



## The Official Newsletter Of The Aircraft Armament Chiefs Association (AACA)

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### ***President's Comments***

**Mike Lucchesi**

Hello Fellow Weapons Loaders. The Aircraft Armament Association (AACA) is still striving along and supporting the weapon communities.

Membership has not decreased in the past year, nor has it increased. As a non-profit organization we are currently financially secured. Meaning that we are able to support our funding commitments (i.e. Kebil Scholarship, Donations, Recognition program, etc.), increase supplies to the AACA store, and support off-sets as they come about. However, long term, if sustainment conditions persist, our survival as a non-profit will be challenged. Our existence will be levied back towards our existing membership, not the generation of revenue and new members.

Our new membership is lacking, during the 2018 reunion we elected a Membership committee with lead and point of Contact being CMSgt Lou Fields. Lou is putting together the strategy with the help of Chief Godwin, Chief Davis, and Chief Hamburg. This should not solely rest on their shoulders, as members, we do ask that you reach out to other active, Reserve, Guard, and retired 2W1/462's and solicit their interest and membership. This brings me to the next message; the AACA can't grow if we are not meeting our member's interest. Chief Fields is putting together a survey to begin soliciting members interest, what do you expect from the AACA? How

can we support the needs of the community that interest you?

During the 2018 Reunion, it was asked when and where is the next Reunion. The next Reunion will be in 2020 at Nellis AFB, NV. Of course, planning this out will occur this coming fall, so I need some volunteers. In another note, it was brought to my attention from both Chiefs and their spouses an interest in an "AACA Cruise" Event. In consideration to this interest item, 2021 marks our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and this would be an appropriate time for this event to occur. Once again though, I would need some volunteers to lead and help out. All Chiefs, including non-members can come to our events (reunions, cruise, dinners, etc.) they just do not have a vote where, when, and what events we support. That is the only difference. We do ask them to join for one year though, which in turn they end up having a vote during that period. It all works out. The point is, yes, non-members can participate, just no voting rights.

The AACA is 132 members strong, which is divisible by 3 and 4 (44/33 load crews), which started from ground zero in funding and merchandize, solely on ideas, and now is \$10K, no outstanding debts, and reaches across the globe. The AACA members exist in four major continents; we have a virtual store that has met 100% deliveries, stocked and ready, and continues to grow. The ACCA sustains a website that shares information, post job ads and hosts an AACA Newsletter that is contributed by its members. Additionally, the ACCA has a Facebook page to

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hosts pictures and share life experiences for all to reach into and capture the pictures and post your likes. The ACCA supports a Major contributor scholarship to the weapons community and their families as well as a recognition program that reinforces the concept of taking care of each other as instilled throughout weapons careers. The AACA is doing well, we can do better and it is always enlightening to read the papers or watch the news and see warheads on foreheads, knowing our existence lives on....Long Live the Loader!!!

*Mike*

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## ***Editor's Comments***

In this addition you will be treated to many informative and entertaining articles from our membership. Thank you for your contributions!

If you have any stories, cartoons, photos, etc. that you would like to see included in YOUR newsletter, please send them to me for incorporation into future newsletters. You can send them to me at [khilton@glassmile.net](mailto:khilton@glassmile.net) or [aacanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:aacanewsletter@gmail.com).

I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter! I sincerely appreciate everyone's inputs. As I always say, this is YOUR newsletter. I just assemble what I receive from the members.

*Keith*

## **From The Career Field Manager**

**John Jordan**

Greetings from the Pentagon. Hope this finds everyone doing well. As you would expect, our Airman continue to deliver combat ready aircraft to our operators on a daily basis. Our uniforms may change, but the mission continues to be the same...deliver air power. On the manning front, we are pretty strong compared to a lot of the other maintenance AFSC's. At present, our worldwide average of 97%. That said, we are getting stronger with an expected gain of over 1,000 additional authorizations over the next three years. What that means to the field is an ever-increasing number of 3-levels that require OJT and training. Definitely a good problem to have though as our mission sets continue to grow.

Connecting our increase in accessions, one of the issues I am attempting to tackle is increasing our Airman's understanding and proficiency of our AFSC when they leave technical training. To do this, we have put on contract a company to develop an augmented and virtual reality environment that our students can utilize while not physically engaged in a lesson. Consider a class that is learning to install a gun system on the F-16. They do this as a crew, while the other student within the class "study." If this virtual environment works as intended, the students not physically installing the gun will be able to sit at their desk with a pair VR Goggles on and walk through the steps of the gun installation. To

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quote a friend of mine, “repetition builds proficiency”. So now when the student graduates they would have installed the gun once physically and several times virtually where as currently they only do it once. All in the same amount of training days. The application can be applied to many of our floor tasks across all platforms. Further, if this technology works, the future state will be to have it used operationally for those tasks that we do not do on a regular basis. Checkout these YouTube links that, while not aircraft or weapons maintenance, demonstrates the potential capability the technology brings. Augmented Reality:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RpXyagutoZg>  
and HoloLens2:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e-n90xrVXh8>

To close, I want to take a moment to make everyone aware that this years Senior Munitions Managers Conference will be 10-14 Jun at Langly AFB. If you are in the area, come out to our icebreaker. We are in the process of firming up the details but when the time and place is confirmed, I will get the word out.

*John*

**“Never tell people how to do things.  
Tell them what to do and they will  
surprise you with their ingenuity.”**

**General George Patton**



## **AACA Membership**

**Lou Fields**

Hello Everyone! Our organization, like many other organizations in today’s society is having a membership crisis, not only in membership decline, but in membership participation.

A few others and I have started to look at ways we can reverse these issues. One of the suggestions we are looking at is opening membership up to SMSgt’s and MSgt’s, and perhaps a few others. Another membership aspect we are addressing is how we get our organization the visibility needed to draw new Chief’s into the membership and keep them interested and active.

One thing is clear, we cannot survive without members and membership support. We are therefore looking for help and suggestions to improve our membership and participation.

Look forward to receiving a brief survey in the near future. We look forward to ideas to improve our organization.

*Lou*

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## **Aircraft Armament Chiefs Association Recognition Program**

**Mike Cannon**

Here are the 2018 2W1 Award Winners from USAFE-AFAFRICA and AFSOC:

### **USAFE-AFAFRICA Outstanding Aircraft Armament Systems Professional of the Year**

#### **Technician of the Year:**

**SrA Adam S. Quiroga**  
Weapons Load Crew Member  
748<sup>th</sup> AMXS, RAF Lakenheath

SrA Quiroga achieved a perfect 100% pass rate on 87 weapons load evals in addition to a stellar 100% QA eval pass rate. He led 166 EOR ops that ensured a 100% fire rate while enabling the first ever F-15C live fire in Morocco. He deployed in support of Icelandic Air Patrol, performing 102 loading/EOR ops and 38 maintenance actions that generated 237 sorties and 32 alert missions. SrA Quiroga generated 6 aircraft/loaded 24 AIMs/5.6 rounds of ammo in less than 22 hours in support of a POTUS tasking. His exemplary achievements led to selection as 2Q18 Squadron Armament Technician, MXG Maintenance Effectiveness Award, and MXG SEDCEF Maintenance Award.

#### **Supervisor of the Year:**

**TSgt Kyle J. Tierney-Dooley**  
Weapons Load Crew Team Chief  
48<sup>th</sup> AMXS, RAF Lakenheath

TSgt Tierney-Dooley led the #1-of-65 wing load crews with a 100% pass rate while earning four "Screamin' Eagle"/FW Load Crew of the Quarter. His NSI'18 ZD-load (coined by 48FW/CC) and 4 aircraft generations in support of NATO cross-servicing exercises (two Superior Performer awards) showcased his versatility. He deployed in support of 31st/48th FW Integrations, supporting the most Nuc-Gens in joint mission history while contributing to MXG's SECDEF Field Level Maintenance Award. He developed a Nuc-Gen checklist and a consolidated safety brief/TAL/SVA/gen-guide into a Quick Reference List. TSgt Tierney-Dooley led a 6 member TCTO team revamping 9 testers /152 cables.

#### **Manager of the Year:**

**MSgt Scott J. Christen**  
Armament Maintenance Section Chief  
48<sup>th</sup> Munitions Squadron, RAF Lakenheath

MSgt Christen steered 213 NCE maintenance tasks, accounted for 700 Nuclear Certified Items, ZD-d the LSI/NSSAV/NSSI and was awarded the Wing's sole enlisted IG Superior Performer. He led 52 Amn to a 97% pass rate on 117 evals, 732 inspections, and 103 repaired malfunctions that contributed to 7,000 sorties. MSgt Christen analyzed the inspection cycle for 40 SUUs that cut 120 man-hours annually. He liaised with WR-ALC on 16 SUU/LAU ETARs that cut depot repair time 6 months and contributed to MXG SEDCEF Maintenance Award. MSgt Christen managed USAFE's first CAPEX; he OT&E'd 9 wings/200 personnel/897 muns inspections. His efforts

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established Command benchmarks and were lauded by the CFM.

**Load Crew of the Year:**

**SSgt Brady Trombley**  
**A1C Roydel Pinder**  
**A1C Ryan Montonario**  
**555<sup>th</sup> AMU Weapons Load Crew (G-10)**  
**555<sup>th</sup> AMU, Aviano AB**

This load crew perfected 254 MPRL/SAE WS evals, achieving a perfect 100% pass rate while capturing LCoY. They managed 537 mx actions/105 EOR inspections earning a 100% QA pass rate. They led Aviano's "first-ever" F-16 gun laser boresight, training 6 personnel and cutting task hours 25% to boost AMU mission capability. This crew generated 5-of-16 Vipers in support of a POTUS tasking, generating 12 sorties/117 hours for a Defensive Counter Air that shielded 57 NATO acft/9 USN vessels and eliminated 3 WMD sites. They executed a HHQ tasking, generating 3 acft/1.5K lbs NEW that provided Armed Over Watch for safe evacuation of 31 US Embassy personnel.

**AFSOC Outstanding Armament Awards**

**Technician of the Year:**

**A1C Jacob A. DeAnda**  
**Weapons Load Crew Member**  
**801<sup>st</sup> SOAMXS, Hurlburt Field**

A1C DeAnda maintained 32 gun systems and completed 425 off-equipment tasks; earning a perfect 100% QA pass rate and supporting 45 aircrew qualifications. He resolved a small arms issue by acquiring a vault and establishing a controlled area for 147 mission critical rifles. He filled a rod assembly urgent request that

contributed to Operation Inherent Resolve and ordered 250+ parts and HAZMAT items that helped build a benchstock for PACOM's newest CV-22 unit. AIC DeAnda was awarded his 5-level by completing 100% core task qualification in less than 6 months and scoring 94% on his EOC exam. He achieved 6 semester hours and Dean's List recognition while earning his CCAF degree in Armament Systems Technology.

**Supervisor of the Year:**

**SSgt Benjamin A. DeLone**  
**Weapons Load Crew Team Chief**  
**801<sup>st</sup> SOAMXS, Hurlburt Field**

SSgt DeLone filled the Expediter role. He drove 600 maintenance tasks, arming 1,000 sorties in support of 4,000 hours, becoming the first DoD CV-22 unit to beat the Flying Hour Program. His squadron won the AF Maintenance Effectiveness Award. He spearheaded an international joint force exercise, maintaining 6 GAU-21s, resulting in 91 missions and 210 hours in the first ever CV-22 ROK presence. He reconfigured 5 aircraft that enabled Tyndall recovery missions and opened the airfield for relief efforts. SSgt DeLone introduced 3 CV-22s to PACOM, overseeing 125 gun inspections that enabled a 100% Gun Fire Rate, 347 flight hours while supporting 3 operations over 4 countries.

**Manager of the Year:**

**MSgt Dontaye A. Taylor**  
**Weapons Flight Chief**  
**801<sup>st</sup> SOAMXS, Hurlburt Field**

MSgt Taylor led 29 personnel in 12,000 gun maintenance actions and 22 load crew qualifications, resulting in an outstanding 99% Gun

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Fire Rate. He executed a command directed GAU-21 equipment test that drove a \$1.2M inventory upgrade; and also guided the CV-22 SPO to establish the first GAU-21 depot level maintenance that eliminated a DoD-wide deficiency. He led 70 personnel as deployed Senior Enlisted Leader. He crafted a TCTO solution to a faulty gun mount pin that was implemented DoD-wide to prevent equipment loss. MSgt Taylor earned multiple awards, including Squadron SNCO Maintenance Professional, AFSOC Armament Manager, Group SNCO and Joint Special Operations Air Component Team of the Quarter.

and credit for their many accomplishments. The winners and a summary of their achievement are:

**Amn Category:** A1C Krysten R. Kidd, Weapons Load Crew Member, 96 AMXS, Eglin AFB, FL. A1C Kidd supported a year long B61 upgrade effort



by executing multi-phased testing, integrating weapons loading procedures on F-15E aircraft and advancing DoD's #1 priority. She configured aircraft and performed operational checks for Enhanced Laser Guided Training

Round testing thereby validating effectiveness for this low-cost training munition and saving the Air Force \$19K per bomb. A1C Kidd identified a safety of flight hazard and procured off-base equipment/replaced a damaged canister to restore capabilities and save a vital 5<sup>th</sup> generation aircraft software test. Finally, she analyzed a dropped object trend and highlighted the deficiency to the equipment specialist who issued a TCTO saving \$1.4M AF-wide.

**NCO Category:** SSgt James P. Berry, F-35 Weapons Expeditor, 412 AMXS, Edwards AFB, CA. SSgt Berry supported an \$83.1M Air Force Nuclear



## AFMC Outstanding Weapons Professional of the Year Award Winners

**Jeff Hulme**

HQ AFMC/A4M announced the winners of the 2018 AFMC Outstanding Weapons Professional of the Year Awards. This award is open to all 2W1s (and civilian equivalents) within command whether they are in a direct maintenance or support role such as an aircraft program office. Competition was very tight this year and all nominees deserve recognition

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Weapons Center certification program. He performed six B61-12 gap-check test events that were critical to NATO/F-35A nuclear deterrence capability. He directed ten GBU-49 uploads validating the first F-35 Lead Laser Guidance test against moving targets. SSgt Berry expedited Exercise ORANGE FLAG and drove 15 aircraft configurations showcasing F-35 capability and DoD interoperability for a CBS news segment. He troubleshooted a BRU-68 safety issue, identified and replaced a faulty high-pressure pneumatic line enabling the first instrumented B61-12 flight. Additionally, he supervised 121 munitions uploads and sustained 1.5K F-35A test points with a 100% release rate.

**SNCO Category:** SMSgt Corie M. Hudson, Weapons Section Chief, 96 AMXS, Eglin AFB, FL. SMSgt Hudson answered the CSAF innovation call



by designing an F-15 PACS bypass cable and developing local tech data procedures for use. This initiative saved 2K man hours per year and contributed toward his being named the 96 Test

Wing Outstanding Weapons Professional for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. He partnered with contractors and USAFE personnel to investigate B61 faults and developed a trend tracking tool to isolate the cause of nuclear discrepancies for DoD's #1 priority program. SMSgt Hudson also completed an AFSO-21 course and was appointed team lead for reshaping the squadron's inspection criteria. His efforts paid off with two "Highly Effective" major graded area ratings during an AFMC/IG inspection.

**Civilian Category:** Mr. Tad J. Miller, F-16 Weapons Crew Member, 412 AMXS, Edwards AFB, CA. Mr. Miller was handpicked for a Point Mugu TDY where he configured and loaded two AQM-37 air-launched supersonic target drones. The 100% successful release validated the \$107M joint Royal Australian Navy and US Navy program and Aegis combat system. He loaded live GBU-49/50s on two test aircraft in support of an advanced European Participating Air Forces (EPAF) \$2M Enhanced Paveway II program. Mr. Miller troubleshooted a wing weapons pylon failure to a faulty Joint Remote Interface Unit ensuring a successful Joint Strike Missile test in support of the Royal Norwegian Air Force's F-35 program. Additionally, he resolved an F-16 jammed gun system by pinpointing and replacing a defective element chute saving a \$280K EPAF test sortie.

***"If we did the things we are capable of, we would astound ourselves."***

***Thomas Edison***

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## VA Claims

**Darell Brewer**

Hello! I hope this newsletter find you all doing well. I was asked to provide some additional insight towards some VA processes. Since the 2016 presidential election there have been numerous changes to VA processes.

The VA has improved their website found at [va.gov](http://va.gov). Most of you should be familiar with eBenefits. You can now log in to [va.gov](http://va.gov) and it connects you with some very useful tools like eBenefits and myhealthevets. The website still provides links to information related to VA benefits. My personal view on filing a claim with eBenefits is most veterans do not have enough information on how to properly file a claim, therefore get frustrated with the VA claims process. That is where an accredited Veterans Service Officer can help relieve some of the frustration. Most states have service officers to assist you with claims at no cost to you. Also, most service organizations such as: American Legion, DAV, VFW, etc have service officers to assist with the claims process. A final note on logging on to the VA website, it is critically important to keep up with your eBenefits log on username and password. If you become locked out, you have to go to a VA regional office to regain access.

Another new change is the implementation of a virtual telehealth network. This works by scheduling certain appointments through your VA primary care

provider. Instead of going to a VA medical center or clinic, you may be able to go to a location in your community to connect virtually with a VA provider for things like counselling. This is expected to expand to routine appointments as the capability to provide vital health information is built into the virtual network.

If you are getting ready to retire, you should be receiving a detailed VA briefing via TAPS. I recommend you also find an Accredited Service Officer to help with your claim. It is extremely important to file your claim within 1yr of discharge. You can also contact me at [darell.brewer@va.alabama.gov](mailto:darell.brewer@va.alabama.gov).

Take Care,

*Darell*



**Joel Paxton**

Financial update – The AACA’s financial status remains strong, we currently have \$9,200 in our account. Our 2018 income, was \$800 which was mostly driven from membership. Per our Charter, we

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donate 10% of our on-hand funds To the Kevil Scholarship Fund at the beginning of each calendar year. This year's donation was for an amazing \$1025 and we'll be donating to the to Senior Munitions Manager's Conference in June. As a reminder, AACA funds are utilized to support our 2W1s in-need, purchase memorial/remembrance items for our fallen Airman and various other situations as approved by the Board of Directors (BoD). If you know of situation that may warrant a charitable donation from the AACA, please contact the BoD for approval.

*Joel*



## *AACA Interview with Chief Anthony Bomar*

**ACC Command, 2W1 Functional Manger**

1. Current Occupation/Specialty:

2W100 Air Combat Command Functional  
Manager

2. What set you apart during your Air Force Career as a Chief:

My ability to work with anyone up and down the chain of command as well as peers. Well...as long as they are not lazy!

3. Best Advice received:

When selecting a person for a key position consider a motivated person with less experienced over a smart-lazy person. A motivated person will overcome his/her shortcomings if provided with the right resources. A lazy person is a cancer to all those around them.

4. Biggest challenge in the Air Force:

My biggest challenge...balancing work and family. I think this is a common challenge for most of us!

5. Who inspires you the most:

Outside my Faith, Family and Friends...our great Airmen!

6. Personal Philosophy (one that you often shared...possibly):

If you have a perceived or actual problem or issue...be part of the solution to make it better. We do a great job pointing out issues in our work centers, units, and career fields. Complaining is easy! What are each of us doing to make it better? In most cases, our issues can be solved at the lowest level. It just takes a little effort and leadership.

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7. What is your #1 work standard above all:

Avoid complacency! Leave it better than you found it, never be satisfied, and always continue to move the ball forward!

8. A community outreach or involvement you are or were proud of being part of;

Special Olympics Coach for both Summer and Winter games. I've learned more about living life to the fullest from our Special Olympians than any other experience!

9. One thing about you someone may not know:

I enjoy manual labor. There's something about hard labor that it very satisfying to me. Maybe it is the effort and in most cases the results and/or sense of accomplishment. Whatever the results...it is my Zen!

10. Hardest thing as a Chief you had to do:

There is not one single event that sticks out. However, providing honest feedback to subordinates and peers often is overlooked and ignored, especially if it is negative in nature. However, it's essential that we provide feedback and mentorship to impart change, to motivate, and set a goal and/or roadmap to mission and personal success. If the baby is ugly...call it ugly! No need to dance around the subject and project a false reality. We owe it to our Airman! The good, the bad and the ugly!

### Recommended by Mike Cannon



An artist's rendering of the B-21 Raider. The Air Force Ellsworth, Whiteman and Dyess Air Force bases will begin housing and supporting the aircraft in the mid-2020s.

U.S. Air Force graphic

### SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

*509<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing Public Affairs*

WASHINGTON — The Air Force announced Friday, March 29, that Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota, has been selected as the preferred location for the first operational B-21 bomber and the formal training unit.

Whiteman AFB and Dyess AFB, Texas, will receive B-21 Raiders as they become available.

The Air Force used a deliberate process to minimize mission impact during the transition, maximize facility reuse, minimize cost and reduce overhead.

“These three bomber bases are well suited for the B-21,” Secretary of the Air Force Heather A. Wilson said. “We expect the first B-21 Raider to be delivered beginning in the mid-2020s, with subsequent deliveries phased across all three bases.”



Ellsworth AFB was selected as the first location because it provides sufficient space and existing facilities necessary to accommodate simultaneous missions at the lowest cost and with minimal operational impact across all three bases. The Air Force will incrementally retire existing B-1 Lancers and B-2 Spirits when a sufficient number of B-21s are delivered.

“We are procuring the B-21 Raider as a long-range, highly-survivable aircraft capable of penetrating enemy airspace with a mix of weapons,” Gen. David L. Goldfein, Air Force chief of staff, said. “It is a central part of a penetrating joint team.”

Barksdale AFB, Louisiana and Minot AFB, North Dakota, will continue to host the B-52 Stratofortress, which is expected to continue conducting operations through 2050.

The Air Force will make its final B-21 basing decision following compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and other regulatory and planning processes. That decision is expected in 2021 and is part of the overall Air Force Strategic Basing Process.

What does this mean for Whiteman AFB?

Whiteman AFB will house B-21 Operational Flying Squadrons to fulfill the Air Force’s requirements to grow its bomber fleet.

There are many factors that drove the Air Force to select Whiteman in sequence and with the combination of units selected in the decision. Whiteman is the only current location with a B-2 mission; therefore, it must remain operational until sufficient B-21 aircraft are fielded at Ellsworth AFB.

Whiteman does not have sufficient space and existing facilities necessary to accommodate a B-21 formal training unit and operational missions and B-2 missions simultaneously. As B-2s are phased out, B-21s will be phased in and using current bomber bases will minimize operational impact, reduce overhead, maximize re-use of facilities, and minimize cost.

“Team Whiteman is excited about the Air Force’s decision that our base will host the B-21 Raider,” Brig. Gen. John Nichols, commander of the 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman AFB, said. “As home of the world’s most strategic aircraft, Whiteman is absolutely the right choice to be one of the bases that will house the next generation of stealth bombers. The B-21 – like the B-2 has done for the past 30 years – will support the nuclear triad by providing visible and flexible nuclear options and conventional capabilities that will assure allies and partners, anytime and anywhere.”

## Strategic Air Command Competitions

**Mike Cannon**

The Strategic Air Command (SAC) was activated on 21 March 1946. During its initial couple of years, there was little time devoted to bombing practice, SAC’s main mission, and bombing accuracy fell below standards. To motivate crews and develop a way for bomber units to improve their bombing accuracy, SAC Commander General George C. Kenney initiated a bombing tournament in 1948.

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The inaugural Bomb Comp in 1948 was such a success in producing a competitive spirit among crews and improving bombing accuracy, the second Commander of SAC, General Curtis E. LeMay, made the competition an annual event beginning in 1949. The competition was named SAC Bombing Competition. The name changed to the SAC Bombing and Navigation Competition in 1951, or Bomb Comp for short.

Over time SAC's Bomb Comp became very successful and grew in size and complexity. Several other competitions were started (i.e. navigation, aerial refueling, Munitions Loading) to enhance unit readiness and proficiency. Some of these spin-off competitions were based on the Bomb Comp's format but were conducted independently of Bomb Comp itself.

The primary focus of SAC was on bombing. The other competitions were conducted to showcase capabilities that supported bombing or later the larger SAC deterrence mission. From its earliest years through 1992 (the last SAC Bomb Comp), the intention of the competition was to build morale, sharpen skills, and test skills and equipment under a demanding environment. During its 45-year time span from 1948 to 1992, only 34 competitions took place. SAC aircraft crew skills increased, evident in the numerous world flying records and 17 Mackay Trophies achieved by SAC during this period.

The first Bomb Com was held in June 1948 with three aircrews from ten SAC B-29 bomber units. The individual Bomb Groups (BG) selected its top three crews for the competition at Castle AFB, CA. Each crew was scored on its accuracy in three visual and three radar bomb releases from an altitude of 25,000 feet. Eighth Air Force swept the first five places, with Its 43 BG (B-50) taking the top unit honors and its 509 BG (B-29) taking top crew honors.

Bomb Comp moved to Davis-Monthan AFB in 1949, with 12 bomb groups (the B-36 was added, but those flew out of their home bases). During this Bomb Comp, General LeMay instituted "on-the-spot" temporary promotions and expanded this incentive in later competitions. These temporary promotions became closely associated with SAC combat crew duty and awarded to all members of a winning crew. Likewise, loss of temporary promotions by the *entire crew* followed if standards were not maintained.

In 1951 he Third Annual Bombing and Navigation Competition (name changed) was expanded. 45

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crews represented 12 bomb wings (designation changed from groups) and 3 reconnaissance wings for SAC, and also 2 RAF B-29 crews competed. MacDill AFB hosted the competition for B-29s and B-50s while B-36s staged from Carswell AFB. The 97 BW (B-50) (8 AF) won the first Fairchild Trophy (donated by Hughes Aircraft Company) recognizing the combined fields of bombing and navigation.

Later that year, SAC participated in RAF Strike Command's Bombing and Navigation Competition. SAC continued to participate in RAF's competition in '52, '53, '58, '60, '67, 1970-1973, and 1976-1981.

On 4 January 1952, the USAF approved a unique emblem for the SAC. SAC continued to grow, and 19 bomb wings participated in the Fourth Annual Bombing and Navigation Competition.



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The Fifth Annual Bombing and Navigation Competition in 1953 was the first time spare aircraft were prohibited, placing emphasis on maintenance. The B-47 bomber made its maiden competition appearance, but the top places were taken by propeller-driven bombers with the B-47 best showing in ninth place.

The first B-52, #52-8711 was delivered to 93 BW at Castle AFB on 29 June 1955 and flown from the factory by 93 BW Commander Brig Gen Eubank. The Seventh Bombing and Navigation Competition had only two types of bombers participating, the propeller driven B-36 and jet-powered B-47 (B-50 bomber had been phased out of the bomber fleet).

In 1956, SAC was assigned responsibility for the deployment of America's first land-based ballistic missile units.

The B-52 joined the Eighth Annual Bombing and Navigation Competition, the largest Bomb Comp to date, with 42 participating bomb wings. Lockbourne AFB, OH hosted B-47 and RB-47 wings while Loring AFB, ME staged crews from B/RB-36 and B-52 wings. Later that year, SAC conducted its first and only fighter competition under the name of Operation LEFT HOOK. Five SAC F-84F fighter wings competed at Offutt AFB, NE. The 506th Strategic Fighter Wing from Tinker AFB, Oklahoma won the Auton Trophy. This SAC specific competition was no longer held when SAC disbanded its strategic fighter wings in 1957.

In 1957 SAC institutes its one-third ground alert concept to counteract growing development of ICBMs by the Soviet Union.

In 1958 SAC's slogan, "Peace is Our Profession" was adopted. The Tenth Annual Bombing and Navigation Competition featured four crews each from 38 SAC wings (two B-36s, 26 B-47s, one RB-47, 10 B-52s) and eight RAF crews flying Valiants. The 1958 Bomb Comp was dominated by B47 crews.



The Eleventh Annual Bombing and Navigation Competition in 1959 is the largest ever held and the first one where air refueling squadrons were allowed to participate. Two crews each from 47 participating bomb wings and 47 tanker squadrons competed.

In 1960, the Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff was established to create and maintain the Single Integrated Operational Plan among all the U.S. armed services. The new staff was co-located with SAC with CINCSAC as its Director. Also SAC's airborne command post began testing. The B-58 Hustler



bomber joined the Twelfth Annual Bombing and Navigation Competition that was staged out of Bergstrom AFB, TX. Each Numbered Air Force under SAC held a preliminary competition to thin out the field of participants. The mission for both bombers and tankers included a scramble for alert posture.

In 1961, President Kennedy directed SAC to implement a 15-minute ground alert for 50 percent of its bomber and tanker fleet. SAC's airborne command post (Looking Glass) began continuous operations. The XB-70 Valkyrie *replacement bomber for the B-52 was cancelled* by the Kennedy Administration. The Thirteenth Annual Bombing and Navigation Competition added more categories to determine the specific winner of the Fairchild Trophy, to include – alert exercise, bombing, navigation, electronic countermeasures, air refueling, pilot techniques, *and munitions loading*.



In 1962, all bomber production for the USAF ends with delivery of the last B-52 and B-58. This marked the first time since 1946 that there were no bombs being produced or developed for SAC.

In 1965, B-52s began Arc Light combat missions in South Vietnam. The Fourteenth Annual Bomb Comp was held at Fairchild AFB with a modified format; one crew and aircraft from each of the 44 participating wings (B-58s; B-47s B-52s). This was the last year for B-47s participating. The Spot Promotions program begun in 1949 by General LeMay to award individuals and crews for Bomb Comp achievements was terminated.

The Fifteenth Annual Bomb Comp was held again at Fairchild AFB in 1966. General David Wade, Commander of Eighth Air Force coined the motto, “Not to Win is a Very Bad Thing”. With this encouragement, 8 AF dominated the Bomb Comp capturing the first four places in the overall competition.

In 1967, SAC commitments of B-52s and KC-135s to the war in SEA impacted on its primary mission of deterrence resulting in only @40 percent of its bomber force contributing to the deterrence role.

In 1969, the first FB-111A (#67-7193) was delivered to SAC. The Air Force also requested contractors’ proposal for what would become the B-1 bomber. The Sixteenth Annual Bombing and Navigation Competition was held at Fairchild AFB with 22 B-52 bomb wings, two B-58 wings, and three RAF crews flying the Vulcan participating. Due to conventional bombing operations in SEA, three B-52 wings from 8

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AF and one from 2 AF did not participate. 8 AF was deployed from Westover AFB to Andersen AFB, Guam to oversee bomber operations in SEA. B-58 bombers were retired out of the USAF.

In 1970, the FB-111 made its first appearance in the Seventeenth Bombing and Navigation Competition.

In 1971, a new non-Bomb Comp trophy was introduced to recognize the outstanding wing in SAC. The first ever Omaha Trophy went to the 93 BW (B-52).

In 1972, Operation LINEBACKER II strategic air campaign against the heartland of North Vietnam involved a heavy use of SAC B-52s and FB-111s.

In 1974, SAC renewed the Bomb Comp after years of cancellation. The first B-1 flight occurred. Congressman Les Aspin (D-WI) criticizes SAC for conducting its competitions citing them as a waste of taxpayer's money with no benefit the command's mission or national security. The General William J Crumm Memorial (Linebacker) Trophy was introduced in 1974 to perpetuate the memory of B-52 crews killed in action in Southeast Asia and to recognize the B-52 unit in Bomb Comp compiling the most points.

The Nineteenth Annual Bombing and Navigation Competition/GIANT VOICE renewed with several firsts – first time held at Barksdale AFB, LA; first time Tactical Air Command (TAC) participated; *and first time to include a munitions loading competition to recognize those who make flight operations possible with sub-categories as Best Munitions Load Crew and Best Bomber Crew Chief.*



Bomb Comp was cancelled in 1975 in response to the continued criticism of Congressman Aspin. CINCSAC replaced it with Operation HIGH NOON, an exercise designed to test the command's capability in performing contingency operations on short notice( three scenarios – NoNotice Tasking; Quick Target Study; and Home Station Launch) to more closely match a unit taking to an actual contingency. Operation HIGH NOON only applies to the 1975 Bomb Comp.

Beginning in 1975, the munitions loading competition is conducted independent of the Bomb Comp. SAC conducted two competitions and one competition like event in 1975. SAC Munitions Loading Competition conducted at Ellsworth AFB featured security forces participating for the first time (for Best Security Police Team) added to the original two categories from 1974. This competition has been referred to as "Load Comp".

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In 1976, SAC celebrated its 30th anniversary. Beginning with the 1976 Bomb Comp and lasting until 1992, flying operations were flown out of the participating units' home base with the competition symposium and awards ceremony conducted at Barksdale AFB, LA.

Beginning in 1976, Ellsworth AFB became the home for the Munitions Loading comp for the next 10 years with the awards ceremony held at Barksdale.

The Chief Master Sergeant Wilbur R. Barrentine Memorial Munitions Loading Trophy was introduced to denote the bomb wing with the top munitions loading score.



CMSgt Barrentine was remembered by his supervisors and fellow workers as a “people oriented” manager. The Chief was associated with Strategic Air Command munitions loading from the mid-1950s until his death in September 1970 while serving on active duty. Chief Barrentine made significant contributions to SAC’s command-wide munitions safety record during his career. Chief Barrentine’s experience and managerial abilities helped munitions loaders throughout SAC convert from a stateside nuclear mission to an active conventional weapons loading role during the Vietnam War. The first recipient of the Barrentine Trophy was the 7 BW (B-52) from Carswell AFB.

The competition in 1976 went to a five award format that remained until the last munitions competition in 1989. The five awards included:

The Barrentine Memorial Trophy. This trophy was awarded to the wing whose competition team compiled the highest overall score. The winning wing retained the trophy for one year. A plaque was awarded for permanent retention by the wing. Each member of the winning team received a chalice, certificate and winner’s patch for permanent retention.

Best Munitions Loading Crew in SAC Trophy. This trophy was awarded to the winning Munitions Maintenance Squadron (MMS) to serve as recognition of the outstanding achievements of its load crew. The winning wing also retained this trophy for one year. A plaque was awarded for permanent retention by the unit. Each member of the MMS Load Crew and the OMS Crew Chief was



awarded a chalice, certificate and winner's patch for permanent retention.



Best Combined Load Crew Trophy. A plaque was awarded to the Load Crew that scored the highest total points for two loads. Plaques were retained permanently by the unit. Suitable awards were awarded to each member of the winning team.

Best Security Police Team Trophy and Best Bomber Crew Chief Trophy.

In 1977 President Carter cancels contract for the B-1 bomber. The Twenty-first Annual Bombing and Navigation Competition/GIANT VOICE was conducted, and a new trophy was added. The Doolittle Trophy, donated by Rockwell International recognized the top score in low-level bombing by a B-52 unit.

SAC's Munitions Loading Competition was held in September,



1978 marked the 30th anniversary of SAC's Bomb Comp. The Twenty-second Annual Bombing and Navigation Competition/GIANT VOICE was the first

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one where overseas-based units could participate, including 18 CONUS-based B-52 and FB-111 wings, the 43rd Strategic Wing at Anderson AFB, Guam; and one RAF Vulcan crew also participated. A total of 25 CONUS-based KC-135 units and one tanker squadron from Kadena AB, Okinawa participated. A pair of TAC's F-111s participated along with eighth Air National Guard and two USAFR KC-135s. The Fairchild Trophy was taken for fourth time in a row by the 380 BW (FB-111) (8 AF).

SAC's Munitions Loading Competition was held in August.

In 1979, SAC, TAC, ANG and USAFR units participated in the Twenty-Third Annual Bombing and Navigation Competition/GIANT VOICE.

SAC's Munitions Loading Competition was held in September.



In 1980 President Carter formed the Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force, and SAC contributed by creating the Strategic Projection Force composed of conventional weapon bombers, tankers, reconnaissance and C3 aircraft. The Twenty-fourth Annual Bombing and Navigation Competition/GIANT VOICE marked the first year of participation by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) and a new trophy was introduced. The General Curtis E. LeMay Bombing Trophy (donated by Norden Systems of United Technologies) was awarded for the first time to recognize the bomber crew with the most points in high and low-level bombings. The LeMay Bombing Trophy replaced the old Bombing Trophy began in 1949.

SAC's Munitions Loading Competition/GIANT SWORD held in September. **This was the first time the Load Comp was officially connected to the name GIANT SWORD** although this exercise name seemed to have been used in previous Load Comps.

In 1981, President Reagan directed the deployment of the B-1 bomber and the development of a future radar-evading stealth bomber. First air launched cruise missile delivered to the USAF. Only CONUS-based SAC units participated in the Twenty-fifth Annual Bombing and Navigation Competition/GIANT VOICE with participating units sending two B-52s or FB-111 and crews.

SAC's Munitions Loading and Security Competition/GIANT SWORD was held in September.

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GIANT SWORD 1981



In 1982, the Twenty-sixth Annual Bombing and Navigation Competition/GIANT VOICE saw a format change with the first phase being an in-unit evaluation of planning and execution of missions similar to Emergency War Order implementation.

SAC's Combat Weapons Loading Competition/GIANT SWORD was held in September, *with a name change from "munitions" to "combat weapons"*.



In 1983 the Twenty-seventh Bombing and Navigation Competition/GIANT VOICE conducted using the same format as in 1982. Participants included all but two SAC bomber wings, TAC (F-111s), ANG (KC-135s), and USAFR (KC-135s). NORAD provided fighter interceptors during the second phase including aircraft from the Royal Canadian Air Force. The Fairchild Trophy went to the 509 BW (FB-111) (8 AF) for the third straight year.

SAC's Combat Weapons Loading Competition/GIANT SWORD was held in September.

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## Weapons Loading Competition



In 1984 the Twenty-eighth Annual Bombing and Navigation Competition/ GIANT VOICE saw the first appearance of USAFE. Participants included 15 SAC units (B-52s and tankers), TAC (F-111s), USAFE (F-111s), ANG and USAFR (KC-135s), RAAF (F-111s), and the return of the RAF flying the new Tornado fighter-bomber (supported by the RAF Victor tanker). NORAD provided fighter interceptor aircraft. ***This Bomb Comp was the first one to use inert practice bombs dropped on the Nellis Range***

SAC's Combat Weapons Loading Competition/GIANT SWORD held in September, and for the ***first time featured the air launched cruise missiles as a competitive loading event.***

In 1985 the first B-1B bomber (#83-0065) was delivered to SAC. The Twenty-ninth Bombing and Navigation Competition/ GIANT VOICE became the second time since 1974 that a B-52 unit won the top trophy. Previously FB-111 units with more modern avionics equipment had a string of top wins but the B-52 fleet had undergone an avionics upgrade for the

new air-launched cruise missile system thus equalizing the competitive field.

SAC's Combat Weapons Loading Competition/GIANT SWORD was held in September. For 1985, Eighth Air Force swept the competition.



1986 marked the 40th anniversary of SAC and 25th anniversary of Looking Glass. The B-1B bomber reached Initial Operational Capability with 12 of the new bombers assuming alert status. The 92 BW (B-52) dominated the Thirtieth Annual Bombing and Navigation Competition/GIANT VOICE. Due to one bomber wing (the 92 BW) winning nine awards within one 17 competition, the rules were changed to exclude aircraft specifically modified for the competition and the SAC Operations Staff would henceforth select the competing crews, not the wings. SAC competitors included 16 bomb and 11 tanker units and F-111s from TAC participated. This was the first Bomb Comp since 1983 without foreign participation.



SAC's Combat Weapons Loading Competition/GIANT SWORD was held in September, but it *moved from Ellsworth AFB to Fairchild AFB.*



In 1987 General Chain, CINCSAC, testified before Congress stressing the need for strategic modernization of both nuclear and conventional capabilities. B-1B bomber sets many world aviation records. The Thirty-first Annual Bombing and Navigation Competition would the last year the exercise name of GIANT VOICE is associated with the Bomb Comp.

***SAC's Combat Weapons Loading Competition/GIANT SWORD returned to Ellsworth AFB.***

In 1988 the Thirty-second Annual Bombing and Navigation Competition/PROUD SHIELD 88 had several firsts. EC-135s eligible to compete; F-111 crews could compete for the Fairchild Trophy; and B-1B crews could compete. A new trophy was added called the Billy Mitchell Trophy to recognize the bomber unit with the top scores in conventional bombing accuracy, survival in an electronic countermeasures environment, and avoiding intercepting fighters. (Since B1B units had at the time a nuclear mission, they could not compete for the Mitchell Trophy.

***SAC's Combat Weapons Loading Competition/GIANT SWORD cancelled due to funding restrictions.***

In 1989 the LeMay Strategic Warfare Center was activated at Ellsworth AFB. The Thirty-third Annual Bombing and Navigation Competition/PROUD SHIELD 89 was the first year a B-1B unit took the Fairchild Trophy. A new trophy, the Maynard "Snuffy" Smith B-52 Gunnery Trophy was awarded for the first time to recognize the top scoring B-52 unit in gunnery and fighter defense activity.

SAC's Combat Weapons Loading Competition/GIANT SWORD conducted at Fairchild AFB marking the first competition of B-1B wings. ***This was the last year for SAC's "Load Comp".***

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In 1990 Bomb Comp, SAC Combat Weapon Loading Competition, SAC Reconnaissance Competition were all cancelled for Operation DESERT STORM.



On 1 June 1992 Strategic Air Command was inactivated. The Thirty-fourth Annual Bombing and Navigation Competition/PROUD SHIELD was the last Bomb Comp conducted by SAC in April 1992. Similar to the most recent Bomb Comps, PROUD SHIELD 92 was conducted in phases. After refueling phase, bombers entered the Utah Test and Training Range and *performed two single weapon releases at 20,000 feet.* Descending to 300-500 feet, the bombers would perform terrain avoidance *and two low-level drops at two different complexes while avoiding SAM and anti-aircraft threats.* The last recipient of the Fairchild Trophy was 92 BW (B-52).

SAC Bomb Comps and SAC Combat Weapon Loading Competition were not held during the following years:

- 1950 No Bomb Comp held due to Korean War.
- 1962 No Bomb Comp held by SAC due to Cuban Missile Crisis.
- 1963 No competitions due to increased operational commitments and cost reductions programs.
- 1964 No competitions due to increased SAC tanker support to tactical aerial operations in Southeast Asia and cost reductions programs.
- 1967 Bomb Comp was cancelled due to operational commitments and training requirements.
- 1968 No Bomb Comp held by SAC due to operational commitments in Southeast Asia and training requirements.
- 1972 Bomb Comp was cancelled due to the heavy commitments of B-52s in Southeast Asia.
- 1973 SAC planned to resume the Bomb Comp but in June cancelled the event do to commitments in Southeast Asia. SAC's bombing operations in Southeast Asia ended August 1973.
- 1975 Bomb Comp was cancelled in response to the criticism of Congressman Aspin.
- 1990 Bomb Comp, SAC Combat Weapon Loading Competition, SAC Reconnaissance Competition were all cancelled for Operation DESERT STORM.
- 1991 Bomb Comp, SAC Combat Weapon Loading Competition, SAC Reconnaissance Competition were all cancelled for Operation DESERT STORM.

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I recently learned of the changes to Air Force senior enlisted promotions. I thought I would pass this along to those that haven't seen the news.

**Keith Hilton**



**From the U.S. Air Force Website:**

<https://www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1747839/air-force-ends-promotion-testing-for-e-7-and-above/>

## ***Air Force ends promotion testing for E-7 and above***

*By Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs  
Published February 04, 2019*

**ARLINGTON, Va. (AFNS)** -- The Air Force announced today it is removing the Weighted Airman Promotion System testing requirement for active-duty promotions to the grades of E-7 through E-9, beginning this fall with the 2019 E-9 promotion cycle.

The memo, signed Jan. 31, 2019, removes the phase one requirement for senior noncommissioned officers to test for promotion, allowing promotion boards to identify the best qualified Airmen to promote into the senior noncommissioned officer corps.

Prior to the policy change, promotions were conducted through a two-phase process. Phase one consisted of a Promotion Fitness Exam and Specialty Knowledge Test, while phase two consisted of a central evaluation board.

“We continue to transform talent management across the force,” said Lt. Gen. Brian Kelly, Air Force deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services. “This adjustment focuses on performance being the driving factor we consider when selecting our senior noncommissioned officers. It also continues our work toward increasing transparency and making our processes simple.”

The Air Force will use a promotion board process similar to the board process used by officers.

“We trust this board process will continue to give senior leaders and commanders the greatest level of confidence that the right individuals are being selected for promotion to the top enlisted ranks,” said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright. “We found that removing the testing portion will eliminate any possibility that Airmen without the strongest leadership potential might test into promotion, while also ensuring that our strongest performers continue to earn the promotion they deserve.”

Promotion boards will continue to score records using the current scoring process as well as reviewing the last five years of evaluations and all awards and decorations. Decoration points will no longer be utilized because the board will be considering all decorations during its review and scoring records accordingly.

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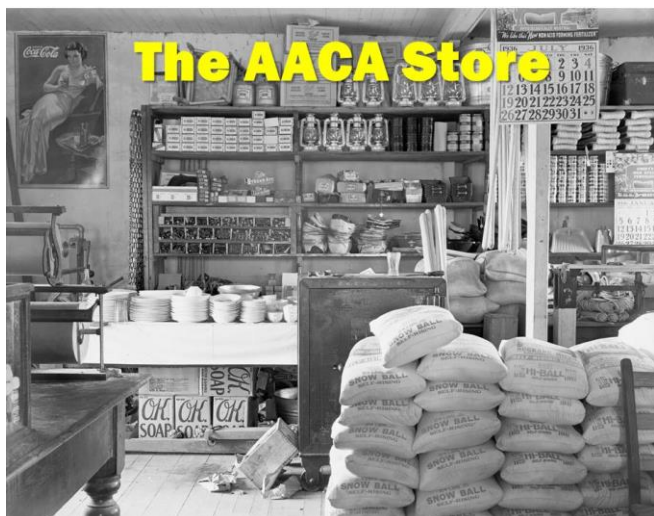




Additional guidance will be published in an upcoming Air Force guidance memorandum or revised Air Force instruction after the last evaluation board is completed.

*“The truth of the matter is that you always know the right thing to do. The hard part is doing it.”*

General Norman Schwarzkopf, *U.S. Army*



### **Evan Godwin**

Additionally, I received the new order of AACA Coins and, as promised, they turned out awesome (the pics don't do them justice). They are available for sale at \$10 per coin plus shipping.



As a reminder, to purchase store merchandise, send me an email to the [aacageneralstore@gmail.com](mailto:aacageneralstore@gmail.com) address and let me know what you'd like. I'll mail the items to the address you provide and you, in turn, send a check to me at the address I provide for the merchandise cost, plus shipping. All store items can be viewed on our website: [www.armamentchiefs.org](http://www.armamentchiefs.org).

Please reach out to me with any merchandise ideas; better yet, run down the details on what it is you suggest and give me a call to discuss. We always welcome and appreciate new ideas and especially the help in running them to ground—thank you!

*Evan*

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