



# The Quill

October 2019

## Qualis AFOTEC Space and Missile Team

### Recently Nominated for Test and Evaluation Technical Achievement Award



Qualis Corporation's Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center (AFOTEC) Test Services Space and Missile Systems Center (ATS/SMC) Team was nominated this year for the 2018 International Test and Evaluation Association (ITEA) Technical Achievement Award in recognition of their outstanding leadership and tireless efforts in keeping our nation safe via the team's continuous superior performance in operational test and evaluation of our military's space assets. The award is a

part of the Test and Evaluation Professional Awards Program. For almost 40 years the ITEA, a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit education organization, has been advancing the exchange of technical, programmatic, and acquisition information among the test and evaluation community.

"It is very rare that a Technical Achievement hits all of the areas mentioned in the award criteria, and this AFOTEC ATS SMC Team truly covers all areas with Exceptional performance as was reflected in their most recent Contractor Performance Assessment Reports (CPAR) scores," said nominator Rod Duke.

The AFOTEC Test Services Space and Missile Systems Center Team, comprised of Engineers, Operations Analysts, Cybersecurity Analysts and Senior Space Operators, provide exceptional support to AFOTEC Detachment 4 located on Peterson AFB, CO. Under the contract the team provides test and evaluation support for the following acquisition programs amongst others: GPS Military User Equipment (MGUE); GPS Military Code Early Use (MCEU); Family of Beyond Line-of-Sight Terminals (FAB-T); Presidential National Voice Conferencing (PNVC); Protected Tactical Enterprise Services (PTES)/ Protected Tactical Satellite (PTS); Enhanced Polar Satellite (EPS); and Evolved Strategic Satellite (ESS).

Collectively, the team provides exceptional support in applying instrumentation, information technology, modeling and simulation, time-space-positioning information, electro-



(Source: U.S. Air Force photo by Cameron Hunt)

optics technology and other T&E technology to improve operational test and evaluation programs in their efficiency and that benefit the Government by cutting funding expenses. Through preparation and expertise, the team affords intellectual insight on programmatic progresses, builds relationships within the test and evaluation community, and streamlines operational testing and evaluation concepts that aid in the maturation of programs.

### Congratulations to the AFOTEC Space and Missile Team!

Alexis Richardson - Sr. T & E Engineer/Task Lead

David Balfour -T&E Engineer

Matt Simmons—T&E Engineer

Rommel Villalobos -T&E Engineer

John Ladino—Cyber Analyst

John Double—Cyber Analyst

Jeffery Thornton—Sr. Operator

John Powers - Sr. Operations Analyst

Jerry Gill - Operations Analyst

Scot Williams - - Operations Analyst

Paul Langhaults -- Operations Analyst

## Welcome New Hires

Jamie Boswell  
 Matthew Ehrhardt  
 Lorenzo Javier  
 Teri Ferguson  
 Savannah Prejna  
 Matthew Shaw  
 Regina Walsh  
 Brooke Leavins  
 Anastasia Orazine  
 Carl Bergmann  
 Sam Tyson  
 Christof Bader  
 Ronnie Wheelless  
 Bryan Burks  
 Jason Collins  
 Britney Graves  
 Nathan Benjamin  
 Gary Stokes  
 Joel Bond  
 John Grace  
 Emma Ragan  
 Judy Cragin  
 Roger Delfosse  
 Roger Rhodes  
 Andrew Gilliam  
 Mason Ricks  
 Steven Ford

## Qualis Internship Program: Shaping the Next Generation Workforce

We were fortunate to have some great interns this year working for Qualis. In the interviews below, they share what they learned over the summer and how they will use their experiences as they return to school and in the job market.



*Geoffrey  
Doback*



<b>Name:</b>	Geoffrey Doback
<b>Age:</b>	22
<b>University:</b>	Florida Polytechnic University
<b>Classification:</b>	Senior
<b>Major/Minor:</b>	Mechanical Engineering / Nanotechnology
<b>Hometown:</b>	Tampa, FL

### How would you describe your internship experience?

This summer has been a truly eye-opening experience for me. It has solidified my passion for the aerospace industry and showed me the complexities and minor details that have substantial impacts on the performance of launch vehicles.

### How has this summer impacted your future goals?

I have never been more sure of what I want to do for the rest of my life. This industry is the most exciting I could imagine being involved in, and it offers a challenge like non other, which is something I desire daily.

### How has your college experience and current coursework influenced your daily internship responsibilities?

I was able to apply many of my classes, to my daily work, but more importantly, I learned heat transfer principles during this internship before taking the class itself (will be taking it next semester). This really gives me a leg-up on the school-year and showed me the real-world applications of it.

**What are some of your plans after college?**

I plan to obtain a master's degree in aerospace engineering, then to continue working in the aerospace industry. At some point in my life, I'd like to spread the knowledge I've obtained to future generations that are passionate about what they do, and potentially go back to school for my Ph.D.



*Allison  
Helmbrecht*



<b>Name:</b>	Allison Helmbrecht
<b>Age:</b>	21
<b>University:</b>	The University of Alabama
<b>Classification:</b>	Senior
<b>Major/Minor:</b>	Marketing / Advertising
<b>Hometown:</b>	Huntsville, AL

**How would you describe your internship experience?**

I had a great experience here at Qualis! I gained valuable hands on experience with new projects and learned a great deal from my incredible coworkers. I will definitely miss it.

**How has this impacted your future goals?**

This summer has helped me develop my goals as far as what I look for in a work environment, as this environment was so wonderful. This internship also allowed me to try my hand at new skills such as video making; therefore I have set goals to better these skills moving forward.

**How has your college experience and current coursework influenced your daily internship responsibilities?**

My current coursework involves a lot of application as far as promoting your business through the creation of marketing materials, which I have also been able to do through this internship.

**What are some of your plans after college?**

After college, I would love to move to a big city with some of my close friends. My city of choice would be New York City, so that I could be close to my brother as well!



*Kristian  
Miasek*



<b>Name:</b>	Kristian Miasek
<b>Age:</b>	21
<b>University:</b>	University of Alabama in Huntsville
<b>Classification:</b>	Senior
<b>Major/Minor:</b>	Mechanical Engineering / Mathematics
<b>Hometown:</b>	Holly Pond, AL

**How would you describe your internship experience?**

My internship experience has been unique and exciting. All the knowledge and skills I have acquired from working alongside the test engineers is invaluable. It was interesting to apply information learned in lectures to real systems, as well as some things I had not previously seen before. For example, I have taken Fluid Dynamics, but it is exciting to see those problems come to life in the test cells when having to calculate volumetric flow rates through a specific valve.

**How has this summer impacted your future goals?**

The excitement of seeing, hearing, and feeling the energy exerted by a rocket motor will never become a dull moment for me. Working with test hardware has sparked my interest in this area, and I hope to continue working with rocket engines and test facilities. I have met so many men and women that each have a wealth of knowledge and experience. The knowledge and experience they possess is something that I will strive for.

**How has your college experience and current coursework influenced your daily internship responsibilities?**

My college experience has played a very important role in my internship. My courses have provided me with a foundation of analyzing engineering systems and understanding their processes. Working in the test area, I have applied a lot



of knowledge from classes that I have already taken like Fluid Dynamics, Thermodynamics, and Mechanics of Materials. Gaining experience has allowed me to hone in these skills and



improve them, as well as pick up a few others. My coursework has also taught me to manage my time. This summer has been increasingly difficult from others because I have been working full time at the test area, part time on the



weekends, and taking two engineering classes as well. Balancing school assignments while working full time this summer has taught me to be efficient in my work.

#### What are some of your plans after college?

I plan to continue furthering my education with a Masters in Aerospace Engineering, and a Doctorate in Engineering Management. I hope to continue working at Marshall Space Flight Center and supporting the ESSCA contract.

Not Pictured

*Zack  
Taylor*



<b>Name:</b>	Zack Taylor
<b>Age:</b>	22
<b>University:</b>	Auburn University
<b>Classification:</b>	Senior
<b>Major/Minor:</b>	Mechanical Engineering
<b>Hometown:</b>	Mobile, AL

#### How would you describe your internship experience?

My internship was very productive and educational. I learned a lot about how government contracts and contractors are organized.

#### How has this summer impacted your future goals?

It has opened up new opportunities and opened my mind to new options for future career options.

#### How has your college experience and current coursework influenced your daily internship responsibilities?

I was able to use skills I learned in schools as I worked toward completion of my project.



*Anna Katherine  
Underwood*



Name:	Anna Katherine Underwood
Age:	20
University:	The University of Tennessee
Classification:	Junior
Major/Minor:	Communications/Electronic Media
Hometown:	Pulaski, TN

**How would you describe your internship experience?**

My summer at Qualis has been one of amazing growth. I have grown professionally in my career. However I have also grown as a young adult personally. I realized there are things bigger than myself. I learned I am part of a team, and that my work does matter. Most importantly I gained great leadership experiences, as well as many new friends that always kept me laughing around the office.

**How has this summer impacted your future goals?**

This summer has made me realize just how broad the major of communication can take you. I never thought I would be working for a company that specializes in systems engineering and test and evaluations. I specifically became a communication major based off my hatred for math. So it is funny where you can end up. I learned that I can work in a technology based business and actually grow to love it.

**How has your college experience and current coursework influenced your daily internship responsibilities?**

One of the things I was most insecure or anxious about in my coursework was making and editing videos. The technology always scared me and at times I felt overwhelmed. However, this summer I made my first video clip on my own. I also must add that I think it turned out pretty great despite my fears.

**What are some of your plans after college?**

I will graduate in May of 2021, so I still have a little time to exactly pin down what I want to do. I have thought about getting

my masters in Communications and Public Relations, but I haven't decided for sure. I want to remain local to this area in Huntsville Alabama because the community and people are amazing and so welcoming!



*Azadra  
Whitman*



Name:	Azadra Whitman
Age:	22
University:	The University of Montevallo
Classification:	Senior
Major/Minor:	Communications Studies / Public Relations
Hometown:	Huntsville, AL

**How would you describe your internship experience?**

I would describe my summer internship experience as exciting, valuable, and an experience that I will truly never forget. I enjoyed my internship so much and I truly appreciate the opportunity to be a Communications intern for Qualis.

**How has this summer impacted your future goals?**

I've learned so much this summer about my skills and things that I need to improve on. I think that I will be able to take the things I've learned into my future career aspirations.

**How has your college experience and current coursework influenced your daily internship responsibilities?**

It's been a wonderful experience to take the things I've learned in a classroom into a professional setting. My teachers and my major truly prepared me for this internship and I'm thankful that I was able to practice those skills in a professional setting.

**What are some of your plans after college?**

I plan to move back to Huntsville and pursue jobs in any field that applies to my major. I'm very excited for the future and I think that I'm ready to take the things I've learned from Qualis into my future career endeavors.

## PRIDE Awards

### MAY

Dana Chandler

Paul Carothers

Max McCall

Scot Williams

Kevin Diaz

### JUNE

Lee Heineken

Stacy Kilcrease

Robert Powell

Phillip Rainey

Craig Mull

Mellisa Brown

Jason Diessner

David Rivera

Walker Blankinship

Christopher Sweet

John Tortorano

Leroy Salinas

Timothy Russo

### JULY

Lee Heineken

Michael Dalla Valle

Andrea Simms

Kyle Smith

Jeremy Rodgers

Greg Belue

### AUGUST

Matt Simmons

Russell Vela

Gary Sellers

### SEPTEMBER

John Ladino

Laura Hardin

Edward Ezell

Helen Foor

Diane Chu

Sean Stanovich

Lee Heineken

Christopher Dawkins

Michael Dalla Valle

Johnathon Garner

Brian Smith

Jarrod Welsh

Michael Steiner

Bryan Coffman

Brenda Royal

Cindy Seale

Kyle Smith

### OCTOBER

Marilee Foreman

David Wilkie

Ellen Vought



## Career Opportunities at Qualis

### Qualis Referral Bonus Program

Congrats to those who referred employees and received payouts recently :

**Michael Dalla Valle**

**Aixa Leon**

**Brenda Royal**

**Brian Smith**

**Craig Mull**

**Tom Whittington**

**Dale Sowers**

### **Remember our Employee Referral Bonus!!!**

*Qualis Employee Referral Bonus Program: Employees are encouraged to recommend and refer qualified candidates. A monetary bonus is offered for referral of candidates who are ultimately hired for open positions.*

### Featured Jobs at Qualis

#### Eglin AFB, FL

**998409 – Document and Configuration Manager**

**1051967 – Earned Value Management Specialist**

**1123922 – Project Management Specialist**

**1160992 – Information System Security Officer (ISSO)**

#### Kirtland AFB, NM

**1128636 – Database Administrator**

**1146962 – Cyber Analyst**

View current openings at <https://www.qualis-corp.com/careers/>  
Equal Opportunity Employer/M/F/V/D and a participant in E-Verify

## HR Digest

*A Monthly Column by Keanna Nichols,  
Vice President of Human Resources*



### What Age, What Test?

Early detection is the key to fighting many diseases. Getting the right tests at the right time can increase chances of treatment success and survival. Before having any tests performed, review your benefits to see which tests are covered by your plan.

Here is a guide to help you know:

**Dental:** It is recommended that adults and children have a dental visit annually, although they can be more frequent. Your dentist can help you determine how often your teeth should be cleaned. Children should have their first dental visit by age one.

**Vision:** Adults should have an eye exam every two years or as recommended by a health professional. Children should have their vision tested before age five.

**Diabetes:** Adults who have symptoms of diabetes, or who have blood pressure readings higher than 135/80 mmHg, should have their hemoglobin A1C checked every three years. More frequent testing may be needed for individuals at higher risk.

**Colorectal:** Individuals 50 years or older should be tested for colorectal cancer. Those who are at increased risk should speak to their doctor about earlier testing

**Pap smear:** All women age 21 or older should have a pap smear every one to three years. Women aged 30 or older may also choose to have a pap smear in conjunction with the human papillomavirus (HPV) test every five years.

**Mammogram:** The US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends mammograms every two years for women aged 50 to 74 years. The decision to start screening mammography prior to age 50 should be an individual one. Women who place a higher value on the potential benefit than the potential harm may choose to begin screening mammograms at age 40.

**Osteoporosis:** A bone density test is recommended for women under 65 who have at least one risk factor, and for women over 65 who have never had a bone density test. The interval between tests can be two or more years.

**Prostate:** Men over 50, and high-risk men 45-50, should speak with their doctor about their prostate health.

**Blood cholesterol:** To reduce risk of heart disease, periodic screening of cholesterol levels is recommended for men ages 35 and older, and women and younger men who are at risk for cardiovascular disease.



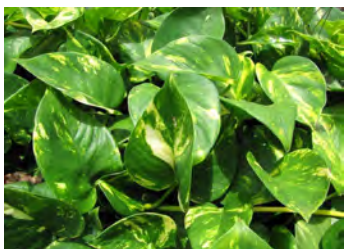
## 5 Plants That Easily Improve Your

### Office Space

Improving your air quality in your office space is easy, by incorporating living plants in to your space. Here are some low-maintenance plants that help to reduce the volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and other air pollutants around you, while boosting your mood and productivity.



**1. Peace Lily**—Loves the shade! Check the soil every few days and water as necessary. One of the best for improving air quality.



**2. Golden Pothos**—Top air-cleaning plant, famously low-maintenance. Loves low-light and being root-bound. Keep on the dry side.



**3. Rubber Tree Plant**—Helps remove air pollutants, and is low-maintenance. Water often in spring and once/twice a month in the dormant months. Enjoys bright but indirect sunlight.



**4. Snake Plant**—Great for removing toxins (formaldehyde and benzene) from the air. Keep them well drained and in indirect sunlight.



**5. Chinese Evergreen**—Thrives in low light conditions, while providing some color and improving the air. Enjoys moderate watering and drier roots. Lower temperature areas are ideal.

## Lisa's IT Corner

A Monthly Column by Lisa McNabb,  
IT Operations and Information  
Security Manager



## New Study Shines A Light on Data Hackers

A new study warns that smart light bulbs could allow hackers to steal your personal data. The researchers have reviewed the security holes that exist in popular smart-light brands and have determined that the next prime target for cyberattacks could be smart bulbs that are connected to other home devices.

UTSA researchers found out that the invisible wave spectrum in the smart bulbs, that come equipped with infrared capabilities, could be controlled by hackers.

Researchers noted that some smart bulbs connect to a home network without requiring a smart home hub, and if these smart bulbs are infrared-enabled, then hackers can interact with them.

Hackers can send commands to such smart bulbs via the infrared invisible light emanated from the bulbs to either steal data or spoof other connected devices on the home network.

Consumers should prefer buying bulbs that come with a smart home hub rather than those that connect directly to other home devices.

