

1A3 NEWSLETTER

"UNITING OUR COMMUNITY BY STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS & ALIGNING OUR FUTURES"

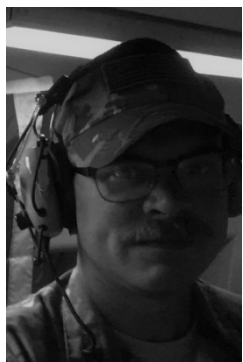
OP-ED

RETIREE Q&A

DAVID "BLUM FORCE TRAUMA" BLUM
DANIEL "GRINDER" GRINDSTAFF
26 JULY 2022

We sat down with two recently retired 1A3's to hopefully pass on some of their wisdom. Retired Master Sergeant Jerard Waymer, and retired Master Sergeant Peter Cox both gave us insight into the retirement process itself, but also the transition to the civilian sector. Below are short summaries of their career.

Retired MSgt Jerard Waymer entered active duty in 1997 as a 1A4. He served as surveillance on the E-8, as a sensor operator on the MQ-1, and as a liaison in the CAOC. After teaching at the Center of Excellence, he retired in 2021, and is now a Test Lead for AFS.



Retired MSgt Peter Cox entered active duty in 2001 as a 1A5. He served as a computer technician on the US and NATO E-3's. After working as an Instructional Systems Design expert at ACC TRS, he retired in 2022, and is now an Education Technician for Saguro.

The interviews were condensed for clarity. We want to thank both gentlemen for their time and wisdom. Hopefully our readers find their words as insightful as we did.

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Current Events

JSTARS DIVESTMENT

JEFF "JEFFRO" TAYLOR
15 JULY 2022



Currently, three E-8 (JSTARS) have been divested with a fourth still scheduled for this year. The personnel losses for these aircraft will take effect 1 January 23 in accordance with AFI 65-503 and ACC manpower direction. The 461 OG has made efforts to move as many personnel as they could up to this point through early or on time separation, Guard and Reserve positions, PCS, or retraining.

Extensive cooperation between Team JSTARS, CEA CFM and 1C5 CFM has fast-tracked a bridging strategy to allow 32 selected 1A1s & 1A3s to direct convert to the 1C5X1 (Command & Control Battle-Management Operations Specialty) AFSC. These specialized operators will lead standing up the Air Force's first TOC-F (Tactical Operation Center-Fixed) mission, which we will cover more in-depth in a future newsletter.

Final approval is expected soon for a 1A3 role on the E-11A Battlefield Airborne Communications Node (BACN), however the program is facing major funding issues, and the timeline could slip six to twelve months.

Eight more E-8 (JSTARS) will be divested in fiscal year 2023, at a rate of two per quarter. Personnel losses will also go into effect at the end of each quarter. They expect to see larger "OBJ OUT" for 1A3s next fiscal year. Any remaining personnel will be released in the fiscal year 2024 retraining advisory.

The retraining advisory provides specific guidelines for each AFSC. "OBJ IN" are for AFSCs that have shortages. "OBJ OUT" are for AFSCs that allow Airmen to retrain.

OP-ED

RETIREE Q&A CONTINUED

DAVID "BLUM FORCE TRAUMA" BLUM
6 JULY 2022

BLUM: What company do you work for now and what are your roles and responsibilities?

WAYMER: I currently work for Accenture Federal Services and my role at the moment is a Test Lead which means that I am in charge of other testers on my team. We make sure that when functionality is developed in our development organizations, or sandboxes as we call them, we go in as testers and we test the functionality to make sure it's all working in accordance with the acceptance criteria that we came up with.

BLUM: What did you learn in the military that gave you an advantage over your peers?

WAYMER: The leadership skills that I learned and honed in the military actually helps me over my peers and in this role. I say that because I got hired in May and by the following February I was promoted. Normally someone would have to wait a full year before even being considered for promotion, so obviously the company saw that I was excellent in my position. I started off being a Tester as part of the Test Team, and I was handed the title of Test Lead. All different facets of what we do on aircraft not just worrying about my specific section but also working with all the other folks on the aircraft, it gave me the ability to manage all these things going on at once on the aircraft. It made it very easy for me to manage a whole bunch of things going on in my job, which is why I'm able to do more than some of the other people that don't have that level of experience.

BLUM: If you had to go through the retirement process again what would you do differently?

WAYMER: I don't think I would do much differently because I landed a pretty sweet job. I was on my last look at Master Sergeant before I made it, so I was already looking into the civilian sector before I made the rank. Then after I made the rank obviously I knew that that's where I wanted to end my career. If I could do anything differently I would love to have had a ceremony. I think that's the one thing that probably will always stick with me, for probably the rest of my life, that I didn't get an opportunity to tell a lot of people on a big stage how much they meant to me in my career. I had to do it on a more 1 on 1 level, just talking with folks 1 on 1. I wanted to honor people during my retirement and I didn't get the opportunity to, so that's probably the biggest thing I would say that I would change if I had to do it again.

BLUM: Outside of the 1A3 career field what prepared you for your career as a civilian?

WAYMER: Find something you're passionate about and you can continue to work on your passion outside of what you do on a day to day basis. At the end of the day, when you are retired, you should be striving to do something that you love. If you're retired you'll get a retirement check and you will know you'll be okay monetarily. Anytime you do something post military career, I feel like you should do something that you actually love doing so that it doesn't seem like work. I'm actually doing things that I'm very passionate about, so I would encourage all folks in 1A3 career field to look at items outside of the military that you're passionate about, and you can still do those things while in the military. You can use a lot of the money that's afforded to you in the military to help fuel that passion.

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RETIREE Q&A CONTINUED

DANIEL "GRINDER" GRINDSTAFF
8 JUNE 2022

GRINDER: What company do you work for now and what are your roles and responsibilities?

COX: I work for Saguario (technically Metro, a company providing personnel for Saguario). I produce courseware and ensure that all materials created are ISD compliant.

GRINDER: What did you learn in the military that that you an advantage over your peers?

COX: Open lines of communications go a long ways for people. When people are trying to do things but they don't tell their boss about it and then they have to deal with the ramifications of that. Whereas people who are prior military, are used to having to communicate what's going on at all times and aren't worried about bad news. As a boss, you need to know this, right? So just general transparency.

GRINDER: What was the most difficult part of adapting to civilian life?

COX: Understanding that you have rights as an employee is different. I'm currently working within a union and therefore there are certain things that they cannot ask me to do, and that's different. Coming from a military background of 'get the job done' and transitioning to 'I'm not going to do that because that is outside of my scope' is hard.

GRINDER: Do you have any advice for people getting ready to retire?

COX: The number one thing that I would recommend for anybody is do TAPS, two years out. When you're planning on getting out, you can do it more than once. Do it two years out. There's a lot of information in the TAPS program that talks about 18 months out when you should start planning. I did it at six months out, and nine months out and then realized I needed to extend for another year because I wasn't ready to retired. Knowing that there are so many resources out there. Understanding the VA process, the Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) program where you go through the process of doing all your VA claims six months before you're getting out. It is very important because there were many that retired at the same time I did that got their results within days of their retirement.

GRINDER: What is something you wish more people knew about?

COX: People are afraid of Mental Health. I don't think we as a force do enough to mention Behavioral Health, which is the step below Mental Health. They are not making people DNIF. They will get you the help you need, and if there is stuff going on in your life, it's already in your medical records. As a society we don't take enough time for mental health. Especially within the military, and especially with flyers, if you say mental health, everybody's worried about being disqualified permanently. I think that they're anonymity is what gives them a bad name. They probably see a lot of people and you never know about it and then the few times that you do know about it, that's because they've got serious problems. The other 90% of people that go that don't have that level of problem, you don't ever hear about them.

Current Events

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

24 JUNE 2022

The Association of 1A3s had our first general membership meeting on 23 June 2022.

We introduced our Board of Advisors:

Sarah Howard | Robert Barnett | Marqus Ambush | Timothy Henderson | Zachary Baumgardner | Brian Lucas | Nathanael Wolfe | Christopher Hook | Christie Conn | Andrew Kocher | David Wagstaff | Daniel Grindstaff | Heath Nelson | David Johnston | Patrick Crudden | Matthew Strasner | Seth Keyser | Eric Johnston.

We also introduced our Interim Executive Council:

President - Sarah Howard | Vice President - Matthew Strasner | Secretary - Nathanael Wolfe | Treasurer - Christie Conn | Webmaster - Brian Lucas | Editor - Daniel Grindstaff

Additionally we covered some of the goals of the organization:

Humanitarian Grants | Annual Awards | Scholarship Programs | Quarterly Newsletters | Leadership Summits & Conventions | Local chapters, 1A3 Networking

Afterwards we opened the floor up for a Q&A:

Q: Who can join the Association of 1A3s?

A: Any past, present, or future 1A3s, 1A4s, or 1A5s on Active Duty, Guard, or Reserve.

Q: How do people join the Association of 1A3s?

A: Lifetime membership is \$250 and yearly membership is \$10 for airmen and \$20 for everyone else. If anyone is interested, simply email someone on the board of advisors.

Q: What will the next General Membership Meeting be about?

A: The next General Membership Meeting will have as much information as we can gather about the current state of 1A3s, to include any updates for JSTARS and AWACS divestment, and addressing any rumors out there.



Please visit our website at AssociationOf1A3s.com where we post this newsletter, as well contact information for our Executive Council, and other information regarding the association.