

# Aircraft Operations Training Seminar 2006: America's Warfighters Depend on Us

by Ms. Ann Jensis-Dale, Congressional and Public Affairs Advisor, and Ms. Michelle Brignac, Public Affairs Student Intern, DCMA Aeronautical Systems and Naval Sea Systems Divisions

**D**efense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) Aircraft Operations (AO) recently held its annual Aircraft Operations Training Seminar (AOTS) in Reno, Nev. AOTS was attended by all DCMA AO personnel directly and indirectly responsible for the safe operation of government aircraft worldwide. These personnel from Headquarters, the Aeronautical Systems, International and Special Programs Divisions and contract management offices worldwide were provided a rare opportunity to gather in a central location to discuss issues facing AO and its ever-growing mission. The AOTS is a requirement for all DCMA AO military personnel, and the theme of this year's conference was "America's Warfighters Depend on Us." "Every aircrew, every safety officer, everyone in this room supports our Service members," stated Navy Capt. Dave Moroney, DCMA's executive director of Aircraft Operations, during his remarks.

Over the course of three days, a variety of training lectures, seminars and meetings were conducted, and each training opportunity was full of vital information and guidance. Sessions covered many topics, including AO safety and specific safety incidents; policy and standardization; new policies and procedures; risk management; and a panel discussion by

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members of the DCMA Office of the General Counsel, followed by the popular question and answer session with General Counsel members regarding contracts and the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement Ground and Flight Risk clause.

Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 Pete Phillips and Army Lt. Col. Thomas Strauss, Department of Evaluations & Standardization (DES) representatives, provided a fascinating presentation that discussed wartime operations tempo and how it is affected by flight safety. During the presentation, the attendees discussed in detail actual DCMA flight or ground mishaps — what went wrong, how problems were corrected and lessons learned.

The seminar provided AO personnel with an invaluable opportunity to gather in one location and learn from one another face-to-face rather than through e-mail and over telephone lines. The seminar also acted as an ideal setting for the annual Aircraft Operations awards ceremony. The awards, listed on the following pages with information about each recipient, recognize both outstanding civilian and military personnel and their contributions not only to AO but, more importantly, to America's warfighters throughout the world.