Tyndall’s F-35 Program Integration Office; supporting future missions

The 325th Fighter Wing is slated to receive F-35A Lightning II aircraft beginning in September 2023 in a move that supports the National Defense Strategy by furthering air superiority goals. As the ‘Installation of the Future’ readies for its new mission set, Tyndall personnel and contractors are making tailored considerations to the flight line and facilities. Leading that effort is the 325th FW F-35 Program Integration Office. The PIO’s mission is to identify current and future requirements in support of the F-35A bed-down at Tyndall. Before breaking ground on F-35A facilities, the PIO coordinated with engineers from the 325th Civil Engineer Squadron to design a blueprint that optimized operational and combat readiness. Now, as construction continues, they work together to ensure the F-35A mission will have all required capabilities, while simultaneously planning for the joint strike fighter’s long-term buildup over the next several years. “We looked at Tyndall and started to section it out, what needs to go where, what puzzle pieces need to fit where, it’s like a big chess game,” said Senior Master Sgt. Nathan Summers, 325th FW F-35 PIO senior enlisted leader. The PIO generates interior and exterior requirements of the F-35A facilities which will allow for optimal productivity and efficiency once the jets arrive.

Tyndall’s Program Management Office, the unit in charge of long-term development and reconstruction of the base, takes these requirements and designs 3D diagrams to visualize how the space will look once complete. The PIO team is comprised of members from various backgrounds such as avionics, communications, maintenance, pilots, and aerospace ground equipment. Each member is hand-selected from their respective fields to use their past experience to account for all facets of the F-35A mission. “Everybody has a role in a facility and what it’s going to look like when the F-35A gets here,” Summers explained. “The point when we built [PIO] up was to try to get individuals who know the F-35.” Even with a wealth of knowledge in their office, PIO is working with other bases across the Air Force. This allows them to get individuals who know the F-35.” Even with a wealth of knowledge in their office, PIO is working with other bases across the Air Force. This allows them to get individuals who know the F-35.”

Tyndall’s Hololab debuts as virtual gateway to Installation of the Future

The Digital Twin Hololab went live March 17 at Tyndall AFB to showcase the base’s digital transformation as part of Installation of the Future efforts. These cutting-edge planning concepts and innovative technologies will be integrated across the base and enable numerous capabilities for the warfighter at Tyndall and throughout the Air Force. The Hololab is the primary interface with the Digital Twin of Tyndall Air Force Base, said Lowell Usrey, an Air Force Civil Engineer Center Natural Disaster Recovery Division branch chief. The Digital Twin is a “near life-like, virtual representation of the physical world,” said Usrey. “This is the place where Airmen can interact with the model using virtual reality goggles or just a good old-fashioned computer screen.” The Hololab demonstrates how these concepts and technologies have been incorporated to help create a more resilient, efficient and sustainable installation. The model itself is tied to the overall $4.9 billion rebuild schedule, enabling views of the installation at any given point in time. “It’s more than a display,” said Usrey. “It is an open canvas that puts the virtual world into the hands of potential users to improve mission effectiveness and collect feedback to help improve the system.” Usrey said. “We are making the Hololab accessible because we want to spread knowledge of how it works.”

CDC Update

Construction is progressing well on the Child Development Center. The structure, designed to withstand 165 mph winds and 19 feet of storm surge, is expected to be complete in December of this year. (AF photo by A1C Tiffany Price)