AEROSPACE

ORBITER NEWS

News, announcements, and more.

Aerospace Honors Our Veterans with Keynote, Volunteering Opportunities

October 31, 2024

AMV and Aerospace Cares have joined together to offer a variety of opportunities to honor veterans, engage with Aerospace's veteran community, and give back throughout the month.

As Veterans Day approaches, Aerospace is committed to showing appreciation for the brave men and women who have served in the Armed Forces. This year, Aerospace Military Veterans (AMV) is excited to offer a variety of events and volunteer opportunities that honor our veteran colleagues and encourage collaboration across our workforce.

“Aerospace leadership has designated November as appreciation month for our Military/Veterans and their families,” said Lance Jones, incoming national president for AMV. “Our events throughout November highlight the unique strengths and experiences veterans bring to our workforce. By participating, we honor their contributions and deepen our commitment to supporting those who have dedicated their lives to service.”

Aerospace's partnership with Wreaths Across America has become an annual tradition for some employees and their families. The team is still accepting volunteers to join their event at the Arlington National Cemetery in December. See the Aerospace Cares link below to sign up.

Starting Nov. 1, AMV will launch a series of initiatives that run through mid-December, affording everyone at Aerospace a chance to get involved, no matter where they are located. Of note, the Aerospace Cares team is also launching a Veterans Day of Service nationwide. Through Aerospace Cares, employees across the country are invited to participate in volunteer events that support veterans and strengthen local communities, demonstrating gratitude through impactful acts of service.

“Our aim with these events is to create meaningful opportunities for our employees to engage with and support their local communities,” said Lianne McGinley, associate director of Corporate Social Responsibility. “By honoring veterans through dedicated service and support, we strengthen the connections between Aerospace and the communities where we work and live.”

Event Highlights

- **Through Nov. 30: Veterans Day of Service**
  - This year marks Aerospace’s first Veterans Day of Service, organized by Aerospace Cares. Employees are encouraged to participate in local volunteering efforts that support veteran support projects.
- **Through Nov. 30: Weekly Book Drawing and Giveaways**
  - To encourage new membership in AMV, the Employee Resource Group is hosting weekly book drawings throughout the month. New members will automatically be added to the drawing, and the earlier they sign up, the more chances they’ll have to win.
- **Through Dec. 9: Toys for Tots Drive**
  - Donation boxes for Toys for Tots have been delivered to Aerospace’s Chantilly campuses and are ready to receive holiday gift donations.
- **Nov. 4: Veterans Day Keynote Event**
  - AMV’s signature event this year is a reside chat delivered by Maj. Gen. Troy Endicott, director of Global Space Operations for Headquarters U.S. Space Command. The event, titled “Space Force: The First Five Years,” will take place in person at Aerospace’s Colorado Springs facility and will offer insights into the evolution and future of the U.S. Space Force. The event will also be broadcasted via Teams but will not be recorded.
- **Nov. 10: Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall Washing**
  - As part of Aerospace’s Veterans Day of Service, employee volunteers and their families will be cleaning the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall to honor and remember those killed during the Vietnam War.

- **Nov. 4-12: Table for One Tribute**
  - In tribute to fallen and missing service members, AMV will set up a "Table for One" display at major Aerospace locations, including Chantilly, El Segundo, Colorado Springs, Huntsville, and, added this year, Albuquerque.
- **Nov. 16: Operation Gratitude Assembly Day**
  - Join in on assembling care packages for the troops with Operation Gratitude at their event in Chatsworth, Calif. You can assemble and pack boxes, write letters, create paracord lanyards, or produce battalion buddies. Sign up on Operation Gratitude's website here.
- **Dec. 14: Wreaths Across America**
  - Every December on Wreaths Across America Day, there are wreath-laying ceremonies, which present a day to remember the fallen, honor those who serve and teach the next generation the value of freedom. Join an event near you at one of more than 4,100 additional locations across all 50 states, at sea and abroad.

Joining AMV

AMV's mission is "to foster a knowledge of, and appreciation for, the military services of the United States, and those men and women who served honorably throughout our nation's long and proud history." Membership in AMV is open to all employees, and the group is aiming to grow in the coming year. By joining, employees can connect with colleagues, support Aerospace's military veteran community, and participate in events, year-round.

Membership in AMV is open to all employees. The group is hosting a book drawing throughout the month for all new members who sign up during November.

"To celebrate the vast contributions of our military, we invite you to join our efforts by becoming a member of the AMV in the month of November," Jones said. "By joining, you'll be a part of meaningful initiatives and events that bring our Aerospace community closer together."

As Aerospace gears up to commemorate Veterans Day, all employees are encouraged to participate in events and giving opportunities offered through the AMV and Aerospace Cares collaboration. Whether by becoming an AMV member, engaging in volunteering efforts, or attending signature events, each person's involvement helps strengthen the overall impact Aerospace makes.

"Let's make this season one of gratitude, service and unity," McGinley said.

Solution Accelerator: Accelerating Innovation to Meet the Nation's Needs

October 28, 2024

In today's rapidly evolving space environment, it is crucial to anticipate concepts and capabilities the nation needs to solve the hard problems of the future. To stay ahead of the curve, Aerospace has launched Solution Accelerator, a game-changing office that streamlines rapid, mission-ready solutions for government customers through collaboration across defense, civil and commercial space, propelling innovation forward.

"The purpose of Solution Accelerator is to seize opportunities at the intersection of technological innovation and mission need," said Tanya Pemberton, Executive Vice President of Aerospace. "It will be important to transition solutions to deliver the maximum impact and value for the nation's space enterprise. Aerospace's expertise, experience and ability to connect across diverse mission areas makes us uniquely positioned to lead from the front and support our partners in getting ahead of strategic hard problems."

Aerospace's Solution Accelerator is dedicated to facilitating the transition from cutting-edge technical research and prototyping to advanced capabilities that will meet the mission needs of today and shape the space systems and architectures of tomorrow. This bold initiative ensures high-priority solutions are delivered to government customers with urgency and impact.

Solution Accelerator emphasizes rapid innovation to address the nation's need to maintain leadership in space.

Innovation With Agility

Established in July 2024, Solution Accelerator is Aerospace's response to the growing need for bold, proactive solution developments to address the critical challenges of an increasingly contested space domain. Led by Brian Cameron, Executive Director of Solution Accelerator, the initiative focuses across six key areas to enhance agility, speed and resilience:

- **Speed and Impact:** Committing to efficiency and ensuring substantial national-level impact.
- **Risk-Taking Breakthroughs:** Encouraging calculated risks to pioneer unconventional solutions.
- **Independent and Agile Operations:** Streamlining decision-making through autonomous funding.
- **Fostering Strategic Partnerships:** Bringing together government, commercial, and academic partners to drive innovation.
- **Workforce of the Future:** Supporting continuous workforce development in a rapidly changing landscape.

Solution Accelerator operates under six focus areas to ensure solutions are delivered quickly and have significant impact across the space domain.

These focused efforts will enable Solution Accelerator to drive measurable and significant impact across the full mission lifecycle for Aerospace's government customers, driving integration and delivering the building blocks to advance end-to-end capabilities.

Approaches to Delivering Rapid Solutions

Harnessing Aerospace's unparalleled depth and breadth of technical expertise, Solution Accelerator channels these innovation efforts by focusing on a two-pronged approach through Grand Challenges and Advanced Concepts.

Grand Challenges take into consideration the most pressing issues to national security space and identifies specific actionable paths and strategic partnerships that can lead to advantageous solutions. In the face of global challenges, such as the Great Power Competition and Dynamic Space Operations' demand for advancements, the ability to rapidly transition advanced technologies to strengthen more agile and resilient space systems is paramount.

Through Advanced Concepts, Solution Accelerator nurtures groundbreaking ideas and matures them into reality by aligning closely with customer mission needs and forging a shared vision for the future. Whether it's developing next-generation small satellites, enhancing GEOINT capabilities, or refining agile acquisition strategies, the office accelerates prototyping, streamlines acquisition, and delivers capabilities that bridge the gap between innovation and implementation.

By concentrating on both Grand Challenges and Advanced Concepts, the initiative enhances the speed and impact of Aerospace's innovation efforts across the space industry.

Aerospace is continuing to prioritize innovative solutions, solving the industry's hardest problems.

Solution Accelerator will play a pivotal role, fostering collaboration and connections across national security and commercial space to drive game-changing capabilities with speed. By prioritizing agility, broad impact and rapid delivery of innovative solutions, Solution Accelerator demonstrates how Aerospace is capable of leading from the front to solve hard problems.

"Solution Accelerator is built on the principles of interdisciplinary collaboration, calculated risk-taking, and mission focus," Cameron said. "With these priorities, Solution Accelerator is poised to deliver independent, innovative solutions with speed and national impact."

This article is also available on Aerospace.org.

Aerospace's CSPS Highlights What US Leaders Need to Know with Space Agenda 2025

October 24, 2024

Addressing the rapidly evolving space domain demands continuous efforts from government leaders as well as the organizations who support them. Providing the incoming administration with research on the implications of this expansion of space innovation enables informed decision making and future planning. In support of the nation's leaders, Aerospace's Center for Space Policy and Strategy (CSPS) recently released **Space Agenda 2025**, a series of papers highlighting the major space challenges facing policymakers in the upcoming years.

"There has been an enormous amount of change in the space enterprise with significant progress in spacebased applications," said Jamie Morin, Vice President of Aerospace and Executive Director of CSPS. "We're using communications technology and remote sensing in ways that were not reality just four years ago. And we're grappling with accelerating climate change that is deeply dependent on space technology for understanding, mitigation and remediation. Space technology is bringing the world together, but also raising new security challenges that are very real and playing out on the world stage."

Throughout the Space Agenda 2025 papers, CSPS experts discussed their research and its importance for broader space domain themes. In a briefing in public, these experts discussed further the applications of this research, facilitating a better understanding of the three identified pressing challenges facing US leadership, as well as emphasizing an imperative to prepare for the future space enterprise.

The Strategic Foresight team for CSPS produced an issues map, highlighting the future themes government leaders need to address.

“Across national security, civil and commercial space, we spent time finding the most critical themes we need to advance on,” said Kara Cunzeman, Director and Founder of Strategic Foresight for CSPS. “These next four years are going to be crucial for policy makers to ensure we’re not only safeguarding US leadership in space, but also charting future value for the American people.”

Strengthening Leadership and Competitiveness

The first critical issue identified by CSPS was Strengthening Leadership and Competitiveness. The rapidly expanding space domain continues to bring new challenges for the US’s ability to manage proliferated space systems, as well as the space-enabled capabilities that emerge from this expansion.

Angie Bukley, Technical Fellow and Senior Scholar in CSPS, discussed the significance of cislunar exploration in the future of US space leadership, emphasizing the need for the US to take lead in guiding safe operations for establishing cislunar infrastructure.

“If we’re going to continue our progress for cislunar space utilization then we need to continue to invest in our lunar exploration and exploitation, not only through the Artemis campaigns, but also through the CLPS (Commercial Lunar Payload Services) program, and our national security space missions.” said Bukley.

Cislunar exploration is bringing global competition and the US must invest in strengthening its position.

In addition to the emerging interest in cislunar space, CSPS also discussed the developing attention on Arctic resource competition. Karen Jones, Senior Project Leader in CSPS, shared insight on the global interest in protecting territorial, economic and military interests in the Arctic region and how the US can utilize its space capabilities to strengthen its leadership.

“It is a crucial time for satellite systems to support affordable and persistent connectivity, navigation and observation,” said Jones. “The Arctic has a front row seat for understanding the effects of a warming planet, with the melting sea ice hastening the race for resources.”

Catalyzing Commercial Space

CSPS experts then weighed in on the many opportunities for US space leaders to leverage commercial space and the innovations this partnership brings.

“The Department of Defense has the opportunity to leverage commercial space capabilities and services that offer promising national security and defense applications. They can use compelling services and systems without having to pay the development costs of building those capabilities from scratch,” said Sam Wilson, Systems Director in CSPS. “The dilemma is that these companies now have less private and public investment in their capabilities, which cannot sustain them, and many would not be profitable in the absence of government revenue.”

Wilson discussed the value of commercial space capabilities and the impact they could have in strengthening national security space, as well as US space leadership overall.

Charting Future Value

With the recent rapid growth of commercial space, issues pertaining to oversight, governance and regulation begin to rise to the surface. Growing demands for space capabilities are met with concern for the future of space operations. Ensuring space sustainability, according to Brian Weeden, Systems Director in CSPS, begins with proactive reforms and regulations across US leadership.

"It is critically important for the next US administration to continue efforts to modernize and reform space regulations," said Weeden. "Without prioritizing and implementing reforms, the US could have consequences in continued growth, the commercial-based sector and the ability of the government to leverage commercial capabilities, all impacting US leadership in space."

Government leaders need to prioritize ensuring space sustainability for the future of space operations.

The future of space is not only determined in modernized policy, but also with preventative actions to improve space traffic management and debris mitigation in response to the increased number of space operators.

"The challenge with contested space and a potential conflict is that you can end up suddenly with a lot of hazardous debris," said Marlon Sorge, Technical Fellow in CSPS and Executive Director of Aerospace's Center for Orbital and Reentry Studies (CORDS). "Then, the combination of a contested environment along with this congestion, has potential negative consequences in terms of maintaining the sustainability of space. It's critical that the policy makers think ahead to ensure that we've got a structure in place for a robustly sustainable space operating environment."

Actions need to be taken to improve space traffic management and debris mitigation in response to the rising number of space operators.

Planning for the future space domain requires a comprehensive understanding of the opportunities and issues at stake for US space leadership. With the release of Space Agenda 2025, Aerospace's CSPS provided its expertise and research to bring focus on the value of space for the future of the nation's capabilities as well as helping shape recommendations for U.S. space efforts.

*To learn more on these topics, visit the **Space Agenda 2025** website.*

Watch the public briefing on YouTube.

Introducing the Space Systems Engineering Nexus

October 22, 2024

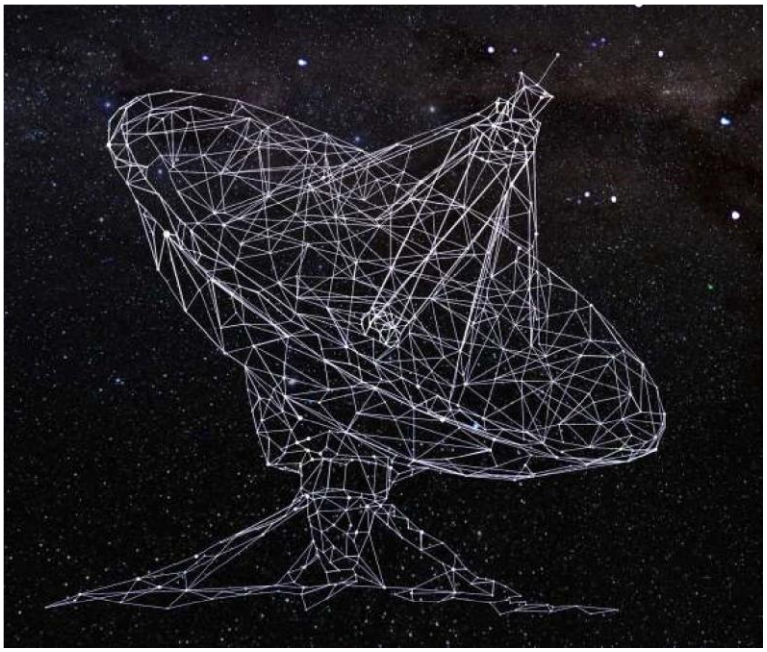
Written by guest author Darin Schow, Senior Project Engineer in the Corporate Chief Engineer's Office.

In the modern world of technology, access to information is a matter of clicking a button or posing a simple question to artificial intelligence (AI). But how do you know the information you receive is trustworthy and comes from a credible source? In our world of Space, we need reliable and credible information to assist in making informed decisions. But where do you get such credible information for your space engineering questions? The Aerospace Space Systems Engineering Nexus portal is your go-to resource, empowering you with the knowledge and tools to navigate these changes.

The Space Systems Engineering Nexus page contains many useful tools, publications, and valuable information on mission assurance. One such tool is the Mission Assurance Baseline (MAB) for space and ground systems. The MAB is a set of tasks to increase confidence in achieving mission success for a satellite system and associated ground systems. In addition to the MAB, there is the Supply Chain Risk Management Capabilities Center, a comprehensive information repository for the space enterprise and other civil and commercial industries.

Have you ever wondered where to find the latest and greatest mission assurance guidelines for mission classes? Well, you are in luck. You can find them here on the Space System Engineering Nexus. This page is not just a knowledge repository but a practical toolkit that equips you with the information you need to make good decisions in space acquisition. It has several publicly released documents available that can assist you in becoming successful in your space mission.

The Space System Engineering Nexus page also houses the major points discussed at selective mission assurance conferences, such as the Adaptive Mission Assurance Workshops (AMA). The AMA is not just a conference but a community of industry and government mission assurance experts coming together to discuss the approach to mission assurance for a rapidly changing space domain. At this workshop, experts developed “calls to action” to focus efforts, and you can be part of this collaborative effort.

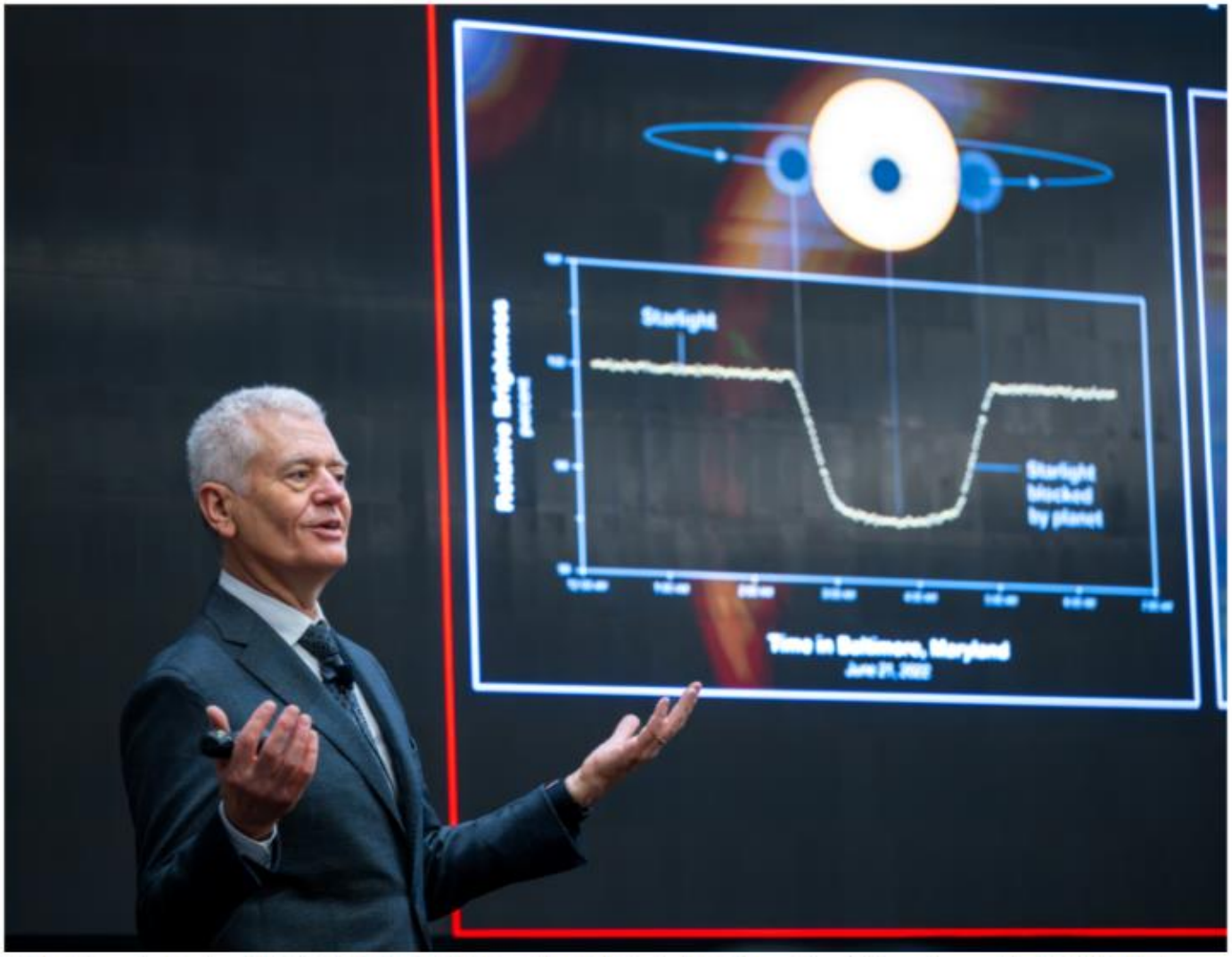


Space Mission Assurance is a tough nut to crack. The information above is just the tip of the iceberg of overcoming challenges in space mission assurance**.** If you are a Mission Assurance professional, we look forward to hearing your thoughts on improving the page with the types of resources and tools you would like to see. Your feedback is invaluable in making this resource more useful and comprehensive.

*This article was originally published on **Getting It Right**, which focuses on industry collaboration for mission success by sharing lessons learned, best practices, and engineering advances in response to the nation’s toughest challenges. It is published by the Aerospace Corporate Chief Engineer’s Office and may be reached at gettingitright@aero.org.*

Distinguished Speaker Dr. Mark Clampin Explores NASA’s Search for Life Beyond Earth

October 15, 2024



Dr. Mark Clampin, director of NASA's Astrophysics Division, delved into the technical innovations that would power the NASA Habitable Worlds Observatory, including advanced optics and coronagraph technology that can allow scientists to image planets directly, despite the intense glare of their host stars.

NASA’s ambitious plan to explore potentially habitable exoplanets was the focus of the latest Distinguished Speaker Series event, featuring Dr. Mark Clampin, director of NASA’s Astrophysics Division. As an invited guest speaker of the Aerospace Technical Fellows, Clampin offered attendees a compelling overview of the proposed Habitable Worlds Observatory, a next-generation mission designed to search for signs of life on distant planets.

In response to the National Academies for Sciences Decadal Survey — published in 2021 (Astro2020) — NASA proposed the Habitable Worlds Observatory to survey nearby stars for potentially habitable exoplanets, and then examine them for biomarkers that might indicate the presence of life. Drawing on his expertise in exoplanet research and space telescope development, Clampin highlighted the science that motivated NASA’s recommendation for the observatory and emphasized the importance of the observatory’s ability to study atmospheric conditions, assess habitability and even look for biosignatures.

In his talk, Clampin delved into the technical innovations that would power the observatory, including advanced optics and coronagraph technology that allow scientists to image planets directly despite the intense glare of their host stars, and the lessons learned from previous large missions that have driven NASA's philosophy. He also discussed the broader implications of this work for both the search for extraterrestrial life and humanity's understanding of planetary systems, and the plans for advancing the Habitable Worlds Observatory over the next few years.

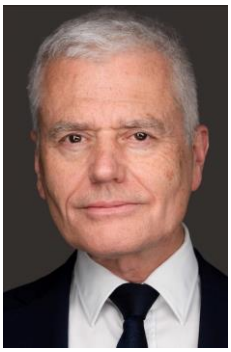
Dr. Mark Clampin (center left) is joined by (from left to right) Technical Fellow Francesco Bordi, Aerospace Vice President and Chief Technology Officer Dr. Debra Emmons, and Dr. Henry Helvajian, Technical Fellow and co-lead for the Distinguished Speaker Series, after Clampin's presentation.

The Aerospace audience left the session with a deeper appreciation for NASA's strategic approach to unlocking the mysteries of the universe, as well as the monumental challenges and opportunities ahead in humanity's quest to answer the age-old question: "Are we alone?"

Distinguished Speaker Series

The Aerospace Distinguished Speaker Series is a bi-monthly presentation and discussion hosted by the Aerospace Technical Fellows featuring external thought and technical leaders in their fields. These distinguished guests share their insights on innovations, technical developments and future directions that are relevant to Aerospace and its customers. All employees are welcome to attend. Recordings of past speakers are available here.

Biography



Dr. Mark Clampin is the Astrophysics Division Director in the Science Mission Directorate at NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC. He previously served as the Director of the Sciences and Exploration Directorate (SED) at the Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) where he led the Astrophysics, Solar System, Heliophysics, Earth Science Divisions, and the high-performance computing office. During his tenure at GSFC he was the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) Observatory Project Scientist developing scientific requirements and overseeing their implementation.

His research interests focus on studying the formation and evolution of planetary systems and astronomical instrumentation. Clampin has designed space and ground-based telescope instruments including adaptive optics systems, coronagraphs and detectors.

Photo Gallery: Aerospace’s Lifelong Stargazers Celebrate International Astronomy Day

October 15, 2024

International Astronomy Day is a global event that invites everyone to explore the universe and share their love of astronomy. It occurs twice a year, in spring and fall, on the Saturday closest to a quarter moon in each season.

Aerospace’s engineers and scientists tackle some of the most complex challenges in space, driven by lifelong fascinations with what the sky (and beyond) holds. Their work is fueled by that same wonder and curiosity. This past weekend, Oct. 12, 2024, marked the annual autumnal observance of International Astronomy Day. To celebrate, we asked our employees to share their best photos beyond the horizon and tell us a little about why they love staring up at the stars. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Here are just a few examples of the incredible photography work submitted. For the full collection and more information about each photo and what inspires our engineers and scientists to keep looking to the stars, check out the full LinkedIn article here.

Milky Way galaxy [Submitted by Chris Day]

“I was at my mother’s house (out in the country with a lot less light pollution) to take these pictures of the Milky Way galaxy.” — Chris Day, xLab

2018 Strawberry Moon over Montblanc, as seen from Geneva, Switzerland. [Submitted by Xavier Ferrier]

“Not the most technically crisp of photos, but hopefully evokes a sense of Swiss summer nights. There’s always something quite bewildering about observing light that’s taking a non-instantaneous amount of time to travel to our eyes! It takes an average of 1.3s for light to reach Earth from the moon. If the moon’s average orbital speed is 1.022km/s, does that mean that by the time we see it, is the moon technically physically a full kilometer elsewhere in space from where we observe it in that moment?” — Xavier Ferrier, Enterprise Effects Division

Aurora Borealis over Mt. Green Utah, May 2024 [Submitted by Heather Wille]

“Space is peaceful. Watching the night and early morning sky allows for self-reflection and realization on how immense space is.” — Heather Wille, Nuclear Operations

Exiting totality of the full solar eclipse over Brunswick, Ohio, April 2024 [Submitted by Michael Malec]

“Space is all around us, omnipresent, and yet so distant, and full of unknowns. Fun tidbit: I received my official job offer to Aerospace just 2 hours prior to this photo. It made for a very memorable day!” —
Michael Malec, Space Enterprise and Warfighting Division

Coast-to-Coast Engagement with Year-end Events

October 10, 2024

At Aerospace, enterprise mission success does not happen without contributions from the many people who help deliver on our commitments. As FY24 came to a close, celebrations were held across various locations to recognize the year's successes.

"We have tremendous technical capabilities, but in the end, it's our people," said Kevin Keating, Senior Vice President of NSG, to employees during the Chantilly barbeque picnic. "I love coming to work because I get to work with people like you. You're not only good at what you do, but you're dedicated to the mission."

Kevin Keating, Senior Vice President of NSG, delivers his remarks during the Chantilly year-end event.

Many Aerospace locations celebrated the year's end in their own unique way. But at every event, colleagues came together to enjoy some fun, food and festivities as they reflected on the year's success and accomplishments.

Here are highlights from locations across the country:

- A barbeque picnic was held in **Chantilly**, with remarks from executives recognizing contributions from everyone on the A-Team.
- In **El Segundo**, a barbeque picnic was held under sunny skies and with lively music, where employees across different divisions came together to celebrate.
- In **Albuquerque**, colleagues with their families attended a summer social event, enjoying a meal outside while watching a New Mexico United soccer game.
- **Cape Canaveral** and **Huntsville** employees basked in the fresh air with barbeques that brought food, music and fun to the sites.
- In **Colorado Springs**, an Italian luncheon was hosted with a strong turnout and free swag, where people mingled with the Colorado Aerospace community.
- **Crystal City** hosted a social hour where colleagues laughed and ate delicious food to recognize their efforts throughout the year.
- **Houston** was creative and hosted a pickleball tournament to wrap up the year. Families were invited and food was provided, fueling the competition.
- **Pasadena** hosted the first-ever video game office lunch, with old school video games adding a touch of friendly competition and nostalgia to their year-end event.
- **Vandenberg** hosted a breakfast for colleagues to mingle and connect onsite, as well as an ice cream social for everyone to finish the year off sweet.

Aerospace colleagues enjoy a barbeque picnic in sunny Albuquerque.

Crystal City hosted a year-end social to celebrate their successes with a meal and a view.

All these events were organized by each location's local site council, which look for opportunities for Aerospace colleagues to gather and connect. The end of the year is a time to reflect and look to the future. The successes of FY24 provided many reasons for Aerospace and its people to celebrate. Looking to the new year, there will be many exciting milestones, projects and events in store.

El Segundo

Chantilly

El Segundo

Albuquerque

Crystal City

Colorado Springs

Chantilly

Albuquerque

Albuquerque

El Segundo

Albuquerque

Chantilly

El Segundo

Albuquerque

Colorado Springs

El Segundo

Albuquerque

Chantilly

ATAG Employee Resource Group Changes Name, Reaffirms Mission Goals

October 07, 2024

The Aerospace Totally Adaptable Group (ATAG) has changed its name to **Aerospace Disabled and Abled Partnering Together (ADAPT)** to better align its name with advocacy for the disabled and the creation of an inclusive and collaborative workplace environment.

“The name ADAPT is more inclusive of those who support their family members and their colleagues with disabilities, and yet it does reflect that we have a heritage of supporting the disabled community,” said Hope Turney, Secretary of ADAPT. “We want to partner with the abled and disabled to grow our membership and get all employees involved in using that partnership to make things better at Aerospace, and make Aerospace an employer of choice.”

The ADAPT Employee Resource Group (ERG) encourages disabled and abled employees to unite and support one another by sharing other perspectives and approaches to work, while promoting the inclusivity and improved accessibility that support all of Aerospace's workforce and the advancement of its corporate goals.

Recognizing and accommodating the strengths and limitations of others offers numerous benefits, including fostering more inclusive and accessible collaboration. Collaboration is vital to innovation, which thrives when opportunities arise to examine challenges from diverse perspectives. Likewise, a broad range of viewpoints is crucial in shaping new solutions.

In recognition of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), ADAPT has scheduled an EAP session titled "Brains are Exciting! Celebrating Neurodiversity" for Thursday, Oct. 10 at 11 a.m. PST via Microsoft Teams. Employees are encouraged to add this virtual event to their calendars.

In addition, an Aero Cares giving opportunity has been created, for which all donations up to $250 will be matched by an anonymous donor.

With these events and recent rebranding, ADAPT hopes to highlight the ways in which partnering together allows the Aerospace disabled community to thrive, and that everyone has a role to play in working toward a more inclusive workplace environment.

"Just like any other ERG, we can't do it alone. We need co-workers, allies, and friends to share their perspectives and to help us make Aerospace a place where everyone's contributions are valued," said Laura Simpson, President of ADAPT. "We are dedicated to fostering a corporate culture and environment where all employees feel valued for their differences and the unique perspectives they bring to our mission."

The Aerospace Disabled and Abled Partnering Together (ADAPT) is an Aerospace Employee Resource Group (ERG). Membership and participation in all ERGs are open to all employees, regardless of identity.

AEA Soccer Club Takes 1st Place in Summer League at the Manhattan Beach Coed Tournament

October 01, 2024

Submitted by Rachael Quast: Aero FC (Aerospace Futbol Club) are the 2024 Summer Manhattan Beach Coed Soccer Champs! This is their first championship win after many playoffs and finals appearances. This league has the reputation of being one of the more competitive coed tournaments in Los Angeles, as it is not uncommon to play against former D1 and semi-professional players. This championship win adds to their recent accolades after winning the 2023 LAAFB Intramural Soccer Tournament.

It was a very exciting night that started off with a semifinal win. Aero FC was down 0-1 early and they had an uphill battle to recover, but the first half finished with Aero FC still trailing. The second half had a lot of shots on goal and many key defensive saves to prevent a larger deficit. The team tied the game in the last few minutes of the second half and regulation time concluded with a score of 1-1. The game was then to be decided on penalty kicks, and after 8 rounds the team moved on to the finals match (final score 2-1).

The championship was an intense and well-matched game. The game never lacked excitement, with the opponent matching every goal. Aero FC opened up the game with an early 1-0 lead, then the opponents tied it in the second half to make the score 1-1. Then came a series of back-and-forth goals: Aero FC scores to go up 2-1, the opponents tie 2-2, Aero FC scores again to make it 3-2, then finally the opponents tie it up last minute to make it 3-3. Once again it all came down to penalty kicks, and Aero FC came out on top after 4 rounds (final score 4-3).

Aero FC is an AEA club for soccer players and fans, consisting of Aerospace employees as well as friends and family. The club plays Tuesday nights in Manhattan Beach, Wednesday pick up soccer on the LAAFB field, at the Summer Games, and in the LAAFB intramural tournaments in the Fall. The club also hosts soccer-related social outings such as Copa America and World Cup game watch parties. If you are interested in joining, please contact the club president, William Chavez.

Congratulations to Aero FC and to everyone who contributed over the course of the season!

Aero FC team:

- Michael Angell (Energy Storage Technology, PSL)
- Christopher Brand (Space Safety & Situational Awareness, SED)
- William Chavez (Project Management, xLab)
- Kelvin Chen (Sensors & Systems, xLab)
- Kaitlin Fundell (Atomic Clocks and Device Physics, PSL)

- Alexander Harpenau (Embedded Applications, VSD)
- Natalie Perez (Videography, Corp Comm)
- Rachael Quast (Reliability & Statistics, SED)

Special shout out to our Summer 2024 Interns! Without their help we wouldn't have been in this position to win:

- John Navarro
- Priscilla Narvaez
- Brady Harrison
- Patrick Dai

October 2024 Obituaries

October 01, 2024

Sincere sympathy is extended to the families of:

Patricia Dignan office of technical support, hired July 7, 1978, retired Sept. 1, 1995, died July 31, 2024
Robert Grant member of technical staff, hired Jan. 5, 2015, died Sept. 15, 2024
Irving Hauptman member of technical staff, hired Jan. 29, 1966, retired Nov. 1, 1991, died Feb. 21, 2024
William Klein member of technical staff, hired Oct. 17, 1988, retired July 1, 1994, died June 26, 2024
Connie Kosmann member of technical staff, hired Sept. 19, 2005, retired Aug. 1, 2020, died May 26, 2024
Jon Loftin office of technical support, hired June 14, 1976, retired May 1, 2017, died July 12, 2024
Jesse Parker office of technical support, hired April 22, 1968, retired Aug. 1, 2011, died Aug. 12, 2024
Thomas Reiners member of technical staff, hired Sept. 11, 1978, retired Sept. 1, 2004, died Aug. 25, 2024
John Ruffin office of technical support, hired May 5, 1975, retired July 31, 2007, died Sept. 4, 2024
Charles Schwartz member of technical staff, hired Jan. 9, 1989, retired Feb. 1, 2018, died July 29, 2024
Robert Stahl member of technical staff, hired Feb. 23, 1981, retired Dec. 1, 1990, died Aug. 13, 2024

To notify Aerospace of a death and have it included in the Orbiter, please contact People Operations at (310) 336-5107.

These articles are reprinted from The Orbiter, a publication of The Aerospace Corporation 2310 E. El Segundo Blvd., El Segundo, CA 90245-4691 310-336-5000
Visit: Aerospace.org
Contact Orbiter staff: Orbiter@aero.org

www.aerospace.org

AEROSPACE