

THE KIRTLAND AFB NUCLEUS

AFMC commander visits Kirtland to rededicate Chapel

BY SENIOR AIRMAN
ERIN L. SMITH
Nucleus Assistant Editor

The Air Force Materiel Command commander visited here Sept. 23-24 for the rededication ceremony of the renovated Kirtland Chapel.

During his visit, Gen. Gregory S. Martin also explored the Kirtland Eastern Boundary in a 58th Special Operations Wing UH-1N helicopter and attended dinner at the Mountain View Club, as well participated in a Community Action Information Board session.

During his time here, General Martin spoke with the Nucleus on a wide range of topics. Here's what he had to say.

Why was it important to put money

into renovating the Kirtland AFB Chapel?

General Martin: "We're seeing people who are serving in the Global War on Terrorism being killed in Afghanistan, Iraq and other places right now. One of the most important aspects of our nation is the opportunity for people to express their faith and religious belief, and having chapels on our bases gives our people the opportunity where they can achieve some sort of solace and security. Our chapels ought to be first-class environments.

The chapel needed repair. It was 45 years old and we were able to put a reasonable amount of money into it, renovate it and let people know we feel very strongly about providing them an opportunity to worship and enjoy the

benefits of fellowship and friendship. I think they did a wonderful job, and it is a first-class facility.

What is the most vital role of AFMC in the Global War on Terrorism

There are at least three major roles of Air Force Materiel Command in this area. First is making sure our security forces and our workforce are vigilant and prepared to secure and stop an attack on our own installations, our own people or our families.

Second, we are very serious about preparing all of our Airmen to deploy and support our forces who are in harms way.

Last, the basic fiber of our command is to produce war-winning capabilities and that comes from our Air Force Research Laboratory, our acquisitions support and sustaining the

weapons systems and capabilities that we have today.

How well is the transition of AFMC going?

We partnered with the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition last year and chose to move program executive officers from Washington to our product centers. We created a partnership and teamwork that we had perhaps lost in the last decade, and that has given us incredible energy to develop our acquisition programs in a more rapid, cost effective way.

We have then gone through and reviewed all our other structures that we are in the process of transitioning. From my personal observation, the enthusiasm I have seen is inspiring. Change is difficult for everyone—they worry about losing their foundation. We've responded magnificently and are doing our very best to carry out these transformational actions, and I am very impressed. We just need to keep it going.

What are the biggest challenges the command will have to meet in the following year?

Challenges the command will have to meet in the next year

I think we have to maintain a sense of patience and teamwork as we follow through on the transition for the changes we have implemented. Our Chief of Staff, Gen. John P. Jumper said, "There will be a zero percent chance we will get it 100 percent right," which means there will be some things that won't work as well as expected. That will be frustrating for people.

I think the biggest challenge we have is to stay on course with the changes, to alter them as appropriate and to clean up the seams created by the changes.

How do you feel about becoming the first commander of U.S. Pacific Command who is not from the Navy?

The first commander of U.S. Pacific Command who is not from the Navy

First of all, the senate has not confirmed the nomination. Assuming the senate confirms it, it will be a very exciting opportunity. Frankly, I don't even think about the heritage that it has always been a Navy command.



Photo by Todd Berenger

A lighter moment

Gen. Gregory Martin, Air Force Materiel Command commander, and Col. Hank Andrews, 377th Air Base Wing commander, share a moment of levity during a session of the Community Action Information Board at the 377th Air Base Wing Headquarters. General Martin and his wife, Wendy, visited Kirtland AFB to attend the Chapel rededication that followed months of major renovation to the sanctuary.

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