



BRIEFING ROOM

Conference: Air Force Sustainment

On February 25, 2019, the Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force, General David Goldfein, addressed cadets and Total Force Airmen at the United States Air Force Academy during the National Character and Leadership Symposium. In describing the lethality the Air Force can inflict with airpower, General Goldfein remarked that the Air Force is a “global service and I would offer that we’re a global power because of that global reach.” The key to ensuring the global reach of the Air Force and the combat availability of the service’s fighter aircraft and other strategic and tactical platforms rests with the Air Force Sustainment Center (AFSC) headquartered at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, and the air logistics complexes, including the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Complex (OCLAC). In Oklahoma City, the Air Force provides critical sustainment to a number of key weapons systems, including the B-1 Lancer, the B-52 Stratofortress, the KC-135 Stratotanker, and the E-3 Sentry (AWACS), and special mission fleets. The OCLAC is also preparing to assume responsibility for the Air Force’s next generation tanker, the KC-46 Pegasus, and the next generation bomber, the B-21 Raider. The OCLAC also provides critical maintenance for the Navy’s E-6 Mercury (TACAMO) fleet and a wide variety of engines, ranging from older TF33 engines to state-of-the-art propulsion systems, such as the F119, as well as commodities supporting the Nation’s defense requirements.

The conference will engage the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) at the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center for briefings concerning the FAA’s role in, among other areas, training the Nation’s air traffic controllers, critical civilian aeromedical research, and securing the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States in commercial space transportation. The conference will also have an opportunity to hear from a leader of the Oklahoma National Guard on critical issues affecting the management of the reserve components that are central to the support of U.S. defense strategy.

The read-ahead material is provided from a number of viewpoints and includes a variety of sources. ***Items in the read-ahead may be accessed by clicking on the item title or other reference as highlighted here.*** Those items are available for review online or, if written materials, may be downloaded or printed.

Leadership Perspectives

[Posture of the United States Air Force](#)

Video - Senate Armed Services Committee (April 4, 2019) - 125 Minutes

The Senate Armed Services Committee conducted its annual hearing to consider the posture of the United States Air Force and to review the budget request for fiscal year 2020.

The written posture statement of the Secretary of the Air Force and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force may be found [here](#).

Air Force Sustainment, Logistics, and Major Platforms

[These Are the Five Areas Where the Air Force Wants to See an Explosion of Technology](#)

Defense News (April 18, 2019)

The Air Force issued a new science and technology strategy built on the concept of generating leap-ahead technologies. The strategy may be accessed [here](#).

[Air Force Improves New Inspection Plan for KC-46s, Paving the Way for Deliveries to Restart](#)

Defense News (April 9, 2019)

The Air Force is accepting KC-46 tankers once more from Boeing again after the discovery of foreign debris halted production for a second time.

[U.S. Air Force Wants to Take Back Sustainment from Industry](#)

MRO-Network.com (April 3, 2019)

The Air Force acquisition chief seeks more flexibility and speed from the bureaucracy and industry that must invent the next generation of military weapons.

[Ellsworth to be First Operational B-21 Base](#)

Air Force Times (March 27, 2019)

The Air Force announced that it has chosen Ellsworth Air Force Base to be the first base to house an operational B-21 bomber unit following a decision in November 2018 to [maintain and sustain](#) the B-21 at Tinker Air Force Base.

[The U.S. Military May Face a Huge Logistics Problem in a Future War with China or Russia](#)

Task & Purpose (January 9, 2019)

A recent report from the Defense Science Board of the Department of Defense suggests that the tried-and-true U.S. military logistics apparatus has atrophied since the end of the Cold War and may not be prepared for scenarios driven by re-emergent major power competition.

The KC-135 Tanker Could Become the First U.S. Warplane to Serve 100 Years

Popular Mechanics (December 31, 2018)

Air Force tanker fleet management may require the extended continued use of the KC-135 Stratotanker.

National Guard

Lengyel: National Guard at Highest State of Readiness Ever

Defense Media Activity/U.S. Army (March 28, 2019)

The Chief of the National Guard Bureau, General Joseph Lengyel, USAF, provided testimony to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense emphasizing the current state of readiness of the National Guard.

Selected Guard Units to Increase OPTEMPO in FY20

Defense Media Activity/U.S. Army (March 27, 2019)

As threats from near-peer adversaries grow, the Army proposes additional resources to allow some National Guard units to bump up their operational tempo.

Inhofe Says Demands on National Guard Still Too Great

The Oklahoman (March 21, 2019)

In an address to leaders of the Oklahoma National Guard, the Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator Jim Inhofe, said that the Nation was still demanding too much from Guard units but that the situation was getting better.

Federal Aviation Administration

Commercial Space Transportation Activities

Federal Aviation Administration (February 7, 2019)

Fact sheet on the management of commercial space transportation activities and protection of U.S. foreign policy and national security interests.

Afghanistan

It's Getting Harder to Track U.S. Progress in Afghanistan

Defense One (April 24, 2019)

The Special Inspector General for Afghan Reconstruction warned of the increasing difficulty of the public to track the U.S. military's progress in the war in Afghanistan.

Principal Speakers and Briefers

Brigadier General Jon M. Harrison, USA

Brigadier General Jon M. Harrison is the Director, Joint Staff, Oklahoma National Guard. He serves as the primary assistant to The Adjutant General with overall responsibility and oversight of more than 1,000 full-time employees of the Oklahoma Army National Guard and directly supervises the Staff Directors and the five major brigade-size subordinate command full-time officers in charge. General Harrison provides The Adjutant General with pertinent data, information and insight from the Staff with timely and solid guidance. He ensures The Adjutant General is informed at all times on critical and pertinent issues and events that effect his decision-making. General Harrison is also responsible for the execution of the federal and state budgets and the oversight of the Recruiting and Retention Program for the Oklahoma National Guard.

General Harrison commissioned in 1988 through the Reserve Officer Training Corps at Northeastern State University. Prior to receiving his commission, General Harrison served four years as an enlisted member of the Oklahoma Army National Guard. Upon commissioning, he served on active duty in a variety of aviation officer assignments. General Harrison was appointed as an officer in the Oklahoma Army National Guard in 1997. He has commanded at the company and battalion levels and served as the Army Aviation Division Chief. General Harrison was assigned to his current position as Director, Joint Staff in May 2015.

Lieutenant General Donald E. "Gene" Kirkland, USAF

Lieutenant General Donald E. "Gene" Kirkland is the Commander, Air Force Sustainment Center, Air Force Material Command, headquartered at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma. As the AFSC Commander, he leads 43,000 Total Force U.S. and U.K. Airmen across three air logistics complexes, three air base wings, and two supply chain wings, operating from a global network of 26 locations.

The AFSC is responsible for \$26 billion in assets generating \$16 billion in annual revenue. The command provides global logistics and sustainment planning, operations, and command and control, including agile software development and sustainment, supply chain management and execution, weapons systems maintenance, modification, repair and overhaul, as well as critical sustainment for the Air Force and Navy nuclear enterprise. The AFSC also provides mission essential support to joint and interagency operations, allies, coalition partners, and foreign military sales partners.

General Kirkland entered the Air Force in 1988 through Officer Training School. He is a career aircraft and munitions maintenance officer and has served on the logistics staffs at U.S. Central Command and the Joint Staff. He also served as Executive Officer to the Chief of Staff of the Air Force and Commander of the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Complex. Prior to his current assignment, he was the Director of Logistics at Headquarters, U.S. Air Force.

Tyrell O. Mayfield

Tyrell O. Mayfield is a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force and is currently Commander, 72nd Security Forces Squadron, Tinker Air Force Base. He is a member of the Board of Directors of, and editor for, **The Strategy Bridge**, a non-profit organization providing an online forum for the discussion of policy, strategy, national security, and military affairs. He is the co-editor with Nathan K. Finney of **Redefining the Modern Military: The Intersection of Profession and Ethics**. He has served three tours of duty in Afghanistan, including service as Air Attaché and advisor to the press spokesman for the President of Afghanistan. He is currently working on a book about Afghanistan.

Lieutenant General Donald J. Wetekam, USAF (ret.)

Lieutenant General Donald J. Wetekam, USAF (ret), has over 40 years of experience in the aerospace industry, serving in key leadership positions in both the government and commercial sectors. From 2007 to 2018, he served as an officer with AAR Corporation, a leading aerospace services company. Prior to that, he served 34 years in the U.S. Air Force, retiring as a Lieutenant General after his final assignment as Deputy Chief of Staff for Installations and Logistics in Washington, DC.