

AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS HOLDS ANNUAL TRAINING SEMINAR, RECOGNIZES AWARDEES

By Sam Rousso, DCMA Public Affairs

The theme for this year's Aircraft Operations Training Seminar, held March 9–11 at a hotel outside Denver, was "Aircraft Operations, the Critical Link to the Warfighter."

More than 300 people attended the annual event, which kicked-off with an early breakfast meeting with Charlie M. Williams, Jr., Defense Contract Management Agency director, for all the enlisted military personnel, regardless of career field. During the meeting, Williams addressed the agency's reorganization and then fielded questions from attendees — most dealing with military-specific issues.

Williams was then the first speaker during the conference's general session where he readdressed the agency's reorganization as well as the need to achieve and maintain high levels of performance. Williams told attendees that training is the key to maintaining high performance within the agency.

The Senior Leadership Team in attendance included Marie Greening, Aeronautical Systems Division executive director; Navy Capt. David Graff, DCMA International



Attendees at the Aircraft Operations Training Seminar listen to one of the many speakers who addressed them during the conference in Denver March 9–11. (Photos by Sam Rousso, DCMA Public Affairs)

commander; and James Norris, Special Programs Division executive director. Navy Capt. Mark Feallock, Aircraft Operations executive director, hosted the conference. Feallock said the conference should be an educational experience for all attendees. "Our goal is to provide an exceptional experience of relevant information that our people can take back to their workplaces and put to use," he said. As part of that educational experience, participants were given a two-volume reference book of policies, instructions and regulations.

A featured event of the conference's first day was the presentation of Aircraft Operations' awards. "These

awards recognize the best of the best," Feallock said. "The agency can be proud of all of them."

Later in the conference, retired Air Force Maj. James Brooks spoke to attendees about his experience as a fighter pilot in World War II. Brooks is credited with 13.5 kills. For his actions, he was awarded the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross with one oak leaf cluster and the Air medal with 21 oak leaf clusters. Each oak leaf cluster signifies a subsequent award.

Following World War II, he accepted a regular commission in the Air Force and was a participant in the first all-jet dogfight on Dec. 22, 1950, over Korea. After leaving the

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Air Force, he joined North American Aviation as an engineering test pilot. He was also later the first president of the Fighter Aces Association and a past president of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots.

During the afternoon session, Feallock, Greening, Norris and Graff, in turn, discussed their divisions and how each will relate to the new agency organization.

The second day of the conference was dedicated as “Safety Day.” Along with new initiatives to enhance flight safety, discussion centered on what is happening in the safety arena, including analyses of several service flight incidents that led to loss of aircraft.

A Navy flight surgeon then addressed attendees, debunking the advertised effects of energy drinks and nutritional supplements.

A major portion of the conference was dedicated to breakout sessions that occurred on all three days. Subjects varied from military service, job specialty and agency divisions.

On Thursday, the conference’s final day, the subject of the breakout sessions got more specialized and included topics like explosive site plans, cockpit foreign object debris, root cause analysis and surveillance plans. There was even some lightheartedness as a specialized version of “Jeopardy” was played to test attendees’ retention of the knowledge they picked up during the conference.

“All in all, this was our most successful AOTS yet,” Feallock said. “Participants were asked to hand in critiques at the end of each day, and the ratings were sky high. Some also advanced very good suggestions that we’re looking to implement next year.”

AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS AWARDEES

OUTSTANDING CONTRACT SAFETY SPECIALIST

Aeronautical — Brent Abbott

International — Douglas Birnbaum

Special Programs — Robert Stinemates

Contract Safety Specialist of the Year — Brent Abbott

OUTSTANDING QUALITY ASSURANCE REPRESENTATIVE

Aeronautical — Christine Louton

International — Warren Gray

Special Programs — Robert Ryan

Quality Assurance Representative of the Year — Warren Gray

OUTSTANDING AVIATION MAINTENANCE MANAGER

Aeronautical — Air Force Master Sgt. John D. Baker

International — Air Force Master Sgt. Mark C. Strader

Special Programs — Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Ronnie J. Phillips, Jr.

Aviation Maintenance Manager of the Year — Air Force Master Sgt. Mark C. Strader

AVIATION SAFETY OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Army Chief Warrant Officer
Dennis S. Busch

OUTSTANDING GOVERNMENT FLIGHT REPRESENTATIVE

Aeronautical — Air Force Maj. Jim E. Martin

International — Air Force Maj. Samuel K. Joplin

Special Programs — Air Force Maj. Steve Jacque

Government Flight Representative of the Year — Air Force Maj. Steve Jacque

OUTSTANDING CHIEF OF FLIGHT OPERATIONS

Aeronautical — Air Force Lt. Col. Charles M. Rogers

International — Air Force Maj. Nate Tart, Jr.

Chief of Flight Operations of the Year — Air Force Maj. Nate Tart, Jr.

INDIVIDUAL MOBILIZATION AUGMENTEE OF THE YEAR

Air Force Maj. Steve Farmer

OUTSTANDING AVIATION PROGRAM TEAM (SMALL)

Aeronautical — DCMA Wichita, Kansas

International — DCMA Northern/Southern Europe

Special Programs — DCMAS West

Outstanding Aviation Program Team (Small) of the Year — DCMA Northern/Southern Europe

OUTSTANDING AVIATION PROGRAM TEAM (LARGE)

Aeronautical — DCMA Boeing Long Beach, Calif.

International — DCMA Korea, Gimhae International Airport

Outstanding Aviation Program Team (Large) of the Year — DCMA Boeing Long Beach, Calif.

OUTSTANDING FLIGHT ACTIVITY (SMALL) OF THE YEAR

DCMA Boeing Mesa, Ariz.

OUTSTANDING FLIGHT ACTIVITY (LARGE)

Aeronautical — DCMA Boeing Philadelphia, Pa.

International — DCMA Korea, Gimhae International Airport

Outstanding Flight Activity (Large) of the Year — DCMA Korea, Gimhae International Airport



Navy Capt. David Graff, right, Defense Contract Management Agency International commander, speaks with retired Air Force Maj. James Brooks, who spoke to conference attendees about his heroic actions during World War II.



Aircraft Operations Training Seminar attendees listen during one of the many educational breakout sessions offered during the course of the three-day gathering in Denver March 9–11.



Members of the agency's Senior Leadership Team pose with award winners at the Aircraft Operations Training Seminar in Denver in March.