



Air Force Association

AFA's technology showcase offered conference attendees a glimpse of tomorrow's advanced capabilities.

Photos by Guy Aceto and Joe Orlando



Opening Day: The entrance hall fills up in anticipation of the grand opening of the 2005 technology exposition (above). Excitement is high, as attendees often get a sneak peek at new products and systems still on the drawing board or recently declassified.

At right, a cutaway model shows the internal arrangement of Boeing's stealthy X-45C Joint Unmanned Combat Air System. The view inside shows a Joint Direct Attack Munition loaded in the weapons bay.



Boeing's Rod Lekey talks software integration with Maj. Rick Warren, an A-10 pilot attending the Army's Command and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth, Kan. The other branches of the armed forces were heavily represented at the AFA exposition, since the products on display and the conference offer ever more to interest an increasingly joint military.



Technology Exposition 2005



(Left to right) SSgt. Angel Roberts, SrA. Erin Putnam, and SrA. Season Groves of Langley AFB, Va., check out an ultralight unmanned reconnaissance helicopter. Like the major aerospace companies, many USAF agencies and suppliers use the exposition to broaden service member knowledge about missions or products.

A model of a Tracker mini-unmanned aerial system (right) is prominently placed at the booth of European Aeronautic Defense and Space. Unmanned aircraft, now seen in nearly all military operations, were promoted at the expo. Shown as it would look a second before impact (far right) is a Lockheed Martin Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile. The weapon was recently declared operational on B-52 bombers.



A large model of the KC-767A aerial tanker anchors the Boeing booth. The Air Force is expected to launch a competition for new tankers next year. A key theme of both the exposition and the symposium was the need for the Air Force to get under way with long-deferred modernization and recapitalization.



Lt. Gen. Michael Wooley (second from left), head of Air Force Special Operations Command, stops by the Bell Helicopter display to talk about the CV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor.

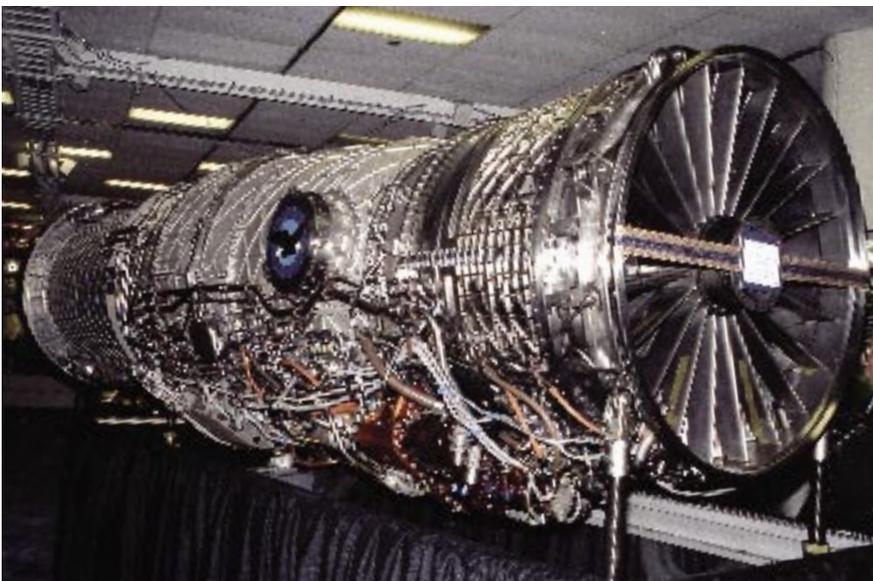
Below, an F-35 Joint Strike Fighter model shows off its chin-mounted, faceted sensor and targeting aperture.



The entire Class of 2006 of the Air Command and Staff College—some 600 strong—attended the Conference and exposition. Above, some of them collect product literature and, of course, souvenirs.



At the Textron booth above, visitors view (top to bottom) full-size replicas of a Small Diameter Bomb equipped with range-extending wings; a 500-pound Joint Direct Attack Munition with both satellite and laser guidance systems; and the AIM-9X, the newest air-to-air missile in the inventory.



Pratt & Whitney brought the F135 engine prototype that powered the X-35 concept demonstrator, forerunner of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. This power plant was headed to the Smithsonian's Udvar-Hazy Center in Virginia, an annex to the National Air and Space Museum, where it will be displayed next to the X-35.