

The making of The Beacon



We conduct interviews, write stories and capture images to be placed in the paper.



The editor designs the layout and produces a draft copy for editing and revising.



Several sets of eyes review the draft and make corrections before going to print.



The editor sends the digital copy to Aerotech News and Review. The staff create a negative film and a three-foot metal plate for printing.



Technicians place the plate, ink and other materials into the giant printing press and print test copies.



Technicians adjust the ink to make the paper's color look just right.



Once the machines are calibrated, the final product prints on a jumbo roll of paper. More machines fold and cut The Beacon into its familiar shape.



So much for "hot off the press!" The Beacon actually comes out cold and wet off the press due to the use of water in the printing process.



Technicians manually remove the papers from the machine and stack them.



Employees stuff the newspapers with the week's inserts and advertisements. Sometimes, this can be done by machine.



The Beacon is now ready for transport from the facility in Lancaster to March Air Reserve Base for distribution to its many readers in the community.