

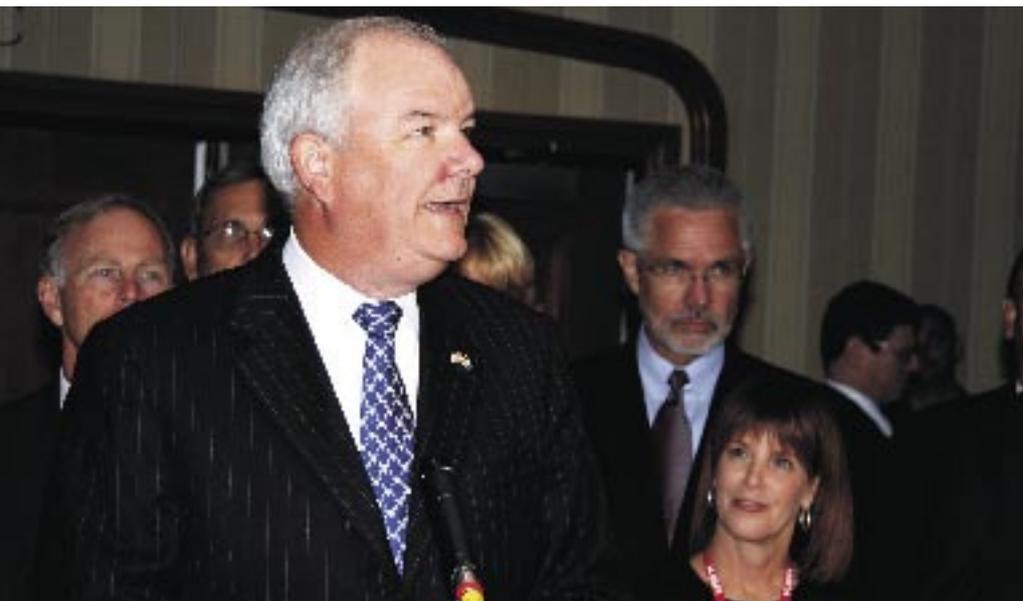


Air Force Association

The latest and best in aerospace technology was on display at AFA's annual showcase.



Counterclockwise from left: A colorful banner marks the entranceway to the world's foremost exhibition of advanced aerospace technologies, which this year saw thousands of blue-suit and other visitors. ■ Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne speaks at the opening of the exhibition halls. ■ The Raytheon exhibit concentrated on its new precision weapons, noting improvements to systems such as the GBU-12 (top) and AGM-88 HARM. ■ Textron displayed its M1117 Armored Security Vehicle, operationally in service with USAF security forces. ■ ATK, a specialist in rockets and launch vehicles, displayed models of new boosters derived from the space shuttle system.



Photos by Guy Aceb



Technology Exposition 2006



Counterclockwise, from above: Lockheed Martin displayed a model of the Polecat, a tailless, high-altitude UAV demonstrator that may prove useful in development of a long-range strike system. ■ Northrop Grumman's booth contained a model of a conceptual long-range manned bomber, one that created quite a buzz among attendees. ■ Boeing's mock-up of a next generation C-130 cockpit attracted Air Command and Staff College student (and C-130 pilot) Maj. David Panzera (seated), TSgt. Shawn Beyers (left, pointing), and Maj. Chad Fager (right). ■ Shown, in model form, at Lockheed's booth were, top to bottom, the F-16C, C-130J, A-10A, and F-117. ■ Donald Zweifel of AFA's General Doolittle Los Angeles Area Chapter (center) brings together Walter Jordan (left), a World War II P-38 pilot, and Bruce Bauer, who helped design that fighter. Interesting meetings of this type are fairly common at the exposition.





Left: Boeing presented a model of its entry in the Air Force's combat search and rescue aircraft competition—the twin-rotor HH-47 version of the famed Chinook. ■ Left, below, a model of the US101 (Lockheed Martin, AgustaWestland, Bell Helicopter-Textron) contender for the CSAR-X aircraft. ■ Below, a rotary 50-caliber gun sprouts from the full-scale mock-up of the US101 helicopter.



Above, an Air Force Research Laboratory technician briefs two visiting students from Air Command and Staff College—Col. Wamidh Mahmood of the Iraqi Air Force and Maj. Mike Perez, US Marine Corps.



Clockwise from right: Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley, the newly named director of the Air National Guard (and former AFA official) meets with industry representatives. ■ Lockheed presented a scale model of the company's Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile, known as JASSM. ■ At the EADS booth, a model of the Northrop Grumman-EADS KC-30 tanker competitor was on display.



Photos by Guy Aeselo



Left: At the Northrop Grumman exhibit area, a crowd listens to a high-technology targeting system briefing, one of many such events in the exposition hall. ■ Below, a full-size portable UAV, Evolution-XTS, was on display. It was built by L3 Communications and BAI Aerosystems and is in use today as an ISR platform.



Small photos above, top to bottom: Two members of the F-22 acceptance team—MSgt. Verlyn Rogge (l), crew chief, and TSgt. Brian Wurster, engine specialist—meet with Lockheed F-22 representative Bob Moore. ■ A model of

a concept demonstrator, the RATTLS, drew many onlookers. ■ Famed aviation artist Keith Ferris autographs a print of his work, which depicts the C-17, F-15E, F-16, F-22 and F-35, for Nancy Melendez, a vice president for AFA's

Frank Luke Chapter. ■ Above, Gen. Bruce Carlson, commander of Air Force Materiel Command, checks up on the people hosting AFMC's popular series of exhibits.