

# Aviators “Sharpen the Sword”

*By Dick Cole,  
Chief, Public Affairs*

“The Biggest Little City in the World” — Reno, Nev. — was once again home to this year’s aircraft operations and training seminar, March 3-6. The theme for this year’s conference was “Lessons from the Field.”

“AOTS began in 1990 as the government flight representative conference and was developed to conduct training, share ideas and refine policy among [Defense Contract Management Agency] flight operations personnel,” said Navy Capt. David Moroney, the agency’s director of aircraft operations. “The legacy of outstanding aircraft operations training and teaming continued again this year.”

The seminar and conference is an annual safety and training requirement for all military flight operations personnel. “While we all have specific training in leadership, management and various technical areas, AOTS is designed to broaden the outlook of our aviators and sharpen their professional skills,” said Moroney. “This seminar gives all of our aviators and aviation support personnel a first-hand

look at some recent trends and issues within both DCMA and within their parent services and helps to increase the professional knowledge of our folks. Sharpening the sword, so to speak,” the captain said.

“Success as a DCMA aircraft operations enterprise team member depends on interpersonal relationships and effective teaming with our counterparts in government and industry,” said former DCMA Director Keith Ernst — himself a former Marine aviator. “As part of a customer-focused, performance-based agency, our aircraft operations people help our industry partners to meet their contractual obligations and, ultimately, are responsible for delivering aircraft to the fight. This conference helps our aviators to strengthen their support network and share ‘lessons learned’ with their colleagues, and I am proud to be a part of it.”

In addition to the Aircraft Operations staff from DCMA headquarters, personnel from the Aeronautical, International and Special Programs Divisions, as well

as aviation safety specialists from each of the military departments, attended AOTS.

One of the highlights of the conference is the presentation of annual awards for superior performance. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Verdon served as narrator for the awards ceremony while Moroney and Ernst presented the winners with their awards. “For this year’s competition, we implemented a recommendation from the contract management office commanders to separate organizations into ‘large’ and ‘small’ categories to make the competition [more fair],” said Verdon. As Verdon read the names and units of the winners, each came forward for congratulations and an award presented by Moroney and Ernst. The award winners are listed in the box on page 19.

“The aircraft operations team goal should be to create a win-win situation in which the contractor’s business objectives are met by providing the warfighter with quality aircraft that meet operational requirements safely, on time and within budget,” said Moroney. “During this week in Reno, I think the aircraft operations community pulled together and accomplished our objectives.” 

**“The legacy of outstanding aircraft operations training and teaming continued again this year.”**  
— Capt. David Moroney

# at Annual Training Seminar

## Aircraft Operations Award Recipients

**DCMA Aeronautical Systems Division and DCMA Aircraft Operations Contract Safety Specialist of the Year** — Howard Etkind, DCMA Aircraft Integrated Maintenance Operations, Greenville, Texas

**DCMA International Division Contract Safety Specialist of the Year** — Anthony Marcibowski, DCMA Northern Europe

**DCMA Special Programs Division Contract Safety Specialist of the Year** — Greg Gerdes, DCMA Dallas, Texas

**DCMA Aeronautical Systems Division and DCMA Aircraft Operations Quality Assurance Representative of the Year** — Cathy Seifert, DCMA Lockheed Martin, Fort Worth, Texas

**DCMA International Division Quality Assurance Representative of the Year** — Roy Fontain, DCMA Korea, Sacheon Air Base, Republic of Korea

**DCMA Aeronautical Systems Division and DCMA Aircraft Operations Aviation Maintenance Manager of the Year** — Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Kerry Rose, DCMA AIMO

**DCMA International Division Aviation Maintenance Manager of the Year** — Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Richard Rentze, DCMA Northern and Southern Europe

**DCMA Special Programs Division Maintenance Manager of the Year** — Kerry Smith

**DCMA Aeronautical Systems Division and DCMA Aircraft Operations Safety Officer of the Year** — Air Force Maj. Paul Holst, DCMA-ALA Lockheed Martin Marietta

**DCMA Aeronautical Systems Division and DCMA Aircraft Operations Government Flight Representative of the Year** — Air Force Maj. Gregory Newman

**DCMA International Division Safety Officer of the Year** — Air Force Maj. Timothy Tart, DCMA Southern Europe

**DCMA Special Programs Division Safety Officer of the Year** — Air Force Lt. Col. Robert Munson, DCMAS Palmdale, Calif.

**DCMA Aeronautical Systems Division and DCMA Aircraft Operations Chief of Flight Operations of the Year** — Air Force Lt. Col. Jeffrey Blalock, DCMA-ALA Lockheed Martin Marietta

**DCMA International Division Chief of Flight Operations of the Year** — Air Force Maj. Christopher Ridlon, DCMA Korea, Gimhae International Airport, Republic of Korea

**DCMA Aeronautical Systems Division and DCMA Aircraft Operations Individual Mobilization Augmentee of the Year** — Air Force Lt. Col. Paul Barger, DCMA Boeing, Seattle, Wash.

**DCMA International Division and DCMA Aircraft Operations Aviation Program Team of the Year (Small**

**Activity)** — DCMA Northern and Southern Europe

**DCMA Aeronautical Systems Division Aviation Program Team of the Year (Small Activity)** — DCMA Bell Helicopter, Amarillo, Texas

**DCMA Aeronautical Systems Division and DCMA Aircraft Operations Aviation Team of the Year (Large Activity)** — DCMA AIMO-Kelly, Greenville, Texas

**DCMA International Division Aviation Program Team of the Year (Large Activity)** — DCMA Korea, Gimhae International Airport, Republic of Korea

**DCMA Aeronautical Systems Division and DCMA Aircraft Operations Flight Activity of the Year (Small Activity)** — DCMA Lockheed Martin Systems Integration, Owego, N.Y.

**DCMA Special Programs Division Flight Activity of the Year (Small Activity)** — DCMAS Seattle, Wash.

**DCMA Aeronautical Systems Division Flight Activity of the Year (Large Activity)** — DCMA AIMO, Birmingham, Ala.

**DCMA International Division and DCMA Aircraft Operations Flight Activity of the Year (Large Activity)** — DCMA Korea, Gimhae International Airport, Republic of Korea



**Aeronautical Division and DCMA Contract Safety Specialist of the Year** Howard Etkind, DCMA AIMO Kelly, Greenville, TX



**International Division Contract Safety Specialist of the Year** Anthony Marcibowski, DCMA Northern Europe



**Special Programs Division Contract Safety Specialist of the Year** Greg Gerdes, DCMA Dallas, Tex.



**Aeronautical Division and DCMA Quality Assurance Representative of the Year** Cathy Seifert, DCMA Lockheed Martin, Fort Worth, Texas



**International Division Quality Assurance Representative of the Year** Roy Fountain, DCMA Korea, Sacheon AB, Korea



**Aeronautical Division and DCMA Aviation Maintenance Manager of the Year** Senior Master Sgt. Kerry Rose, DCMA AIMO Greenville, Texas



**International Division Aviation Maintenance Manager of the Year**  
Accepting for Senior Master Sgt. Richard Rentze, DCMA  
Northern and Europe, is Maj. Timothy Tart



**Special Programs Division Aviation Maintenance Manager of the Year**  
Accepting for Kerry Smith, DCMA Wichita, Kan., is Philip  
Yacovoni, DCMA Special Programs South



**Aeronautical Division and DCMA Aviation Safety Officer of the Year**  
Air Force Maj. Paul Holst, DCMA-ALA Lockheed  
Martin Marietta



**Aeronautical Division and DCMA Government Flight Representative of the Year**  
Accepting for Air Force Maj. Gregory  
Newman, Lockheed Martin, Fort Worth, Texas, is Air Force Col.  
Dennis Hunt



**International Division Government Flight Representative of the Year**  
Air Force Maj. Timothy Tart, DCMA Southern Europe



**Special Programs Division Government Flight Representative of the Year**  
Air Force Lt. Col. Robert Munson



**Aeronautical Division and DCMA Chief of Flight Operations of the Year Air Force Lt. Col. Jeffrey Blalock**



**International Division Chief of Flight Operations of the Year Air Force Maj. Christopher Ridlon**



**Aeronautical Division and DCMA Individual Mobilization Augmentee of the Year Air Force Lt. Col. Paul Barger**



**International Division and DCMA Aviation Program Team of the Year (Small Activity) DCMA Northern and Southern Europe**



**Aeronautical Division Aviation Program Team of the Year (Small Activity) DCMA Bell Helicopter, Amarillo, Texas**



**Aeronautical Division and DCMA Aviation Program Team of the Year (Large Activity) DCMA AIMO-Kelly, Greenville, Texas**



**International Division Aviation Program Team of the Year (Large Activity) DCMA Korea, Gimhae International Airport**



**Aeronautical Division and DCMA Flight Activity of the Year (Small Activity) DCMA Lockheed Martin Systems Integration, Owego, N.Y.**



**Special Programs Division Flight Activity of the Year (Small Activity) DCMA Seattle**



**Aeronautical Division and DCMA Flight Activity of the Year (Large Activity) DCMA AIMO Birmingham, Ala.**



**International Division Flight Activity of the Year (Large Activity) DCMA Korea, Gimhae International Airport, Republic of Korea**



All photos by Dick Cole, DCMA Public Affairs