Engine Test Facility upgrade
Improving exhaust handling efficiency

By Raquel March
ATA Public Affairs

Military and commercial aircraft engine developers rely on simulated altitude testing conducted at AEDC’s Engine Test Facility (ETF) for their research and development of engine capabilities. The condition of the test facility determines the quality of the test and there is an ongoing upgrade project for two of the intercoolers that aid in handling engine exhaust in the C-Plant Exhaust System. The large intercoolers, measuring 46 feet in diameter at the widest section and 62 feet long, are an important configuration for handling large volumes of engine exhaust. When a turbine engine test is conducted inside the C-Plant test cells, the engine exhaust flowing from the engine can reach temperatures of approximately 850 degrees to 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit. To create the proper conditions and pressures for a successful test, the temperature of the exhaust gas after exiting the engine must be reduced below 120 degrees Fahrenheit. To do this, the exhaust gas must be cooled below the dew point to prevent condensation and the water vapor from blocking or clogging the intercoolers. This process is accomplished with the use of water-cooled coils located in coolers WC11 and WC12 Intercoolers located in the C-Plant Exhaust yard area.

Marilyn Graves, the ATA project manager for the C-Plant Exhaust Intercooler Upgrade, explained the need for the upgrade. “The purpose of this project is to replace the aging cooling coils and demister pads in the WC11 and WC12 Intercoolers located in the C-Plant Exhaust yard area,” Graves said. “Each intercooler, or cooler, has three banks of coils – bank A, B and C – with each bank housing 30 coils for a total of 90 coils to be replaced for each cooler.

“The intercoolers cool and dehumidify exhaust gas between stages of exhaust compression to improve compressor performance and efficiency and to keep the exhaust gas temperature within working limits of the equipment. The water-cooled coils currently located in coolers WC11 and WC12 have been in service for three decades, and their cooling performance is not adequate to meet the demanding conditions of the latest engines,” Graves explained. “This project will improve the cooling performance of the intercoolers and add capacity to meet the demands of the new engines.”

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AEDC Security FAIR

Bob Rogers retires with longest years of service:

Bob Rogers is retiring as AEDC’s administrative professional in the ATA Contract, Purchasing and Property Department, after 57 years of service. (Photo by Rick Goodfriend)

57 years, four contractors

By Raquel March
ATA Public Affairs

Bob Rogers retires from AEDC, his fourth contractor employer at AEDC, after 57 years of service. Rogers, a Tullahoma resident, began his career at AEDC in November 1956 under the Arnold Research Organization (ARO), Inc. contract. “I have been employed by various contractors including ARO, Inc., Calopan Corp., Suddepp Technology, Inc., and currently ATA,” said Rogers, an administrative professional in the ATA Contracts, Purchasing and Property Department. Rogers retires as AEDC prepares for another contract transition in fiscal 2015. “Contract transitions are never easy. The learning curve expands exponentially with the complexity of the transition, which affects both productivity and morale,” he said.

After experiencing contract transitions throughout the years, Rogers is consistent in his appreciation of the workforce and work at AEDC. Rogers said, “Retirement will be an interesting experience to which I’m looking forward but I will certainly miss the challenges provided by working at AEDC and of course will miss the daily interaction with the many talented and efficient coworkers.”

When Rogers was recognized for his 50 years of service and when the Complex celebrated its 60th-year anniversary, he stated that his job was interesting and challenging because there were new things happening every day. He also felt that the person- nel of AEDC were like a family. Rogers worked with systems…

In This Issue....
Security Viewed from a Different Perspective

By Warner Holt

AEDC Contributing Writer

It is safe to assume that American citizens with AEDC are focused on doing our part to ensure the surrounding community continues to function and live as we are accustomed to. It is a privilege for personnel to have the opportunity to serve as a government contractor here at AEDC for the past 28 years, knowing that what we do here ultimately supports our warfighter. Our ATA will be a trusted partner in that strategy for setting goals, and be a trusted advisor when and where needed.

The term warfighter brings to mind different perspectives. From a tactical perspective, that what you do here at AEDC and know, of the work that you do here at AEDC and know, the warfighter brings to mind different perspectives. From a tactical perspective, that what you do here at AEDC and know, of the work that you do here at AEDC and know, of the warfighter.

In short, a goal that is not timely, have a reasonable milestone. Knowing my classes during this deployment, one of the milestones I set for myself and my friends the leaders who make up the military are those “goal setting” opportunities that are set.

To many, the warfighter perspective that what you do here at AEDC and know, of the warfighter. Our ATA centers does indeed make “a goal” an important aspect of life that everyone should embrace. If you haven’t already, try setting goals for your future. Asking yourself how you can plan for success, we can hear that the sound of a siren that what you do here at AEDC and know, of the warfighter.

To you, the ladies and gentlemen who work here at AEDC, please do not ever take for granted the importance of your job. As the individual sets the title of this editorial, we realize that what you do, set greater milestones and be concerned about the surrounding community. For my third deployment, I earned two Community College of the Air Force degrees and achieved more on my third deployment. And while in Helmand, Afghanistan, as a small team of advisors called for and received close air support, we do not ever take for granted the importance of your job. As the individual sets the title of this editorial, we realize that what you do, set greater milestones and be concerned about the surrounding community.

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By Vicki Peters

AEDC Contributing author

ATA employee suggestions result in significant cost savings, avoidance for AEDC

It is both easy and beneficial for employees to provide us with their ideas, insights, and solutions for doing better things and doing things better.

Tina Bonner

Large cranes, shown in this photo, are adjacent to the C-Plant exhaust duct to avoidance of $256,644.

When asked what his personal activities and hobbies are, Rogers responded, "A wise person is both easy and beneficial for employees to provide us with their ideas, insights, and solutions for doing better things and doing things better.

Tina Bonner

By Vicki Peters

AEDC Contributing author

ATA employee suggestions result in significant cost savings, avoidance for AEDC

For more information, employees are encouraged to talk with their department suggestion coordinators or contact Kimberly Vanzant at 454-7485.

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Armament Directorate reaches milestone with JASSM-ER

Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile Program Office

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — The Armament Directorate celebrated a milestone with the delivery of the first production lot of Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile Extended Range missiles to Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, last month.

The JASSM family of weapons, JASSM and JASSM-ER variants, are autonomous, long-range, highly survivable, conventional air-to-ground, precision guided missiles. The weapons provide focused lethality to strike high value targets. “JASSM can neutralize [targets] while keeping our nation’s combat aircrews safely outside the range of threats,” said Kenneth Bandy, JASSM Director for Test and Integration.

The delivery of the first JASSM-ERs brings to fruition a greater capability to the warfighter, according to Bandy. The JASSM Program Office, located at Eglin Air Force Base, working in close coordination with contractor partner Lockheed Martin, and Control, in Orlando, Fla., jointly spearheaded the development, testing and fielding of this newest JASSM variant. After nine years of testing, fielding began this month.

With little change in design, the JASSM’s newest accomplishment provides a weapon that can reach targets more than two and half times farther than its predecessor, while still hitting its target with accuracy. Seventy percent of the hardware and 90 percent of software are common between the two variants.

“The initial delivery of the extended range variant of JASSM gives the combatant commander the ability to reach far deeper into contested areas with lethal precision,” said Maj. Gen. Scott Jansson, Air Force Program Executive Officer for Weapons.

Although the B1-B bomber is the only current U.S. Air Force aircraft employing the JASSM-ER, there are ongoing efforts to bring it to other aircraft, including the F-16, F-15 and B-52.

“JASSM-ER delivers a revolutionary capability to the warfighter,” said Bandy. “A capability resulting from close collaboration between the end user, acquisition community, and our contractor team.”

Law Day 2014: A 50-year look at voting barriers and the democratic process

By Capt. Sarah Kness

AEDC JAG Contributing Writer

It’s early October and the year is 2016. You are deployed in support of a humanitarian operation in Eastern Europe. Even though it’s not quite Election Day in the United States, you made sure to request an absentee ballot several weeks in advance. You return to your office to see it sitting on top of your mail. Without hesitation, you fill it out, return it to the envelope, and drop it back in the mail. And just like that, you cast your vote.

About a month later you turn on the news to watch the coverage from Election Day. You can’t help but get distracted by the news coverage particularly the discussion on absentee voter ballots. Some commentators suggest the future of absentee ballots is less than certain. They cite recent controversies from previous election years as proof that our system is broken, in need of repair, and possibly elimination. Even though you made a timely ballot request, completed the ballot, and returned it to your state of registration, you can’t help but think to yourself: did my vote count?

On the first day of May we celebrate Law Day. This year’s Law Day Theme is, “American Democracy and the Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters.”

The intent is to call on Americans to reflect on the importance of the right to vote and the challenges we still face in ensuring (that all Americans have the opportunity to participate in our democracy. This year also marks the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Much time has passed since the enactment of these laws. In that time we’ve grown as a nation, not only in the eyes of the law, but culturally and socially as well. Despite such progress, news stories similar to the fictional one described above still irritate our democratic process. As Americans we are not strangers to voter barriers. It is part of our history. We study these historic events to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the democratic process because we recognize that voter barriers harm not only the voter, but our system of representative government as a whole.

Although modern day barriers to voting may not be as obvious as the Jim Crow laws of the early 20th century, they are no less insidious. This year on Law Day we encourage all voters to remember this important right and to be vigilant in protecting its integrity.

April 21, 2014

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April 21, 2014
The first contract to operate the facilities was awarded in 1950 to Arnold Research Organization (ARO), Inc., a newly formed subsidiary of Sverdrup & Parcel (S&PaP). ARO, Inc., was issued a series of contracts on a sole source basis through fiscal year 1977. However, in 1970 Air Force Assistant Secretary published a memorandum directing the Air Force to examine the possibilities of competing several large operating contracts which had been awarded only on a sole source basis for many years. As a result, the fiscal year 1978-1980 contract was the subject of a formal competitive source selection. ARO, Inc. submitted the winning offer. Contracts to follow in 1981 included Sverdrup Technology, Inc., Calspan Corporation and the Pan Am World Services, Inc. For the 1985 contract competition, the selected contractors included Sverdrup Technology, Inc., the Calspan Corporation, and the Schneider Services International, Inc. (SSI Services, Inc.). In 1990, Sverdrup Technology, Inc., the Calspan Corporation, and the Aerospace Center Support (ACS), a joint venture of Computer Sciences Corp., DynCorp and General Physics, operated the contract. The Aerospace Testing Alliance (ATA) was awarded the contract in 2003 to present.

1978 – ARO, Inc. Contract

F-15 PYLON LOADS – Aerodynamic loads on the store-attachment pylons beneath the left and right wing of this scale model F-15 jet fighter were measured during tests in the four-foot transonic wind tunnel at the Arnold Engineering Development Complex. Loads induced by single stores, rack loads and by adjacent stores were measured at conditions simulating flight at speeds from Mach No. 0.8 to 1.23 at various angles of attack and sideslip. The tests were conducted for the Air Force Armament Laboratory, Eglin AFB, Fla., by personnel of ARO, Inc. Test data were applied in designing pylons which can withstand severe aerodynamics loadings during critical flight maneuvers. Shown in photo is Don Pugh, test facility craftsman-elecctrician for ARO, Inc. (File Photo)

1981 – Calspan Corporation Contract

EMERGENCY EJECTION SIMULATED – A wind tunnel test conducted at the Air Force’s Arnold Engineering Development Complex simulated the high dynamic pressures acting on a crewman in and near the cockpit during an emergency ejection from an F-16 aircraft. The test, sponsored by the Air Force Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, simulated flight speeds of up to 380 mph. Examining the model in the center’s 16-foot cross-section transonic wind tunnel are engineers C.L. Smith and Captain Walter West. (File Photo)

1995 – Sverdrup Technology, Inc. Contract

GETTING MINUTEMAN MOTOR READY FOR TESTING IN J-6 – Workers prepare a Minuteman missile motor for testing in AEDC's J-6 Large Rocket Test Facility in support of the Minuteman Propulsion Replacement Program. The motor, which operates at a thrust load of 44,000 pounds, was tested at simulated altitude conditions, according to Dave Gibson, project manager. Testing was to verify changes being made in the wind tunnel test area as the second propulsion stage for the Minuteman I1 Intercontinental Ballistic Missile. (File Photo)

2003 – ATA (Aerospace Testing Alliance)

AEDC assists NASA’s mission for safe return to flight – AEDC assisted NASA with space shuttle component redesign efforts, critical to the safe return to flight mission. The circle in the photo indicates an area identified as the bipod ramp area of the shuttle redesign to return the space shuttle for flight. The inset photo is a 30-scale metal model of the redesigned bipod closeout area for testing in AEDC’s Tunnel C. It is an imitation of a section of the liquid oxygen feedline, the redesigned spine housing and a section of the bipod arm. (File Photo)
AEDC personnel warned about hand safety

By Senior Airman Alexis Siekert

AEDC Safety and Health

About 30,000 people – civilians, military and contract employees – report to AEDC, and the Space and Missile Systems Center Injuries and Illnesses Surveillance Survey indicates they’ve amputated a finger. Nearly 70 percent of those injuries were to fingers, with three fingers – the pinky, ring and middle – being the most susceptible. That’s according to Spaughlam’s National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC). Eighty percent of those injuries were caused by objects, with door jams being the most likely cause. The NCIPC report states that the most likely cause was either the object or by against something, or cut or pierced by an object. Amputations are con- sidered a permanent partial disability and the new missile variant is the JASSM-ER (Extended Range) variant. After nine years of testing, fielding began in April.

With little change in design, the JASSM-ER variant is autonomous, long-range, highly-defended, high-val-

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Blood Assurance announces gift card winners

Blood Assurance donor recruiter Vickie Shelton, left, and Comprehensive Occupational Resources medical technician for ATA Emily Fair, right, present gift cards to two randomly selected donors to receive the cards. ATA instrument technician Mark Floyd and ATA Technology and Engineering Analysis manager Dr. Ralph Jones, not shown, are the other winners. (Photo by Rick Goodfriend)

Readiness key to Air Force responsiveness

By Claudette Roulo

WASHINGTON (AFNS) – Air Force readiness is critical, especially as the time or place of the next crisis is never certain and is rarely what was expected, the Air Force vice chief of staff told a House panel April 10.

The range, speed and agility of the Air Force enables it to respond in hours, not days, when called upon, Gen. Larry O. Spencer told members of the readiness subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee.

“The cornerstone of our success depends on Airmen who are exploiting and mastering emerging technologies, not only in warfare, but also in space and cyberpace,” he said.

But decades of sustained combat operations have stressed the force and decreased Air Force readiness to unacceptable levels, Spencer said.

“We are finding it increasingly difficult to maintain our advantage when it comes to effectively operating in contested environments and against adversaries with access to increasing levels of advanced warfighting technology,” Spencer said.

The Air Force will maintain its ability to respond to today’s requirements, but it must also regain and further maintain the ability to operate in the most demanding threat environments, he said.

Readiness is having the right number of Airmen, with the right equipment, trained to the right skill level, and with the right support to accomplish what the nation asks, Spencer said.

“A good readiness plan is still being felt in the preservation of modernization efforts to help us maintain our technological edge,” he said. “This includes preferred munitions; live, virtual constructive environments that can replicate the threats we may face; and installation support that allows us to literally fight and power projects from our bases.”

Weapon sustainment health is also critical to the Air Force’s readiness plan, Spencer added. Logistic centers and depots contribute to the sustainment and readiness of all aircraft and equipment.

While adequate flying hour funding ensures the aircraft on our ramps are ready to fly, system sustainment readiness funding ensures we have the adequate numbers of aircraft on our ramps to fly in our missions and to complete our flying goals,” he explained.

The impact of sequestration is still being felt on Air Force readiness, Spencer said.

“The loss of time and experience flying, maintaining, supporting and integrating aircraft equated to a loss of critical readiness for our Airmen across the entire force,” he said. “Our highly sophisticated and capable force cannot be reconstituted overnight if our readiness is allowed to atrophy.”

The Bipartisan Budget Act provided only temporary relief, he said, noting that it puts the force on a gradual path to recovery but will not fix readiness in the long-term.

“Because our readiness is heavily influenced by ongoing operations, we need to ensure we can meet these requirements while also training for the full spectrum of potential threats,” he said.

Demand for Air Force capabilities has remained high following the conclusion of every major combat operation in recent history, he said.

“If we are not able to train for scenarios across the full range of military operations against a backdrop of increasingly contested air, space and sovereign environments around the world, we face unacceptable risk to mission accomplishment and to our joint forces,” Spencer said. “Properly trained and equipped, your Air Force is an indispensable hedge against the challenges of an uncertain future, he success in any conflict, in any region of the world, our nation’s indispensable advantage that we must retain as we plan for an uncertain future.” (U.S. Air Force photo/Scott M. Ash)

The Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Larry O. Spencer and Adm. Mark E. Ferguson III, the vice chief of naval operations, are greeted by Rep. Steven Palazzo (R-Miss) before Spencer testified on the Air Force Readiness Posture April 10 before the House Armed Services Committee in Washington, D.C. “Readiness is critical for your Air Force,” Spencer said. “The Air Force’s accomplishment and to our joint forces,” Spencer said. “Properly trained and whenever we’re called upon,” Spencer said.

Today’s Air Force is equipped, your Air Force can set the conditions for accomplishment and to our joint forces,” Spencer said. “Properly trained and whenever we’re called upon,” Spencer said.

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AFROTC cadets participate in orientation flight

Master Sgt. Marshall N. Rice Jr. refuels a B-2 Spirit over New Jersey April 2. Air Force ROTC cadets observed the mission as part of the 108th Wing's orientation flight program. The orientation flight offers the cadets an opportunity to observe the pilots and aircrew perform their jobs in a real-world environment. Rice is a boom operator with the 108th Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard assigned to Joint Base McGuire Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. The B-2 is assigned to the 509th Bomb Wing, Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. (U.S. Air National Guard photo/Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen)
WASHINGTON (AFNS) – The F-35 Lightning II will enhance combat capabilities, project U.S. power and deter potential adversaries, Air Force officials told members of the Senate Armed Services Committee’s subcommittee on tactical air and land forces in a hearing on tactical aircraft programs there, April 8.

“"The F-35 will form the backbone of U.S. air combat superiority for generations to come," said Lt. Gen. Charles R. Davis, second from left, testifies April 8 before the Senate Subcommittee on Air and Land in Washington, D.C. Witnesses from other services at the hearing included Lt. Gen. Christopher C. Bogden, U.S. Air Force Program Executive officer; F-35 Lightning II Joint Program Office; Vice Adm. Paul A. Grosklags, Principal Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition; and Lt. Gen. Robert E. Schmidle Jr., Deputy Commandant of the Marine Corps for Aviation; Davis is the Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition. (U.S. Air Force photo/Scott M. Ash)

Lt. Gen. Christopher Bogdan, the F-35 Lightning II Joint Program Office executive officer. “It will replace the legacy tactical fighter fleet of the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps with a dominant, multirole, fifth-generation aircraft.”

The fighter jet is scheduled to be at Marine bases in the summer of 2015, with the Air Force receiving aircraft the following summer, officials said.

“It takes the combined efforts of all of our military services and the whole of the government to deter, threat and defeat and enemy,” said Lt. Gen. Charles Davis, the military deputy to the assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition. “The Air Force is an active partner in Department of Defense planning that will shift our emphasis from today’s wars to a broader range of challenges and opportunities.”

The hearing also included testimonies from Vice Adm. Paul Grosklags, the principal military deputy to the assistant secretary of the Navy for research, development and acquisition; and Lt. Gen. Robert Schmidle, the Marine Corps deputy commandant for aviation.

All men agreed the way of the future is the F-35, especially with its technological advances and enhanced operating capabilities.

“"My team is focused and committed to doing the very best we can for the warfighters, taxpayers and our partners, to ensure that the F-35 meets the needs of all our nation’s defenses," Bogdan said. “To that end, our team is rising to the challenge of managing this very large, complex program with integrity, transparency, accountability and discipline, to ensure that we deliver and deliver the warfighting capability the country needs and expects.”

Bogdan noted budget constraints, and told the committee affordability remains his top priority for this aircraft.

“"Our chief (of Staff) and our Secretary (of the Air Force) have been very clear that there are some enduring capabilities your United States Air Force provides, and these are missions they are expected to perform at any time, on any given day," Davis said. “We have a very challenging situation as we go forward. There are no easy choices; there are some choices that are easier than others that will provide the enduring capabilities the United States expects the United States Air Force to provide.”

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