

PORT AUTHORITY 25TH ANNIVERSARY

“I was afraid for my job. I think we all were. The Air Force offered relocation to other bases. For me and for my family, we lived here. That was the primary reason for roughing it out.”

Tin Le, who started as an electrical engineer working for the Air Force here in 1987

STILL GROWING STRONG

PORT AUTHORITY TAKES CLOSED AIR FORCE BASE FROM UNCERTAINTY TO STABILITY

Kent Mallett Newark Advocate | USA TODAY NETWORK

The announced closure of the Newark Air Force Base in 1993 sent an immediate wave of fear, despair and uncertainty through the community, especially the 1,400 employees and their families. ● The base closed three years later, and some employees left to work at other Air Force bases. But many remained at the Heath campus to work for Air Force contractors at the privatized facility. ● Today, 25 years after that heartbreaking closure previously considered unthinkable, much of the work remains, along with many new companies coming to the Central Ohio Aerospace and Technology Center campus where 1,650 people now work for more than 20 companies. ● The Port Authority, which owns and manages COATC, is the largest self-sustaining port authority in Ohio. The campus employers have a combined payroll of \$127 million, for a \$77,000 annual average. ● Oct. 1 marks the 25th anniversary since privatization of the workload of the former Newark Air Force Base. **See BASE, Page 4D**

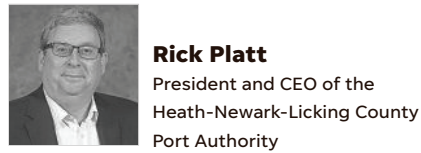


The Base Port Authority Central Ohio Aerospace and Technology Center MICHAEL LEHMKUHLE/THE ADVOCATE



The Central Ohio Aerospace and Technology Center campus where 1,650 people now work for more than 20 companies. SUBMITTED BY SPENCER BARKER

Celebrating a STEM Skills Workforce



Rick Platt
President and CEO of the
Heath-Newark-Licking County
Port Authority

“The facility’s most important element is people.” These were the words of Air Force General Mark Bradley inaugurating the then-new Newark Air Force

Base in 1962.
Nearly sixty years later, Bradley’s words are truer than ever.
Twenty-five years ago, when Boeing, the Air Force, and Bionetics-DESG joined with the Port Authority in embarking on a new approach for which there was no road map, it was clear the STEM-skilled workforce would continue to be the most important element.
We know, and it should not be forgotten, that of all the reasons that were behind

why the work of a closed Newark AFB couldn’t just march off to some other distant place, the most critical of those reasons was workforce. Wise people like the Port Authority’s Wally Horton and base commander Colonel Joe Renaud then asked, “Would the skills to maintain one-of-a-kind equipment move with the equipment?” Many rightly pondered, “Could the knowledge from thirty years of remanufacturing precision instruments be replaced elsewhere?”

We’ve never had to answer those hard questions because of a partnership that we celebrate today. This is a place critical to our local economy but also critical to the national defense. Availability of STEM skills has made the Central Ohio Aerospace & Technology Center (the renamed Newark AFB) able to continue to achieve unmatched precision and accuracy — the equivalent of a

See STEM, Page 8C

HEATH - NEWARK - LICKING COUNTY
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PORT AUTHORITY 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Port Authority at 20: Air Force base gone, but work, jobs remain

Kent Mallett
Newark Advocate
USA TODAY NETWORK

Editor's note: This story originally ran on Oct. 5, 2016 to commemorate the port authority's 20th anniversary.

HEATH - The announced closing of the Newark Air Force Base dealt a devastating blow to local workers, families and the economy a generation ago.

But 20 years after the base closed, the anniversary is not a time for mourning what was lost, but celebrating what remains at the Central Ohio Aerospace and Technology Center.

Maj. Gen. Warren Berry, vice commander, U.S. Air Force Materiel Command, came from Dayton to praise the efforts of local leaders and longtime employees of the former base during a 20th anniversary celebration Tuesday outside the Horton Building on the COATC campus.

The base closed Oct. 1, 1996, giving way to the birth of the privatized COATC, where 15 employers today provide \$88 million in payroll to 1,300 employees. The Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority manages the campus and continues to bring in new business.

"The Newark Air Force Station could have been forgotten after its closure, if not for some community leaders who had incredible vision," Berry said. "Time was ticking. There was no uncertainty that October 1996 was coming and that was the deadline to decide what to do."

There were many obstacles, Berry said, to what became the nation's first privatization in place of an Air Force base. One obstacle, he said, was the Air Force itself.

"Some in the Air Force weren't sure this was the right thing to do," Berry said. "Everybody had concerns."

But moving the Air Force's sensitive metrology, calibration and inertial guidance system from Heath to another location would be time-consuming and costly. The precision equipment had



The Port Authority celebrates the 20th anniversary of Central Ohio Aerospace and Technology Center, following closure of Newark Air Force Base. SARA C. TOBIAS/THE ADVOCATE

"The Newark Air Force Station could have been forgotten after its closure, if not for some community leaders who had incredible vision."

Maj. Gen. Warren Berry

been in Heath since the 1960s for a reason.

"We just did not have a suitable alternative for this kind of work," Berry said. "The geology of this place makes it uniquely suited. You don't have natural vibration. That's a good thing."

The site is no longer the Newark Air Force Base, but the guidance system repair work remains there at Boeing and its subcontractors, and the metrology work remains at Bionetics and the Air Force Metrology and Calibration Program.


"In an uncertain world, we certainly need weapons that go where they are supposed to go," county Commissioner Tim Bubb said.

Former County Commissioner Don Hill, who helped in the transition from the base to the aerospace campus, said, "It's a pleasure to be here today to celebrate this 20 years. Many people thought it wouldn't happen and was a waste of our energies and time. We were more than pleased and now, we're the happiest people in the world that it worked."

The 20-year anniversary also provided an opportunity to recognize the more than 200 employees at the campus who have at least 20 years of experience there, including Carl Oblinger, 54 years at Bionetics, and Mark Henderson, 53 years at Boeing.

"Today, we celebrate 20 years of success for our community, but most importantly, for our national defense," Port Authority Executive Director Rick Platt said. The anniversary celebration also included State Sen. Jay Hottinger, R-Newark; county commissioners Tim Bubb and Rick Black; Heath Mayor Mark Johns; former county Commissioner Marcia Phelps, now Licking County Municipal Clerk of Courts; Heath council member Cledys Henry; and Newark council members Jeremy Blake and Bill Cost.

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Photo by Tim Black.

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PORT AUTHORITY 25TH ANNIVERSARY

DeWine: Port authority honors past and plants seeds for the future

Gov. Mike DeWine
Special to Marion Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

The day I became Governor and gave my inaugural address, I said to my fellow Ohioans that we need to plant the seeds for future generations, and that much of what we will do, we will not see the results of during the life of this administration, nor in some cases in our lifetime, yet we will do these things nonetheless — grounded in the faith and hope that we can change the future!

Today marks a significant anniversary that proves this point of view, as the Central Ohio Aerospace & Technology Center will mark 25 years since its creation following the transfer of the Newark Air Force Base.

Honor your past.

Looking back, I can’t help but think of those who believed that “the base” was an asset worth fighting for. This includes former Governor Voinovich and long-time advocate Wally Horton. When the Newark AFB showed up on the base closure list, they dug in. We — the team of federal, state, and local leaders — advocated for the jobs and making Ohio’s case for this work to stay in Ohio.

When privatization evolved as a possibility, the team championed keeping it going and keeping the work in Ohio.

What’s been accomplished to retain the critical work, grow the manufacturing capabilities, diversify the job opportunities, and provide for our national defense has honored the past and fuels the future.

Celebrate this milestone.

There were pessimists. Some didn’t believe the seeds planted in 1996 would grow at all. I recall that few were predicting that the work would remain.

I’m an optimist, though. Some say that any father of eight, and grandfather of 26, is, by definition, an optimist. The Center is a national asset that needed to be maintained, and the Ohioans that work here have been up to the task of keeping it going



Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine SUBMITTED

strong.
Every time I’ve visited over the past 25 years, I’ve learned something new that is more proof of the uniqueness of the Aerospace Center. Few places can boast of having the sort of precision of hitting a pencil point on a football field — but the Boeing Building houses some of the most impressive examples of accuracy and precision — as well as the people to do it — of any place in the world.

Today we celebrate the fact that the partnership at Heath has exceeded even the most optimistic predictions from 25 years ago.

Plant the seeds for the future.

I encourage everyone to treat today’s 25th anniversary event as a new beginning. The seeds being planted today will bear fruit in the future.

The people at the Central Ohio Aerospace Technology Center have demonstrated time and again that Ohio has first-rate technology and people.

And, by spotlighting today’s milestone, we are, together, helping to make sure a future generation is keenly aware of future job opportunities right in their backyard. It is my understanding that Boeing and the Port Authority will be announcing new investments in STEM learning for students in Licking County. This is smart thinking as it’s critical to prepare the future workforce for success.

Congratulations to all of those who had the vision to keep this great asset in Licking County. You planted seeds that have led to the success we celebrate today.
Mike DeWine is governor of Ohio.

Governor honors Newark/Heath as ‘aerospace capital’ in 1996

Heather Homan
The Advocate archive

Editor's note: This story originally ran on Oct. 5, 1996, and is being republished to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the port authority.

HEATH - Gov. George Voinovich has vowed to assist the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority in its quest to bring additional jobs and high-tech businesses to the Central Ohio Aerospace and Technology Center.

"I want (this) to become not only the aerospace capital of Ohio, but the aerospace capital of the world," Voinovich on Friday told a group of about 500 Rockwell International Corp. officials, employees and state, federal and local leaders at the dedication ceremony for the Rockwell Guidance Repair Center.

The event capped a successful nine-month transition of the former Newark Air Force Base workloads to private contractors Rockwell and Wyle Laboratories.

Rockwell leads a team of original equipment manufacturers, including AlliedSignal, Honeywell, Hughes, Kearfott, Litton and Smiths Industries.

The companies have developed more than 90 percent of the hardware, test equipment and procedures used at NAFB.

The state pitched in grants worth \$391,792 from the department of development's Defense Conversion Assistance Program to assist with the first ever privatization-in-place of a military installation.

"We're investing your money back into this facility so we can keep jobs and create jobs for the Newark area," Voinovich said.

The Port Authority is leasing 80 percent of the property to the contractors to perform the maintenance, repair, metrology and calibration activities at the Heath site.

The Port Authority, contractors and Detachment 1 - an Air Force installation which will oversee worldwide metrology management - expect to employ more than 1,000 workers.

Voinovich urged U.S. Reps. John Kasich and Robert Ney, and Sen. John

Glenn to assist in the effort to market the remaining facilities.

"We're going to do everything we can to create a business environment," Voinovich said.

Port Authority Executive Director Wally Horton has said he is negotiating with several companies to bring more work to the center, including one that could employ about 60 people.

He has said he wants to see computer repair, research and development and high-tech industries move into the center.

Rockwell officials have said they are in the bidding process to possibly bring in additional defense workloads, including a contract performed at NAFB about five years ago.

The company plans to examine its core competencies to see how it stacks up in the commercial industry before seeking work outside the government contracts, said John McLuckey, president and chief operating officer of Rockwell's aerospace and defense business.

Air Force Undersecretary Rudy de Leon said he is proud of the team effort which made privatization-in-place.

He said the civilian workforce, federal, state and local officials, private contractors and the Newark/Heath community made it possible when many doubted its feasibility.

"There were those who said privatization wouldn't occur," he said, noting the Air Force intends to use the former NAFB as a model for other bases set for closure.

But a hurdle that could stand in the way of that feat is a lawsuit filed against the government by the American Federation of Government Employees, the labor union which represented civilian workers at NAFB.

The AFGE cites two federal laws which state privatization is illegal.

One requires core logistics functions - those vital to successful war fighting - to remain under Pentagon control.

The other requires both the private sector and other military bases be given equal opportunities to bid on work offered under contracts.

No trial date has been set, but de Leon said the parties are attempting to work out their differences.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
HEATH-NEWARK-LICKING COUNTY
PORT AUTHORITY ON 25 YEARS
OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND
INNOVATION.

PORT AUTHORITY 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Newark Air Force Base announces area’s foray into ‘space age’ in 1962

Bill Rogers

The Advocate archive

Editor’s note: This story originally published in The Advocate on Dec. 14, 1962, and is being reprinted in celebration of the port authority’s 25th anniversary.

Air Force Station is Dedicated

Gen. Mark E. Bradley, commander of the Air Force Logistics Command, cited growth potential as an important factor in selecting this area for Air Force laboratories.

Gen. Bradley was the main speaker at Newark Air Force dedication ceremonies Thursday afternoon which marked Licking County’s official entry into the space age.

“It was not by accident that this location was chosen,” he said.

Gen. Bradley cited the need for a vibration-free location, underground facilities, a skilled labor market, and adequate transportation facilities.

He added, “And it had to have extensive expansion possibilities because of the growth potential of its mission.”

Congressman John M. Ashbrook presented Col. Thomas O. Lawton, station commander, with an American flag that had flown over the Capitol.

Ashbrook told the audience that the Air Force came here because of the stability of the land, but the installation would grow because of the stability of the people.

Col. Lawton said the Air Force station had been much sought after by other areas and he credited Ashbrook with getting it for this area.

Preceding the main address by Gen. Bradley, Edward T. Hitchcock, mayor of Heath Village, extended his welcome to the Air Force.

Newark Mayor David R. Evans also welcomed the newcomers to the area and cited the economic impact the station would have on the community.

“The Newark Air Force Station had already a tremendous impact on our area



Air Force top brass pause for a portrait before dedication ceremonies of Newark Air Force Station Thursday afternoon. Left to right: Brig. Gen. William W. Veal; Maj. Gen. Frederic H. Miller; Gen. Mark E. Bradley Jr., commander, Air Force Logistics Command; Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Gerrity; Maj. Gen. L. L. Mundell; Brig. Gen. John H. Chick; Brig. Gen. David M. Jones and Col. Thomas O. Lawton Jr., commander, Newark Air Force Station. (Advocate photo).

Military dignitaries stand for a picture at the dedication ceremony for the Newark Air Force Station on Dec. 13, 1962. ADVOCATE ARCHIVE

in bringing jobs for nearly 1,500 people as of this date.

“Its potential of nearly double that number in the next two years will make the U.S. Air Force our number one employer,” Evans said.

As an example of the effect of the new installation, he said that the number of building permits had tripled in Newark in the past year.

Following the ceremonies the crowd of about 2,000 toured the huge plant and viewed displays explaining the work on missile guidance systems and in calibrating precision instruments.

“At this facility are located the most sensitive calibration laboratories in the western world,” Gen. Bradley stated.

The “stable table” located deep underground has been termed the “most isolated spot on earth.”

Four stories underground, it is the most advance standards laboratory in the world.

The stable table is designed to test delicate internal guidance components that steer missiles such as Minuteman, Atlas and Titan to targets thousands of miles away with extreme accuracy.

It is isolated from influences of temperature, magnetic fields, humidity, earth motion and vibration, and is designed to be the stillest, quietest point on earth.

“The work to be done here is of the greatest importance to our defense effort,” Gen. Bradley said. “The inertial guidance systems of Air Force missiles - the Minuteman, Titan, Atlas, Hound Dog, and Skybolt - will be tested, repaired and calibrated here. The facility will also be used by the other services.”

In addition to the \$4.2 million cost of converting the plant from a heavy press program to missile calibration, \$33 million worth of tools and test equipment has been installed.

Despite the blizzard and cold, an esti-

“At this facility are located the most sensitive calibration laboratories in the western world.”

Gen. Mark E. Bradley

mated 5,000 persons visited the plant for the dedication and open house that followed.

Defense officials present included John Taylor, director of maintenance policy, Department of Defense, Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Gerrity, Air Force deputy chief of staff for systems and logistics, Maj. Gen. L. L. Mundell, commander of the Oklahoma City Air Material Area, Maj. Gen. Frederic H. Miller, commander of the Middletown Air Material Area.

Brig. Gen. David M. Jones, deputy commander of the Skybolt missile project, Brig. Gen. John H. Chick, director of personnel and support operations for the Logistics Command, and Brig. Gen. William W. Veal, commander of the Defense Electronics Supply Center, Dayton.

Dr. Allen V. Astin, director of the National Bureau of Standards, was also present.

Local area people on the speaker’s platform included Wilber Wilson, president of the Chamber of Commerce; Winston C. Allen, state representative; Arthur W. Fowle, mayor of Granville; Robert Zellar, state senator; John F. Montgomery, former president of the Chamber of Commerce.

Thomas A. Rogers, president of WCLT Radio, Inc., Clarence Pennington, assistant to the publisher of The Advocate, James R. Francis, president of the Newark City Council, C. Allen Milliken, executive vice president of the Chamber of Commerce, Frank W. Spencer Jr., news editor of The Advocate, and Herbert A. Koontz, chairman of the county commissioners, and Wallace L. Horton, deputy commander of the station.

Other Air Force, Navy and defense contractor representatives were present.



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PORT AUTHORITY 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Military relied heavily on Newark Air Force Base for metrology

L.B. Whyde
The Advocate archive

Editor's note: This story originally published on Sept. 8, 2008 and is being re-published in celebration of the port authority's 25th anniversary.

NEWARK — When Wally Horton and Earl Bodem first came to Licking County in 1962 to scout out a government facility for possible use as a military base, what they found was in stark contrast to what is here today.

Newark was just a sleepy little town, and Heath only was a village, Horton said. But after 35 years of operation as the Newark Air Force Base, with at least 3,000 people employed at any one time, the effects on central Ohio are numerous.

“The amount of money that came into central Ohio, in a 40-mile radius around Newark, was \$200 million a year, as well as 30 to 40 percent of Heath’s income tax,” Horton said. “I don’t know where these cities would have been without the base. A number of businesses started up because of the base. I’m sure we had an impact on just about everybody in Licking County.”

NAFB opened in 1962 and became the home for the Air Force’s metrology lab and inertial guidance systems. The products produced were among the most modern, high-tech weapon systems and components in the Defense Department’s arsenal and the NASA space program during the Cold War years.

The high production rate, outstanding workmanship and engineering developments the center attained were rewarded with numerous commendations and awards. This work required highly skilled and technical workers on precision and delicate equipment, the men said.

Incentive programs established for suggestions, productivity, management improvement and cost avoidance throughout the center resulted in



Wally Horton, former executive director of Port Authority, holds the 10-year mortgage worth approximately \$11 million while it is set aflame during the 10-year anniversary celebration of Boeing in Heath in 2006. ADVOCATE ARCHIVE



Wally Horton, photographed at 96 in 2012, was one of the main drivers for the Newark Air Force base and its later privatization. Horton died in 2013. ADVOCATE ARCHIVE

millions of dollars in savings for the U.S. government.

“The amount of awards makes it the most decorated Air Force base in the

world,” Bodem said. “The base practically built Heath. They didn’t even have a post office in Heath at the time; that’s why they called it Newark Air Force Base.”

Bill Sisco was living in Dayton at the time and he heard the Air Force was opening a new base in a place he had never heard of — Newark. Right out of the Air Force, Sisco applied for a job and spent his career in Heath. He retired in 1993.

During that time, Sisco said, NAFB received three different names, The Center of Excellence, The Gold Watch and the Best Kept Secret in the Air Force, because of its technology and the workers’ ability to work.

“These names gave me pride when someone off base would use these terms to describe us,” Sisco said. “I loved working there. The people were the kindest, most dedicated people I’d ever met.”

“I loved working there.

The people were the kindest, most dedicated people I’d ever met.”

Bill Sisco, retired from NAFB

The center’s employees made a great impact on Heath, Newark and all of Licking County and central Ohio through its “Helping Hands” program that helped the financially disadvantaged through donations to the United Way, YMCA, the Food Pantry Network of Licking County and other organizations. Employees also donated blood to the American Red Cross and their donations helped build the Newark campus of Ohio State University and Central Ohio Technical College.

After the Cold War ended in the early 1990s, there was a decreased need for these guidance systems and the work load was cut down. That is when Horton was called back from retirement.

He was asked to see what he could do to save the base and is credited with developing the privatization plan that never had been done at an Air Force base.

It took three years, from 1993-96, to get everything set in place and approved, including establishing the Port Authority. Now, private contractors are doing the same work the base was performing before, only on a smaller basis.

“It took a long time to get through to the generals that they needed a seamless transfer so there would be no interruption of the jobs or production,” Horton said. “Privatization meant no production stoppage at all.”

When the base closed as a military installation, many of the employees stayed on with the contractor, many retired and still live in the area and others transferred to other military bases.

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PORT AUTHORITY 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Q&A with Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority CEO Rick Platt

Kent Mallett
Newark Advocate
USA TODAY NETWORK

Editor's note: This story originally ran on Aug. 3, 2014. It is being republished in celebration with the port authority's 25th anniversary.

HEATH — Rick Platt, president and CEO of the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority, answered some serious questions about the Central Ohio Aerospace and Technology Center campus and some fun questions about himself.

The Port Authority owns and manages the campus, a former Air Force Base facility redeveloped for aerospace and defense operations.

The Port Authority is the fourth largest in Ohio and largest self-sustaining port authority in the state.

Platt, a Massillon native and Miami University graduate, has been in his Port Authority job since 2002. He lives in Newark.

Seriously ...

Q. What do you enjoy most about your job?

A. “The versatility. No day is the same. That’s what I like. I’m not doing the same thing every day. I’m also not doing one thing at a time.”

Q. What are you most proud of about this campus?

A. “It’s still here. A lot of people predicted doom and gloom years ago (after Newark Air Force Base closed). The fact we’re still operating defies conventional wisdom.”

Q. What has been the biggest challenge in leading this organization?

A. “There’s just a lot of diverse points of view we try to satisfy. It’s really balancing a lot of competing interests.”

Q. What would you like people to know about this campus that they may not know?

A. “It was really high-tech before high-tech was high-tech. There are careers here for people to stay in Licking County in a STEM and technology career. The short answer is manufacturing



Rick Platt, executive director of Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority, shows off a 20,000 square foot spec building in 2015. STAFF PHOTO

is alive. We’re living proof here, manufacturing is alive.”

Q. What is Licking County’s biggest selling point?

A. “It’s the strength of our workforce.”

Q. What is the biggest improvement needed in Licking County?

A. “I don’t think you ever stop trying to build your manufacturing base. There’s always going to be things happen you don’t control. You need to maintain manufacturing so you have a stronger future, economically.”

On the lighter side ...

Q. What is your favorite movie?
A. “The Godfather”

Q. What is your favorite television show of all-time?

A. “Fringe”

Q. Who is you favorite musician or entertainer?

A. Bruce Springsteen

Q. What is your favorite sport or activity to participate in?

A. Walking out at Blackhand Gorge with my kids.

Q. What is your favorite baseball team?

A. Cleveland Indians.

Q. What is you favorite pro football team?

A. Pittsburgh Steelers

Q. Who is the person you most admire in your life?

A. My dad

Q. Who is the celebrity you most admire?

A. Mike DeWine, Ohio Attorney General (now governor)

Q. Where is your favorite vacation destination?

A. Skyline Drive, Shenandoah Mountains National Park, Va.

Q. If you could be in any other job or field, what would it be?

A. Baseball general manager

Q. What was your favorite class in high school?

A. Typing

Q. What was your least favorite class in high school?

A. Physics



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PORT AUTHORITY 25TH ANNIVERSARY



An aerial photo of the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority from 2001, which was similar to the layout when the Air Force base was privatized in 1996.



An angled aerial photo of the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority from 2021 that shows the tremendous growth since 2001.

An aerial photo of the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority from 2021 that shows the tremendous growth since 2001.

An angled aerial photo of the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority from 2001, which was similar to the layout when the Air Force base was privatized in 1996. PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY THE PORT AUTHORITY

The Port Authority then and now, in pictures



The Advocate
USA Today Network

The Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority has changed tremendously in 20 years, and that is most obvious in pictures.

STEM

Continued from Page 1C

pencil point on a football field levels of accuracy.

Key to maintaining the important work here was maintaining the important workforce skills here.

Fearing the local consequences of a national statistic that once indicated 80% of parents discouraged their kids from science and technology careers, the Port Authority has made STEM learning a major focal point of our development efforts. Partnered with The Works and many others in the commu-

nity, the Port Authority and our customers have made it our collective jobs to provide a dash of local relevance to the recipe for science, technology, engineering, and math skills to be a Licking County emphasis.

Today's commemorative event isn't just about looking back. It's about paying forward with attention to the future.

Strategically, the Port Authority is doubling down on STEM learning in Licking County. The Port Authority's Board has promised \$1 million dollars over the next 20 years to a new STEM Scholarship. The Aerospace Center workforce and Licking County students at COTC and OSU-Newark will be the beneficiaries of a scholarship being

funded today.

STEM learning efforts with The Works started more than a dozen years ago. There are people in the workforce today able to seize job opportunities in STEM careers as a result of those seeds planted long ago. These national model efforts will continue with vigor. It's ingrained in Licking County—STEM skills matter.

An aim to broaden the reach is also being sparked. In partnership with the YMCA's All-for-One camp, the Port Authority aims to bring STEM learning to more members of our community. Integrated summer camps which include special needs children being exposed to the uplifting promise of STEM skills

needs to be part of a brighter future for our community.

Let's all celebrate our STEM skills workforce. The occasion of 25 years since October 1, 1996 when uncertainty and doubts about the future ruled the day has been replaced with much better sensations — ones of stability and growth.

STEM learning and a STEM-skilled workforce are behind those sensations and will remain well into our future.

This is a regular development column from Rick Platt, President and CEO of the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority with three decades of experience in industrial development. He is also a board member of JobsOhio

PORT AUTHORITY 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Hottinger: Port Authority success proves the promise of the past

Jay Hottinger
Special to Newark Advocate
USA TODAY NETWORK

In 1993 the federal government announced it intended to close the Newark Air Force Base. At the time, calling this news devastating would have been an understatement. The base employed over 1,500 men and women from the region and provided a \$200 million economic impact to Licking County.

In 1995 and 1996, I was involved with this issue as a freshman member of the Ohio House of Representatives. As an elected official and life-long resident of Licking County, I knew the base closure would be a harsh blow to Licking County's economy and the base's many employees and their families. But, like so many Licking County residents always do, the community took the bad news about the base closure and decided to turn it into a new, positive outcome.

In the mid 1990's, Wally Horton, a retired civilian Air Force engineer, was credited for his efforts to salvage the duration of the Newark Air Force Base and some people dubbed him the grandfather of privatization-in-place. He worked with local, state and federal representatives in an effort to keep the base, and the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority was created in 1995 to take over the ownership of the base once it closed. When the Port Authority took ownership of the base in 1996, it was the first privatization-in-place in military history. Wally then became the first Executive Director of the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority.

Due to the efforts of Wally Horton and community leaders, as many jobs as possible were kept and a total closure was prevented. The former base was then renamed the Central Ohio Aerospace & Technology Center.

We are fortunate today to celebrate the continued success and growth we have through the efforts of the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority



Sen. Jay Hottinger, right, then a state representative, speaks with Wally Horton about the future of the fledgling port authority in 1996. Horton was the port authority's first director and was instrumental to the efforts to privatize much of the Newark Air Force base. ADVOCATE ARCHIVE

“The Port Authority has not only continued to foster economic development, but it is now also the largest, self-sustaining port authority in Ohio.”

Sen. Jay Hottinger

and their leadership through President and CEO Rick Platt and their Board of Directors. The Port Authority has not

only continued to foster economic development, but it is now also the largest, self-sustaining port authority in Ohio.

I commend the community leaders 25 years ago, and those that serve today, for their insight, determination and vision that turned a shuttering Air Force base into a new hub for development, technology and economic growth. The area now houses 27 businesses, which account for 1,650 employees. With Boeing as the anchor, the employers comprise a diverse background of manufacturing capabilities supporting STEM (science, technology, engineering and

math) skills.

The Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority is one of the centerpieces of Licking County and a demonstration of collaboration by many private companies and local governments. I am grateful for the millions of dollars in job creation, industrial development and manufacturing facilities that have grown there in the last 25 years, and I look forward to seeing what the future holds for this promising and ever-growing asset to Licking County.

Sen. Jay Hottinger, R-Newark, represents Ohio's 31st Senate District.

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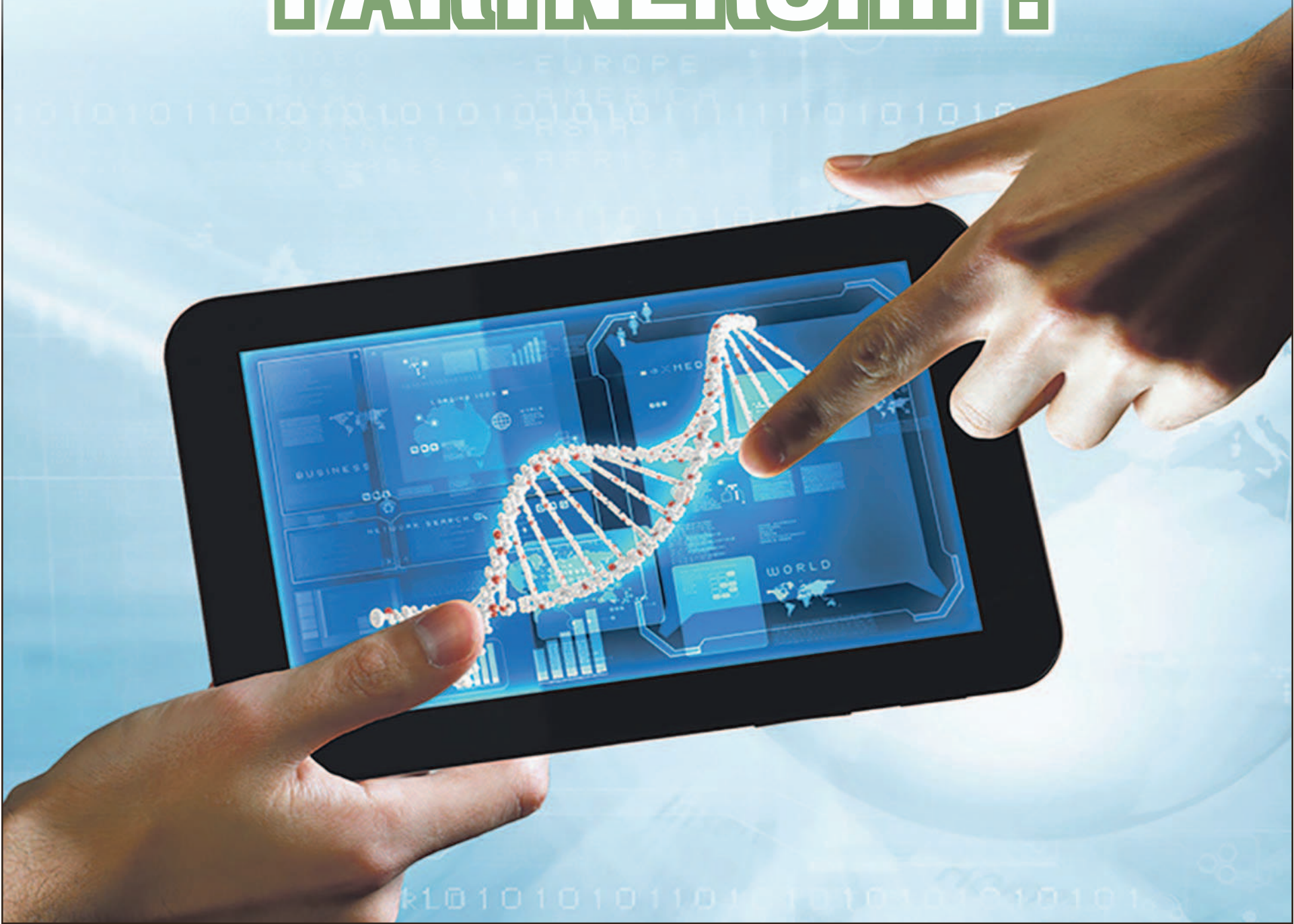
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PORT AUTHORITY 25TH ANNIVERSARY



An aerial overview of the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority. SUBMITTED BY PORT AUTHORITY

The tenants of the Port Authority

Port Authority at a glance

A look at the different occupants of the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority, along with the year they began operations locally. Combined, the companies at the Central Ohio Aerospace & Technology Center employ more than 1,650 people.

- 1 Nature's One, 2020

2 Southgate spec building, 2020

3 KeHo Foods, 2021

4 Gushon America, 2017

5 Sportsman's Outdoor, 2018

6 Ariel Corporation, 2014

7 MISTRAS Group, 2015
- 8 Gathered Foods, 2018

9 GB Food, 2017

10 Viking Cylinders, 2014

11 Samuel Packaging Systems, 2007

12 Kaiser Aluminum, 1948

13 Bionetics, 2002

14 Neurxstem, 2020
- 15 Bionetics, 1996

16 AFMETCAL, 1962

17 Homestead Beer Co., 2012

18 Boeing, 1996

19 Licking County EMA/911, 2019

20 Port Authority office, 1996

21 DCMA, 1996

Information provided by the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority

For more information on the different tenants, go to hnlcpa.com/guide/tenants.htm.

PORT AUTHORITY 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Boeing engineer, 80, honored for efforts in chemistry, civil rights

Kent Mallett
Newark Advocate
USA TODAY NETWORK

Editor's Note: This story originally ran on May 9, 2021, and is being republished in celebration of the port authority's 25th anniversary.

HEATH — As a college student in 1960, Oscar Johnson fought for civil rights while also learning as much as he could about chemical engineering.

Much has changed since he went to North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, but the Boeing employee still pursues civil rights and breakthroughs in chemistry. And, he's been honored for his ongoing efforts in both areas.

Johnson, 80, of Columbus, works as the chemical technology lead at the Boeing Guidance Repair Center in Heath, where he's worked for 25 years. He previously worked in films research and development at Dow Chemical Company in Granville, where he invented a special blend of polymers for labels on plastic bottles.

**2021 Black Engineer of the Year
Modern Day Technology
Leader Award**

U.S. Black Engineer and Information Technology, a publication devoted to engineering, science and technology and promoting opportunities in those fields, selected Johnson for its 2021 Black Engineer of the Year Modern Day Technology Leader Award.

"My nomination for an award caused a reaction of disbelief," Johnson said. "The award was an acknowledgement by my peers of the value of my hard work and my contributions in the workplace."

As a materials and process engineer, Johnson tests chemical compounds, materials and processes used in the navigation systems of intercontinental ballistic missiles, nuclear-capable submarines, and aircraft to determine their safety and suitability in extreme condi-



Oscar Johnson, 80, continues working at Boeing and being honored for his many achievements. SUBMITTED PHOTO



Oscar Johnson SUBMITTED PHOTO

tions. He also conducts the monthly safety inspections that helped keep the Boeing labs injury-free for five years. In 2016, he improved the site's safety and technology capabilities by helping secure funds for new technology in the labs that saved time and money.

Boeing spokesman Josh Roth said, "He's in a leadership role. He's doing great. He hasn't missed a step. It's incredible."

'I'm still working to ensure young people have opportunity'

In 2006, Johnson was recognized by the International Civil Rights Center and Museum for his participation in the 1960 Greensboro, North Carolina, sit-in.

Johnson said his family's history helped give him the courage to join the protest, which led to his arrest.

"My grandmother's experience as the daughter of a slave and having to drop out of school after the third grade to work in the fields was one impetus," Johnson said. "Also, the teachings of my Sunday school instilled a strong sense of self-worth in me."

Asked how he would assess the country's progress on civil rights, Johnson said his focus is on today's youth.

"I'm still working to ensure young people have opportunity," Johnson said. "It's a challenge, but one thing I've committed myself to is giving back because so many people gave back to me."

Johnson has continued working to improve access and equity for others. He once served on a city council as a racial equality liaison and today engages with the Boeing Black Employees Association and Boeing Generation to Generation Business Resource Groups.

'I was learning in an environment that demanded I be engaged'

In a story written by Rosemary Lane

and Josh Roth in Boeing News Now, Johnson explains how his interests in chemistry and civil rights became intertwined when he was in college.

Following is an excerpt from their story:

"I realized I was learning in an environment that demanded I be engaged," Johnson said. "I was constantly trying to make things better because, as one student put it, 'Oscar, you get a degree, but where are you going to work?' I wanted to make a better world for African Americans to live in by removing barriers."

Johnson carried his chemistry books with him to sit-ins at the Woolworths' lunch counter, joining in the historic Greensboro sit-in to desegregate the five-and-dime store — a peaceful protest that catalyzed sit-ins across the country.

After being arrested during protests and, later, in sit-ins at segregated theaters, Johnson learned his chemistry books offered a good distraction from the jail's rough floors and helped him keep up on his studies.

'I would like to see more young people pursue a career in STEM'

Johnson said his interest in chemistry dates back to helping his grandmother do household chores.

"Growing up in Greensboro, North Carolina, my grandmother taught me how to mix and heat cooking grease to create lye soap," Johnson said. "Watching the chemical process unfold sparked my lifelong interest in chemistry and chemical engineering."

He hopes to instill that same interest in young people today.

"I would like to see more young people pursue a career in STEM," Johnson said. "That's the reason I participate in STEM outreach programs at Boeing. I try to be a window to what could be available to students if they choose to be in STEM — to ensure young people have opportunity."



HEATH - NEWARK - LICKING COUNTY
PORT AUTHORITY

1996 – 2021

25TH ANNIVERSARY

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Base

Continued from Page 1C

Tin Le, who started as an electrical engineer working for the Air Force here in 1987, remembers the anxiety that gripped everyone at the base when the closure was announced.

“I was afraid for my job,” Le said. “I think we all were. The Air Force offered relocation to other bases. For me and for my family, we lived here. That was the primary reason for roughing it out.”

Le said the options were moving somewhere else to continue working for the Air Force or staying here and hoping to be hired by whatever company won the Air Force contracts.

He stayed and hoped.

Today, Le is the site manager for the Bionetics Defense Engineering Services Group.

“I’ve been here ever since, but changed company names eight times,” Le said. “The outlook is a little different here now.”

Now, Le expects to retire from his job at the former Air Force base. Boeing just committed to at least 18 more years there.

“I’ll be retired before we reach half of that,” Le said.

Bob Klingensmith, a member of the nine-member Port Authority Board since its inception, said the Air Force ultimately decided the repair and maintenance of the inertial guidance system for the Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile should remain here.

“Even though they wanted to close the base, the work still needed to be done,” Klingensmith said. “If those missiles aren’t calibrated and repaired, it’s a huge problem for national defense. Had they moved the work, there would have been a huge interruption.”

The first inertial guidance systems for the Atlas and Minuteman missiles arrived for repair at NAFB in October 1962, so the location and workforce had been in place more than 30 years before the base closure.

Klingensmith said the late Wally Horton, a retired civilian Air Force engineer and the first executive director of the Port Authority, who helped create the Newark Air Force Base, then came out of retirement to save the base as a private facility.

“Wally negotiated a contract we still follow,” Klingensmith said.

Ten years ago, the Port Authority dedicated the new Horton Building, with office space and clean room, on the COATC campus

Boeing has always been viewed as the most critical part of the campus’ long-term stability.

Mike Murasky, site executive of the Boeing Guidance Repair Center, said the current stability developed over time.

“Like with any big transition, there’s always a degree of uncertainty that comes with the

unknown, but as time went on things came into focus,” Murasky said. “Just three years after the Boeing Guidance Repair Center was established, we signed a sole source 15-year contract with the U.S. Air Force to continue guidance and navigation repair work – and never looked back.”

The growth of the campus can be traced to the work of Port Authority Executive Director Rick Platt and board member Steve Layman, a local real estate agent, a decade ago, Klingensmith said.

“About 10 years ago, we paid off the mortgage on the base,” Klingensmith said. “It was going smoothly and Steve Layman said we’ve got an opportunity to do other things. Diversification became a real important step. You don’t want to be dependent on just one employer,” which was Boeing.

“Steve and Rick did an impressive job of bringing employers to the campus. They had a really good handle on the real estate business and meeting the needs of the community. A lot of credit goes to those two guys and the Port Authority board.”

Platt, who started in 2002 as the Port Authority’s third director, credited the stability of a board that has remained mostly intact through the years, and new members who begin with considerable knowledge of the Port Authority’s work.

When Platt began, the fear of losing the work here was still fresh from the base closure six years earlier. The strategy has evolved from one of playing defense to going on offense, he said.

“Some people had to leave the area, so it gets personal,” Platt said. “There was a constant fear this was going to go away. I think we’re past that and have been for some time.”

“When I was interviewed, we talked about what should our view be even 10 years out. Now, we have a longer view in terms of what we’re doing. When we look at a project, it’s more with a look forward than a look back.”

Frank Flynn, a Port Authority board member for 20 years, said when he started the current diversified campus was not envisioned.

“Initially, the focus was on getting contracts written and established,” Flynn said. “When I came on, I certainly didn’t imagine any of this. Expansion was beyond anything I was considering. Just maintain what we had.”

The campus employers now include the world’s first organic infant nutrition manufacturing facility, a brewery, a steel fabrication manufacturing operation, a producer of composite propane gas cylinders, gas compressor component manufacturer, and the Licking County 911 Center.

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PORT AUTHORITY THROUGH THE YEARS

August 1952: Construction begins. The buildings for the Air Force’s heavy press program are initiated, but the program is later canceled.

March 1961: Congressional earmark. Congressman John Ashbrook secures funding to convert the facilities in Heath to metrology and guidance system capabilities.

December 1962: Officially opens. Newark Air Force Station is officially opened and dedicated on December 13, 1962.

September 1982 Recognition. The Aerospace Inertial Guidance and Metrology Center marks 20 years since opening and is called the Air Force’s “gold watch.”

March 1993: BRAC List. Newark Air Force Base shows up on the base closure list with BRAC closure made official in July 1993.

May 1995: New owner. The Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority is established May 18, 1995 by agreement of Heath, Newark, and Licking County with its primary purpose as landlord for the soon-to-be-closed Newark AFB.

October 1996: New Partnership. The Newark AFB is closed and the Central Ohio Aerospace & Technology Center begins on Oct. 1, 1996. U.S. Senator John Glenn and Ohio Governor George Voinovich take part in the transfer ceremony. Boeing is contracted to perform guidance systems work with subcontractors, including Bionetics-DESG. AFMETCAL contracts out operation of the Air Force Primary Standards Laboratory to a private company.

January 2002: Acquisitions. As part of a long-term diversification strategy, the Port Authority acquires properties expanding from 57 acres to 350 acres.

February 2002 Metrology transition. Bionetics begins 20-year contract for operation of the Air Force Primary Standards Laboratory. The current contract runs through March 2022.

March 2005: Manufacturing. The AWACS workload is announced to be relocated from Corinth, Texas,

with Gov. Bob Taft present for a groundbreaking. This marks the first of several new manufacturing workloads.

April 2006: Groundbreaking. Samuel Packaging Systems breaks ground for its new steel fabrication plant, the first major new building in 54 years to be built on the campus.

October 2006: 10 Year Milestone. Celebration of the 10-year anniversary sees a ceremonial burning of the Air Force mortgage by the Port Authority.

November 2009: Diversification Gains Momentum. Opening of “Made in Licking County Bridge” and extension of James Parkway, the third of four major infrastructure projects.

May 2010: New Building. Bionetics-DESG agrees to expand to new offices at the Horton Building, the first of 11 speculative buildings on the campus.

October 2011: 15-Year Milestone: U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown keynotes remarks on the 15-year and 50-year milestones of defense workload in Licking County.

April 2012: Ribbon Cutting.: A ribbon cutting welcomes new Navy ESGN workload to be performed by Boeing.

March 2013: Community Advocacy. A busload of community leaders travels to Capitol Hill to advocate for key missile guidance workload to remain in Heath. It remains.

September 2013: Extension. Boeing awarded an extensions for two key Air Force contracts.

July 2015: Modernization: AFMETCAL moves to modern office space. The move is the first of several modernization projects in partnership with the Air Force.

October 2016: 20-Year Milestone. Major General Warren Berry remarks on the 20-year anniversary of a “national gem” and recognizes workforce with ties back to the base founding in 1962.

September 2021: Stability. Boeing’s missile guidance contract renewal for 18 years announced.

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Congratulations to the Heath Newark Licking County Port Authority on its anniversary and the tremendous success over these past 25 years. Southgate Corporation is so pleased to have been part of the development of the new industrial park called the Central Ohio Aerospace and Technology Center.

Jack O'Neill, Southgate Founder and Marty Morrison, Southgate Vice President at groundbreaking event in 2014, both Jack and Marty were immense supporters of the HNLCPA development efforts.



The Heath Newark Licking County Port Authority and Southgate Corporation began working together in 2006 resulting in more than 350,000 square feet of new buildings. To date, Southgate has developed five Spec Industrial Buildings.



From everyone at Southgate, thank you Heath Newark Licking County Port Authority for a great partnership

Port Authority in pictures



Adam Rhodes, left, and Kevin Atkinson, both of Granville, pose for a picture in 2013 for Homestead Beer Co. on the Port Authority campus. The company already is delivering beer locally. MICHAEL LEHMKUHLE/THE ADVOCATE



Employees take Segway tours of the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority campus and line up for a cookout outside the Horton Building in 2015 to celebrate the Port Authority's 20th anniversary. MICHAEL LEHMKUHLE/THE ADVOCATE



LiSheng Chen, left, lab director and clinical chemist at Chromocare/Firefly Diagnostics located in the Horton Building at The Base, explains the process of evaluating a patient's DNA to determine the potential effectiveness of certain prescriptions, to Mike DeWine, then Ohio Attorney General, and other guests. The Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority was celebrating its 20th anniversary in this 2015 photo. MICHAEL LEHMKUHLE/THE ADVOCATE




From left: Port Authority Executive President and CEO Rick Platt, Congressman Troy Balderson, State Rep. Scott Ryan, Heath Mayor Mark Johns, Gov. Mike DeWine, County Commissioner Rick Black, and State Sen. Jay Hottinger celebrate groundbreakings on two new spec buildings in Heath in 2019. KENT MALLET/THE ADVOCATE





Rick Platt, executive director of Port Authority, in 2008 demonstrates how the video feed from the remote video cameras is viewed and used in the Port Authority offices. ADVOCATE ARCHIVE



Dan DeLawder, of the Port Authority, speaks to the crowd during a ceremony celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Central Ohio Aerospace and Technology Center in Heath, Ohio on Saturday, Oct. 08, 2011. ZACH GRAY THE ADVOCATE



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PORT AUTHORITY 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Local port authority a win-win for our county and our country



Mark Johns
Guest Columnist
Newark Advocate
USA TODAY NETWORK

With 25 years in our collective rear-view mirrors, it might be easy for most everyone in our community to reflect on how the privatization of the U.S. Defense Department’s workload at the former U.S. Air Force base in Heath was a no-brainer. The nature of the guidance system repair work done there, the uniqueness of the facility itself, and the talented people who performed the work, could not have been replicated anywhere else. So, with the critical nature of the work being performed here, one can conclude today that if the defense department was not going to do the work itself, it was going to have to contract with some company here in Heath to do it for them.

But to have such a clear-cut perspective with the benefit of 25 years’ worth of hindsight does not give due consideration to the uncertain situation facing our community at the time. With the closure of the base, this was the first time a “privatization in place” of defense department work had been attempted anywhere.

Certainly, there had to have been some questions, doubts and unknowns in the minds of those employees working under this new arrangement. The long-term economic stability of our community and of the individual families involved were at stake.

Looking back now, there is no way to describe this arrangement as anything but an unmitigated success for all involved.

It has proven to be successful for our nation’s defense, as the vital maintenance of our country’s Minuteman ICBM arsenal and other weapon systems has been performed to the highest degree of effectiveness. The employees of Boeing have seen



Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority’s spec building in Heath was ready for a business tenant in 2015. The 50,000 square foot building at 670 Kaiser Drive is now owned by the Port Authority and long-term leased to GB Food, a British-Chinese joint venture that manufacturers soy crisps ingredients for the plant-based food industry. MICHAEL LEHMKUHLE/THE ADVOCATE

employment stability and been assets in many ways to our area communities. Our local school districts and educational institutions have had strong partners over the years in emphasizing education in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math. These 25 years of success have been built on the strong foundation of cooperation and support between the county and local communities through the creation of the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority and with the private companies involved – for many years now, Boeing. Without the attitude and approach of taking actions for the mutual benefit of business and community, these

years of prosperous co-existence could have been put in jeopardy. The recent announcement that Boeing will continue working on the Minuteman III guidance system in Heath with a \$1.6 billion contract through 2039 brings with it further certainty for the employees at Boeing, our local community and our nation’s defense. But this certainty will not result in our partnerships forged over the past 25 years being for granted. We can expect the HNLCPA to continue to make needed repairs and facility upgrades to the building in which Boeing operates. These efforts not only work to maintain the operations and workload currently per-

formed in Heath, but to help create an environment where additional work could be located here. We can expect the local cities and the county to do its part to advocate for, and look to assist when needed, Boeing and the HNLCPA in these areas as well. It will be in Boeing’s interests to continue helping to foster and encourage STEM-based education in our area for the future development of its local workforce. Over these past 25 years, so many have benefited from what has developed here in Heath. With the same approach as taken previously, all involved can look forward to many more beneficial years to come. Mark Johns is mayor of Heath.

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PORT AUTHORITY 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority by the numbers

The Advocate
USA Today Network

The Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority was created in 1995 to ensure the workload and capabilities of the Newark Air Force Base could remain in Licking County. October 2021 will mark the milestone of 25 years since privatization-in-place of Air Force workloads in October 1996. Then, the Port Authority took ownership of the property and equipment of the re-named Central Ohio Aerospace & Technology Center. Boeing, under inertial guidance system repair, and Bionetics, under an Air Force metrology contract, join AFMETCAL, housing the directorate of metrology, and Bionetics Defense Engineering Services Group as the largest customers at the Aerospace Center Base Campus.

The Port Authority has established a reputation as a government innovator. Originally, the Port Authority was thought to need upwards of 50 employees to do its work. Today, it is managed by just six employees and governed by a nine-member board consisting of community leaders. The Port Authority has grown to become the largest, self-sustaining port authority among 60 port authorities in Ohio, and in the top five overall.

Management, development, and community solutions describes the triple missions in which the Port Authority is engaged. The Port Authority is charged with property management for the former Air Force property home to critical industry. The Port Authority leases to Boeing which guarantees their presence with an option through 2028. Modernization continues. In 2020, a \$6.8 million new Force Lab was completed by the Port Authority to provide new space for the Air Force Primary Standards Laboratory. The 52-lab metrology operation is managed by Bionetics Corporation.



The Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority used a 20,000 square foot spec building at 701 International Drive in Heath to lure a food producer. It has built 11 spec buildings in 11 years with another slated for 2021. MICHAEL LEHMKUHL/THE ADVOCATE

Through major acquisitions, the Port Authority is an industrial development land bank for a ready-to-build, industrial campus and two additional properties totaling 700 acres. The Port Authority has invested in public infrastructure as part of the betterment of the Aerospace Center campus to prepare people-ready sites for manufacturers. The Aerospace Center's South Campus has emerged as a diverse manufacturing center in Central Ohio. Six new buildings opened up in 2020 including homes for five plant-based food industry companies--GB Food, Gathered Foods, KeHo Foods, Gushen America, and Nature's One--and a tripling of building space by Ariel Corporation. MISTRAS Group and Samuel Packaging Systems have also expanded here.

The Port Authority takes a role in providing community solutions for Licking County and the region. It's Potentia community solutions arm has undertaken

ken \$657 million in creative financing for regional projects in the past 19 years, including the state's first-ever sales tax conversion project with L Brands to convert sales tax dollars to public infrastructure funding. To date, over \$7 million has been leveraged for much-needed roadway infrastructure from this creative approach.

The Port Authority has also focused on advocacy for STEM learning. The Port Authority has been among the top funders of and has provided leadership to a national-model STEM initiative at The Works, encouraging young people and their parents to understand the value of science, technology, engineering, and math skills. Port Authority investments have been part of a state-of-the-art SciDome open to the public and a new STEM building at The Ohio State University-Newark campus.

Information provided by the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority.

At a glance

Economic Impact. Combined, the 20+ employers at the Port Authority's Central Ohio Aerospace and Technology Center campus represent a powerhouse of critical industry. The survey of Dec 31, 2020 economic impact found:

- 1,650 employed on the campus, a 13% increase year over year.
- 13 employers had employment level increases and seven companies experienced double-digit increases in employment.
- A combined \$127 million payroll, for a \$77,000 annual average. Asked to look ahead to 2021, the campus' customers answered favorably.
- 60% of the companies report expecting employment up in 2021.
- 40% of companies report expecting increased capital investment in 2021.

Impactful. Combined, the employers brought over \$2.8 million in local income tax revenue and ranked among the largest property taxpayers in Licking County.

STEM skills. At least one in six jobs are engineering-related or STEM fields. Critical industry here stayed open in the pandemic making from ICBM guidance systems to baby formula. The customers are engaged in defense, food, life sciences, metals, energy, and other critical industry sectors.

11 Spec Buildings in 11 Years. Two new speculatively-built industrial buildings came on in 2020. Another is planned in 2021.

Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority Board of Directors

The Advocate
USA Today Network

HEATH, OHIO – The Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority Board of Directors will take a spotlight role at the 25-Year commemorative event at the Central Ohio Aerospace & Technology Center today. Over the past 25 years, the Port Authority has experienced steady and long-term leadership on the Board, including an original appointee from 1995, Dr. Bob Klingensmith, and long-time Chairman Steve Layman.

The Port Authority Board is comprised of nine Directors appointed, three each, by the City of Heath, City of Newark, and Licking County Commissioners. Directors serve for four years, though long-term service is the standard. Six of the nine members have served more than 10 years.

Dr. Bob Klingensmith volunteered on the Base Reuse Commission from 1993-1995, the entity which guided much of the community action related to closure of the Newark Air Force Base, before being appointed in 1995 to the newly-created Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority Board of Directors. Beyond the Port Authority, he has a long history of service to the community beginning as a professor at The Ohio State University-Newark in 1971. Bob has also provided his leadership to the Licking County Community Leadership Program, Leadership Ohio, and Licking County Planning Commission.

In 2020, the Port Authority contributed toward endowment of a Klingensmith scholarship fund at Ohio State Newark. The proclamation funding the scholarship summed up the viewpoint of his fellow Board members: "The Board of Directors desires to encourage members of the community to emulate the community service track record of Bob Klingensmith."

First appointed in 1996, Steve Layman serves as Chairman of the Port Authority Board, having been elected annually since 1998. Mr. Layman brings steady leadership to the Port Authority Board and other community organizations, such as Newark Development Partners CIC. "Steve always asks the question, 'What aren't we doing that we

Current Board

- Chairman Steve Layman Appointed 1996
- Vice Chairman Fred Paul Appointed 2004
- Mr. Dave Baker Appointed 2014
- Mr. Frank Flynn Appointed 2001
- Dr. Bob Klingensmith Appointed 1995
- Mr. Jim Lenner Appointed 2015
- Ms. Kim Lust Appointed 2010
- Dr. Sharad Thakkar Appointed 2018
- Mr. William Wilson Appointed 2000

Past board members

- Mr. Girard Besanceney 1995-2000
- Mr. Jeff Crabill 1995-2001
- Mr. Dan DeLawder 1995-2000
- Mr. Daniel Dupps 1995-1997
- Ms. Valerie Hans 2000-2001
- Mr. Steve Hoar 2001-2002
- Mr. Wallace Horton 2002-2003
- Mr. Charles Manning 1995-1998
- Ms. Mary Jane McDonald 1995-2018
- Dr. Lewis Mollica 1995-2001
- Mr. John Oberfield 1995
- Mr. Ron Sheldon 2000-2015
- Ms. Erin Tschanen 2002-2007
- Mr. Bart Weiler 2008-2014
- Mr. Tim Weisert 2007-2010
- Ms. Jan Wilson 1998-2007
- Mr. Jerry Wray 2003-2004

should?" said Port Authority CEO Rick Platt. "That question has been the opener to implementing 25 years of growth and diversification. Our Port Authority reputation as risk takers often turned to for finding community solutions is very much owed to Steve."

The Port Authority is the largest self-sustaining Port Authority in Ohio and in the top five in Ohio among 60 port authorities in the state.

Information provided by the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority



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PORT AUTHORITY 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Boeing to stay in Heath

Kent Mallett Newark Advocate
USA TODAY NETWORK

HEATH — Boeing, which has repaired and maintained inertial guidance systems in Heath since 1996 for the U.S. Air Force, will continue the work here at least 18 more years, the company announced Monday.

The \$1.6 billion sole-source contract extension through 2039 allows the company to remain at the Central Ohio Aerospace and Technology Center doing its job of maintaining the readiness and accuracy of the Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile.

The Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority, which owns and manages COATC, announced in May an agreement to extend Boeing’s lease with the Port Authority for clean room and advanced manufacturing space through 2028, a \$25 million investment, with options through 2043, an investment of more than \$100 million.

Retaining Boeing, the largest tenant of the aerospace center campus, has always been viewed as crucial for the stability of COATC. Boeing’s lease has always been extended in advance of the contract extension.

“This really is a big deal,” Port Authority Executive Director Rick Platt said. “The contract extension is fantastic news. From the Port Authority standpoint, it kind of validates why we’ve spent so much time on manufacturing and STEM skills in the workforce.”

The Boeing-built ICBM weapon system has served as the enduring ground-based leg of the U.S. nuclear triad since the inception of strategic deterrence. Boeing is the only company that has continuously supported every ICBM subsystem – ground, guidance, propulsion and re-entry – over the lifetime of the weapon system, according to the company.

“As the original equipment manufacturer of the ICBM guidance system, this contract ensures the continued reliability, safety and accuracy of our nation’s land-based strategic deterrent,” said Mike Murasky, site leader for the Boeing Guidance Repair Center. “We appreciate the confidence the Air Force has demonstrated in our capability to continue providing them with the highest quality support.”

The stability of the Heath site has been a big reason the Air Force has continued to renew the contract with Boeing at the former Newark Air Force Base facility.

“The BGRC is ideal for the precision operations of navigation and guidance systems because of its location in Heath, which is the most geologically stable point in the United States other than



Hank Fitzgerald and Ron Yates of Boeing unveiled the newly renamed William E. Boeing Building in 2016 after a celebration of the aerospace company's 100th anniversary. SARA C. TOBIAS/THE ADVOCATE

Cheyenne Mountain in central Colorado,” said Megan Gessner, a Boeing Defense, Space and Security spokeswoman.

Stability, Platt said, is the key for all parties involved in the agreement.

“Stability is the reason they came in 1996, and it’s economic stability and workforce stability this contract signals, and also stability for the Department of Defense,” Platt said.

Oct. 1 marks 25 years since privatization of the workload of the former Newark Air Force Base.

Since the Air Force Base closed, the privatized aerospace center campus has grown to include more than 20 companies and 1,650 employees. And, although the base closed, an Air Force presence remains on the campus. The employers have a combined payroll of \$127 million, for a \$77,000 annual average.

The diversification of the manufacturing campus has helped the Port Authority retain Boeing, Platt said. The Port Authority is the largest self-sustaining port authority in Ohio.

“If Boeing was the only tenant, we’d be passing more costs on,” Platt said. “The lease costs are actually below 1996 when Boeing first signed on and that has a lot to do with the diversification.

“With the manufacturing and STEM skills workforce, we need to have a diversity of companies demanding those skills. Boeing benefits when we have a breadth of people seeking STEM skills.”

Boeing employs more than 600 people in Ohio, its largest supplier state. It reported \$12.1 billion in business in Ohio in 2020.

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Central Ohio Aerospace and Technology Center capabilities

The Advocate
USA Today Network

Inertial Guidance Systems Repair: With an azimuth reference system calibrating test equipment to arcsecond accuracy multiple times a month, seismically-stable piers, one-of-a-kind test stations, and one of the top 10 largest concentrations of clean room space in the world, the Aerospace Center’s inertial guidance system repair and production capability is second to none. The Boeing Company is prime contractor with the U.S. Government for aircraft and missile guidance as well as a strategic fabrication center within Boeing for electronics, guidance, and navigation repair. Boeing also maintains a FAA certification for avionics MRO.

Bionetics Defense Engineering Services Group (DESG) provides engineering services for inertial guidance systems. Bionetics DESG also has an extensive on-site research and development capability for next generation navigation systems for aerospace applications.

Metrology: The Air Force Primary Standards Laboratory (AFPSL) is located at Heath and managed by Bionetics Corporation under the Air Force Metrology and Calibration (AFMETCAL) program also located at the Aerospace Center campus. It’s the largest of the Pentagon standards labs managing 52 labs and 19 different metrology disciplines. The NIST standard for lasers is housed here. The lab is additionally certified for commercial metrology work and the onsite metrology capabilities of Boeing are second within Boeing’s vast corporate footprint. Combined, the Aerospace Center is home to the largest concentration of aerospace metrology in the world.

Clean Room Capacity: The Aerospace Center has 249,000 sq. ft. of built-out clean room space used for high-precision electronic and inertial guidance system remanufacturing and production. The concentration puts it in the Top 10 in the World. Recent consolidations have created excess capacity available for commercial lease. The facility is also maintained to UL certification as specified by the Defense Security Service.

Other Unique Facility Capabilities: The Aerospace Center is among the Top 5 largest concentrations of the aerospace and defense industry in Ohio. It also serves Boeing, which generated \$10.5 billion in Ohio business in 2016, making Ohio its top supplier state. Other capabilities unique to the Aerospace Center and available for defense and commercial work include RF Antennae Anechoic Chamber and Test Range, Beryllium Machine Shop, and Circuit Card Repair Shop.

Information was provided by the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority.



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- John Erickson, Commercial Lending
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Being part of the community means being there for the community. We're glad to support the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority. On behalf of all Park National associates, congratulations to the Aerospace Center campus workforce and leadership.