

Bilateral Agreement

## Employees, Russian delegation Participate in technical program

□ *Aerospace, defense and commercial communities join  
At Fort MacArthur; visit coincides with historic milestones*

**A**erospace employees from Systems Planning and Engineering were among members of the aerospace, defense and commercial communities participating in a technical program with a delegation of Russian Federation Ministry of Defense officials.

The visit was conducted Oct. 20-27 at Fort MacArthur under the Bilateral Environmental Cooperation for Space Activities Program. This was the second visit by a Russian delegation to the Space and Missile Systems Center (SMC) under the bilateral agreement.

This year marks the 43<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the USSR launch of Sputnik and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Aerospace Corporation. In their opening remarks, Dr. Rod Gibson, senior vice president of Systems Planning and Engineering, and Col. Alexander Tyryshkin, Russian Federation head of Environmental Cooperation, Directorate of Chief of Ecological Safety of the Armed Forces, paid recognition to the mutual history of the space programs in the two countries.

The U.S. delegation was chaired by Les Bordelon, executive director of the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards Air Force Base.

The agenda for the visit included the technical selection of Russian Federation proposals on hydrazine treatment technologies with potential applications to U.S. Department of Defense installation. In addition to Aerospace personnel, representatives from

SMC, the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, Headquarters Air Force Space Command, and government contractors participated in the discussions.

Dr. Valerie Lang, Aerospace senior project engineer, Office of the Corporate Chief Engineer, presented the status of hypergolic treatment at Vandenberg Air Force Base, including updates since the 1998 exchange. The Russian Federation has been primarily concerned with contamination from unsymmetrical dimethylhydrazine rocket fuel, while the United States is also interested in applications to monomethyl hydrazine and anhydrous hydrazine fuels.

Dr. William Ailor, director of the Center for Orbital and Reentry Debris Studies (CORDS), presented a proposed collaboration consisting of reentry breakup modeling and a reentry experiment. He also described environmental and policy issues associated with orbital and reentering debris.

Dr. Russ Patera, CORDS senior engineering specialist, Dr. Val Chobotov, CORDS senior project engineer, and Dr. Wayne Goodman, systems director of Systems Engineering, also participated in the meeting. The Aerospace participants provide support to SMC's Environmental Management Branch (SMC/AXFV). John Edwards, Chief of AXFV, is responsible for originating and sustaining the bilateral program.



Eric Hambourg



Joe Ramirez, SMC

(Above) Members of the U.S. and Russian delegation are, front row, from left, Dr. Bill Ailor (Aerospace), Les Bordelon (Edwards AFB), Col. Alexander Tyryshkin (Ministry of Defense—MOD), and Dr. Anatoly Kuzin (MOD); second row, Dr. Wayne Goodman (Aerospace), Dr. Sergey Gatilov (MOD), Dr. Valerie Lang (Aerospace), and Dr. Anatoly Tarabara (MOD); third row, John Edwards (SMC), Dr. Rod Gibson (Aerospace), Col. Alexander Uvarov (MOD), and Thomas Huynh (SMC); back row, Laura Mitchell (Tetra Tech), Col. Alexander Schepachev (MOD), and Scott Newquest (AFCEE). (Left) Gibson, right, presents an Aerospace mug to Tyryshkin, who led the Russian delegation.

“The Russian delegation seemed genuinely interested in Aerospace’s capability in the hydrazine cleanup and in debris and reentry prediction technologies,” said Gibson.

“They invited Dr. Ailor to visit Moscow with the return U.S. delegation to follow up on his proposal. And, Col. Tyryshkin personally thanked Dr. Lang for her efforts in making the visit a success.”