new job, he will report to Tony Scott, the federal chief information officer.
- Touhill will be responsible for "helping to ensure the right set of policies, strategies, and practices are adopted across agencies," they said.

Discussion



U.S. AIR FORCE
