



Boeing hosts November TeCMEN, provides FWB SOF facility overview

TeCMEN took the show on-the-road as the November meeting was hosted by Keith Castleberry, Supplier Management Senior Manager, at Boeing's Fort Walton Beach facility. Keith gave those attending an overview of Boeing's activities here.

This site is the home of Boeing's Special Operations Forces programs group which modifies, tests, repairs and services aircraft belonging to the United States Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC). Major programs include the AC-130U Gunship with improvements to mission capability and the Integrated Weapon Systems Support Program (IWSSP). It also supports the CV-22 tilt rotorcraft under the Interim Contract Support (ICS) program with future business opportunities geared toward life cycle sustainment for Process Based Logistics of this aircraft.

Under a contract awarded in 1987, Boeing manufactures and supports the AC-130U Gunship aircraft, a major advancement over previous generation gunships. Existing C-130 air-

frames receive the latest sensor technologies and fire control systems that, together, substantially increase the gunship's combat effectiveness.

Sensor Suite

The most significant changes in the Gunship are enhancements and expansions to its sensor suite. Both the All Light Level Television and the Infrared Detection System can scan a full 360 degrees, allowing the gunship crew to search for and find targets much faster. The target detection and recognition ranges of both sensors are nearly double those of previous gunships.

Navigation System

The Gunship integrates ring-laser gyro technology with precision locator capabilities of the Global Positioning Satellite, or GPS system. This provides the aircraft with its exact position and the precise location of any target detected by its sensors, reducing workload, speeding up target location and improving the precision of targeting information for

other friendly forces.

Fire Control System

Today's Gunship is more effective than its predecessors, due to the addition of a GAU-12, 25 mm Gatling gun (similar to those on AV-8B Harrier aircraft). Firing at 1,800 shots per minute and mounted on a fully trainable gun mount, the GAU-12 provides twice the capability of its former 20 mm cannons, a longer stand-off range and greater accuracy. The gunship also carries both a 40 mm Bofors cannon, capable of up to 100 shots per minute, and a 105 mm howitzer that can be fired six times a minute. To maximize accuracy, both large guns also are installed on trainable gun mounts.

Control Systems

A highly integrated system of controls and displays increase operational effectiveness and enhance situational awareness. The Gunship crew maintains full knowledge of the combat environment, system status and mission requirements to

employ the gunship's weapons and sensors more quickly and effectively.

IWSSP

Under the Integrated Weapons System Support Program (IWSSP), Boeing is applying its integrated approach to Global Services & Support to maintain, sustain and upgrade the AFSOC fleet of uniquely configured C-130 aircraft. The 10-year, \$1.2 billion program was awarded to Boeing in October 1998 and provides engineering and logistics support and systems modifications for the AFSOC fleet of 87 C-130-variant aircraft. This fleet consists of:

- MC-130P Combat Shadow refueling aircraft
- MC-130E Combat Talon I penetrating tanker aircraft
- MC-130H Combat Talon II infiltration/resupply aircraft
- AC-130U and AC-130H gunships

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AF Technology Transfer (T2) programs on tap for December meet

What's available in Air Force Technology Transfer (T2) programs is the topic for the December meeting as we welcome Jill Barfield from the Munitions Directorate, Air Force Research Lab on Eglin.

T2 was created to assure all Air Force science and engineering activities promote the trans-

fer or exchange of technology with state and local governments, academia, and industry. These activities enhance the economic competitiveness of industry and promote the productivity of state and local governments while leveraging the Department of Defense (DoD) research and development investment. They can also serve

academia by opening up expanded areas of exploration and cooperation. The end result is a strong industrial base the Air Force and DoD can utilize to supply their capability shortfalls.

Jill will discuss how partnering with the Air Force can be readily accomplished through a

variety of T2 agreements, such as collaborative research, testing of innovations or products, providing excess equipment to schools, or licensing Air Force technologies.

Mark your calendars now to attend—Tuesday, December 9, NWFSC-UWF Emerald Coast Campus in FWB, 7:30 a.m.



**Economic Development
Council of Okaloosa County**

Reminders:

- The presentation from the November meeting is not available.
- The next TeCMEN meeting is Tuesday, December 9, 7:30 a.m., at the UWF-NWFSC Emerald Coast Campus in FWB. Start time is 7:30 a.m.
- The January 2009 TeCMEN meeting will be held Tuesday, January 13 at the UWF-NWFSC Emerald Coast Campus in FWB. Featured speaker is Andrea Moore, Regional Manager, International Trade Development, with Enterprise Florida. She will be discussing business opportunities with Sweden. Start time is 7:30 a.m.

Technology Coast Manufacturing & Engineering Network (TeCMEN) is comprised of EDC-member companies promoting growth and advancement within Okaloosa’s technology-based business community through the association, collaboration, and contract-teaming of its manufacturing, engineering, technology and defense industry clusters. Using a collaborative concept, these companies join together to compete for and complete both defense-contracting and other substantial business opportunities that are too expansive for a single business to undertake.

TeCMEN member companies represent every major manufacturing and engineering discipline required to support requirements of both the military missions and the civilian community including:

- *Aerospace & Aviation*
- *Information Technology*
- *Micro-Electronics*
- *Biometric Technology*
- *Precision Machining & Metal Fabrication*

Assisting in the EDC’s commitment are Okaloosa’s learning institutions Northwest Florida State College, the University of West Florida, and the University of Florida Research & Engineering Education Facility.



For more information on TeCMEN, contact Jeff Fanto at jeff@florida-edc.org

TeCMEN visit’s Boeing’s FWB facility (con’t from page 1)

The goal of IWSSP is to reduce the overall cost of ownership of the SOF C-130s, and Boeing is applying its innovative support concepts and expertise as the world’s largest aircraft manufacturer to provide the best possible value, fastest cycle time and preeminent quality. For example, Boeing has developed its own in-house repair capability for the sophisticated SOF C-

130 subsystems at the SOF Global Services & Support Center to reduce both cost to the customer and turnaround time.

Special Operations Forces Support Systems Center

Boeing established its SOF Support Systems Center in June 1998 to serve as the company’s Special Operations focal point and bring life-cycle customer support for

current Boeing SOF aircraft and future programs into one facility. Located two miles from AFSOC headquarters at Hurlburt Field, the facility performs engineering and software support, including operation of a software integration laboratory, and quick turnaround component repairs. It operates with the ISO 9001 quality certification and a Software Engineering Institute

Level 3 rating.

Boeing has extensive experience in SOF aviation. The company is the prime contractor for the AC-130U modification program and delivered 13 of the advanced gunships to AFSOC. Other Boeing SOF aircraft include the MH-47E Chinook and MH-6 helicopters. In addition, 50 specialized CV-22 tilt-rotor aircraft have begun entering AFSOC service.

For additional information on Boeing’s Special Operations Forces programs group in Fort Walton Beach, go to www.boeing.com/defense-space/support/maintenance/special_ops/index.html.

Coming events at the EDC

“Vision of Progress” TV show for December features Don Vanderhoek, Director of Information Systems for Okaloosa County. Don does a great job in explaining (in layman’s terms), the value of our fiber optic system in Okaloosa County. Our discussion also explores the new Florida LambdaRail connections throughout the county and what they will achieve in terms of added security, improved educational distant learning capabilities and improved health care benefits for the residents of Okaloosa County. Tune into Cox Channel 6 Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m., Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. and Fridays at 10:30 a.m.