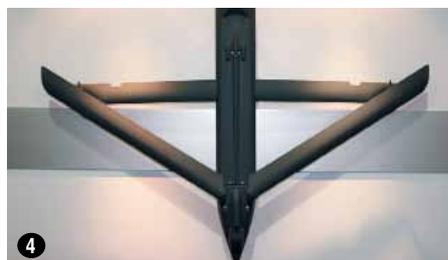




Aerospace technology of a high order went on display at AFA's annual showcase.



AFA's annual Technology Exposition, held this year in a new venue, was bigger and better than ever. More space allowed many exhibitors to bring full-size equipment for display. [1] Italian Air Attaché Col. Giorgio Russo (r) talks with an Alenia representative displaying a model of a potential T-38 trainer replacement, the M-346. [2] A cutaway of Northrop Grumman's E-8 Joint STARS highlighted the company's intelligence-surveillance-reconnaissance theme. [3] Air Force Research Laboratory displayed a cutaway version of the Small Diameter Bomb with a range-extension kit attached. [4] MBDA's Diamond Back is a strap-on wingset to extend the range of the SDB. [5] Retired Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Richard Myers (l) signed copies of his new book. Here, he greets Vinton Cerf, vice president of Google, another speaker at the conference. [6] Maj. Rob Butkovich and Maj. Andy Riggs, students at Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., talk with a Lockheed Martin rep about the AT-6, a counterinsurgency version of the Hawker Beechcraft T-6 Texan II trainer.



Exposition 2009

Photos by Guy Aceto



[1] Boeing offered models of the CV-22 (foreground) and a notional high-altitude reconnaissance UAV. [2] SSgt. Josefina Sullivan studies the F136 engine on a touchscreen at the Pratt & Whitney booth. Looking on are SMSgt. James Irwin (l) and TSgt. Thomas Speranzi, from Scott AFB, Ill. [3] Northrop Grumman models chronicle the company's work on the B-2, F-22, F-35, and F/A-18, as well as a notional next generation bomber. [4] The EADS booth showed off models of proposed aircraft, including an airframe, already in use by the Army. [5] General Electric featured its F136 engine, a potential alternative power plant for the F-35 fighter. [6] An F-35 model equipped with all-European munitions: MBDA Storm Shadow, Meteor, and ASRAAM.



[1] A full-size Mobius unmanned combat aircraft dominated L-3's booth. [2] This large cutaway model showed the new capability of Hawker Beechcraft's MC-12 Liberty Project Aircraft, rushed to combat in Afghanistan. [3] The "chin" of the F-35 will house its electro-optical targeting system, shown by Lockheed Martin in full scale. The stealthy system replicates the capabilities of today's strap-on Sniper targeting pod.



[4] Lockheed Martin F-35 test pilot Jon Beesley, in one of many video presentations at the company's display. [5] Northrop Grumman's booth featured its B-2 "stealth bike," a fully functional motorcycle seen on The Learning Channel's "American Chopper" TV series. The larger venue allowed Northrop Grumman to add a "second story" level to its booth. [6] A futuristic fast attack counterinsurgency helicopter model, courtesy of Sikorsky. [7] Those blades are really moving: A Pratt & Whitney engine mock-up, in cutaway.





[1] Maj. Isaac Moreetsi from South Africa (center) and Maj. Hayk Karapetyan of Albania—students at the Air Command and Staff College—visit with Air National Guard representative MSgt. Annette Brown. The students were able to take advantage of programs on a wide variety of Air Force-related topics. **[2]** Boeing's expansive booth featured an information system activated by an electronic wristband. Push a button, and more info would be sent directly to your e-mail address. **[3]** Air Force ROTC students from Georgetown and Howard Universities in Washington, D.C., took part in a CyberPatriot exercise, sponsored by Science Applications International Corp., which supplied the cyber "enemy" at right. **[4]** Lockheed

Martin's booth featured prominently its status as USAF's primary fighter-maker, with large-scale models of the F-22 and F-35. **[5]** Deputy Defense Secretary William Lynn speaks at the exposition ribbon-cutting ceremony. **[6]** AFRL's booth was, as usual, a

cornucopia of interesting projects and budding technologies likely to make their way into future USAF systems. **[7]** Full-size unmanned aircraft "flew" over much of the exhibit hall. This reconnaissance drone is made by BAE Systems. ■