

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE

88th Air Base Wing Office of Public Affairs

Air Force Materiel Command

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MEDIA ADVISORY

U.S. Air Force to fly first-ever all-engine flight using biomass and conventional jet fuel blend

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio –The U.S. Air Force is scheduled to fly an A-10 Thunderbolt II jet aircraft at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. Thursday, March 25 on a blend of biomass-derived and conventional JP-8 jet fuel. This is the first-ever flight of an aircraft powered solely on a biomass-derived jet fuel blend.

The biomass-derived fuel used for this event is referred to as hydrotreated renewable jet (HRJ), part of a class of fuels derived from either plant oil or animal fat feedstocks. The feedstock source of the biomass powering the A-10 demonstration is camelina oil, a flowering plant in the same family as mustard, cabbage, and broccoli, but not used as a food-source. Biomass-derived fuels offer the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. While additional testing will be conducted to explore the full extent of their benefits, test data show that particulate emissions are reduced during combustion of biomass-derived fuels.

This event marks the next phase in the Air Force's alternative aviation fuel program and represents a milestone in worldwide development of alternative aviation fuels, paving the way for future Air Force HRJ certification flight tests of the F-15 Eagle, F-22 Raptor, and C-17 Globemaster to begin in summer 2010.

The A-10 demonstration flight supports the Air Force's 2010 Energy Plan goal to be prepared to cost-competitively acquire 50% of domestic aviation fuel from an alternative fuel blend by 2016.

"The Air Force recognizes its role as a leader in energy management," said Mr. Terry Yonkers, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment and Logistics. "This demonstration underscores our commitment to advancing technologies that increase our use of renewable energy and reduce our consumption of imported foreign oil."

The Air Force Research Laboratory and Air Force Alternative Fuels Certification Office are based at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. Both organizations, along with the 46th Test Wing at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla, are part of Air Force Materiel Command.

– 30 –

NOTE TO EDITORS: News media are invited to cover this historic flight. Those interested in attending the event live at Eglin AFB, Fla., and participating in a short Q&A with Air Force senior leaders, energy officials and test pilot should call the Eglin Public Affairs office at (850) 882-3931 or email publicaffairs@eglin.af.mil before noon on March 24.

Following the flight, the Air Force Research Laboratory's lead alternative fuels researcher, the A-10 test pilot, test engineer and experts from the Air Force Alternative Fuels Certification Office will participate in an extended Q/A media availability via teleconference to discuss the alternative fuels program and the flight demonstration. To attend, please contact Air Force Public Affairs at (703) 693-7293 or email Michelle.Coghill@pentagon.af.mil before 9 a.m. on March 25.