

US AIR FORCE SONG



Off we go into the wild blue yonder,

Climbing high into the sun;

Here they come zooming to meet our thunder,

At 'em now, Give 'em the gun!

Down we dive, spouting our flame from under,

Off with one helluva roar!

We live in fame or go down in flame. Hey!

Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!



28th Bomb Wing

Groundbreaking
Weapons Generation Facility

Monday, 29 April 2024, 1000
Dakotas Club
Ellsworth AFB, SD

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

Major General John P. Newberry

Commander, Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center



Major General John P. Newberry is the Commander, Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center, and Air Force Program Executive Officer for Strategic Systems, Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico. The center is responsible for the lifecycle management of nuclear weapons systems supporting two legs of the nation's nuclear triad, including intercontinental ballistic missiles, air-launched cruise missiles, gravity bombs, nuclear certification, and nuclear command-and-control communications systems. The center synchronizes all of Air Force Materiel Command's nuclear materiel management support of Air Force Global Strike Command and U.S. Air Forces in Europe. The General entered active duty in 1994 after graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy. During his career, he served in a variety of acquisition fields including space test; flight test; systems engineering; program manager of several aircraft acquisition programs, to include foreign military sales programs; Deputy Program Executive Officer for Air Force Mobility; and KC-46 System Program Manager.

Brigadier General Geoff Van Epps

Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Brigadier General Geoff Van Epps assumed duties as the commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Northwestern Division, on July 22, 2021. As division commander, he is responsible for providing guidance and direction to five operating district commands located in Portland, Oregon; Seattle and Walla Walla, Washington; Kansas City, Missouri; and Omaha, Nebraska, with a combined professional workforce of nearly 5,400. Key missions include managing the nation's water resources infrastructure for economic growth and environmental sustainability, timely response to natural disasters, support to military installations and civilian communities throughout the region and strengthening national security. The General was commissioned in 1995 as an engineer officer from the U.S. Military Academy. Prior to his arrival at Northwestern Division, he served as the director of the Office of the Chief of Engineers on the Army Staff.

Colonel C. Derek

Commander, 28th Bomb Wing



Colonel Derek C. Oakley is commander of the 28th Bomb Wing, Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota, the largest B-1 combat wing in the United States Air Force, with more than 12,000 active-duty military, civilian employees, and family members. He provides combat-ready aircraft, crews and associated combat support for global engagement taskings. The Colonel received his commission from the United States Air Force Officer Training School in May 2000. After he graduated from pilot training he served in a variety of flying squadrons as an instructor and evaluator pilot in the B-1B, T-6, and T-38. He also served as the director of the B-21 Integration and System Management Office where he liaised between Air Force Global Strike Command and the Department of the Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office, supporting development of the B-21 Raider, the Air Force's Top 3 priority acquisition program.

Sequence of Events

Opening Narration

Arrival of Official Party

Musical Honors

National Anthem

Invocation

Remarks

Colonel Oakley

Remarks

Brigadier General Van Epps

Remarks

Major General Newberry

Closing Narration

Air Force Song

Departure of Official Party

Load buses to relocate

Groundbreaking Photo Op