

New training facility is open for business



From left, Aerospace Testing Alliance General Manager Dr. David Elrod, AEDC Director of Personnel Tom Sizemore, AEDC Lead on Training Room Project Christine Caldwell, AEDC Commander Col. Michael Panarisi and Mission Support Division Director Col. Robert Bender take part in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new training facility in the A&E Building Dec. 13, 2010. (Photo by Rick Goodfriend)

By Philip Lorenz III
Aerospace Testing Alliance

A ribbon-cutting ceremony held Dec. 13 on the first floor of the A&E Building at AEDC, marks the availability of the base's new training facility.

AEDC Commander Col. Michael Panarisi presided over the ceremony with Col. Robert Bender, Mission Support Division director, ATA General Manager Dr. David Elrod, Tom Sizemore, AEDC's director of personnel, and Christine Caldwell, the lead on the project from AEDC's civil engineering branch's programs section.

Sizemore said he is pleased with the new addition.

"We needed some better training facilities to be able to provide testing for some of our military personnel," he said. "We [also] want to bring in some vendor training, meetings and conferences, workshops, retirement seminars and other types of seminars. We just had a multitude of requirements that [drove the] need for a facility of this type – a [place] that is centrally located where we can bring personnel together.

"This is nicely located, it's on the first floor, it's accessible to our cafeteria and it has a nice lobby or break area just outside the training facility. So, the location ensures we can hold training sessions, seminars, etc., that won't be disruptive to

other areas of the work force. It will be a very well utilized facility."

The room will be able to accommodate approximately 60 people and can also be divided into two rooms of 34 and 26 respectively with an easily assembled wall that has acoustic panels installed to reduce noise between the resulting two classrooms.

Sizemore said one example of the kind of classes to be held in the new training facility will include "our weighted airmen promotion testing."

"We [now] have a facility that meets mandated lighting, sound and space requirements, etc.," he explained. "We didn't have a facility that was certified on the base that met all requirements until we established this facility."

Caldwell said she was assigned to complete the training room project midway through its execution.

Describing the features of the most recent addition to the A&E Building, she said, "We have new audiovisual equipment, it also [allows the users to] connect to the network. We can have training [and] testing in here. It meets all the requirements for testing, [including] individual thermostat controls to keep it at a comfortable temperature. You can adjust the

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New assault response coordinator on the job

AEDC employee wants to educate more Airmen, civilians in her new role on base

By Patrick Ary
Aerospace Testing Alliance

It's not a prevalent problem at AEDC, but when it happens it can resonate throughout a unit and beyond, hindering readiness by the trauma it causes the victim, and the degrading nature it renders to the team. The entire life, in and out of work, is affected for the victim. The current Sexual Assault Response Program motto says it all. It "Hurts one. Hurts all." It even affects bystanders.

Now, AEDC has a new person entrusted with handling those cases, should they occur.

After receiving training in September, Sue Sipe took on the duties as a sexual assault response coordinator (SARC) in October. Sipe is a secretary in AEDC's contracting office and took on the extra duties after seeing a posting for the job.

"I believe I was put on Earth to serve others by saying or doing something that adds some kind of light to their life," Sipe said. "Helping a vulnerable person in a time when they have lost all trust to trust again is important."

The population at AEDC is very different from that at a training base, Sipe said. Because there are fewer young people here in the age range where more sexual assaults typically occur, there is not a full-time SARC. Sipe serves in that role and as an advocate for victims. Once paperwork on a case is complete, it is forwarded on to the official SARC at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida.

Now that she's on the job, Sipe wants to make sure Airmen and Air Force civilians know what's available for them.

"Expect to see some changes to the program at AEDC in the near future," Sipe said. "All new DoD employees will now be briefed on the sexual assault prevention and response program at AEDC as part of in-processing. They will be given cards at that time with emergency information should a need arise. There is also a quick response pack being prepared for supervisors. Expect to see more information and prevention tips in various media outlets throughout the base in coming months."



Sue Sipe recently took on new duties as AEDC's new sexual assault response coordinator for Air Force personnel. (Photo by Rick Goodfriend)

Because the population at AEDC is typically older, married and more grounded, Sipe said many people may not be as familiar with the sexual assault response resources.

"When you think about the demographics at Arnold, we have a lot of people who may not be in that 18-28 age group most likely to be assaulted," Sipe said. "But we have a lot who have kids in that age group. Working together, we can give them some tools to be more prepared to recognize potential high risk situations."

DoD dependents over age 18 are covered under the SARC program, according to Sipe.

Airmen and Air Force civilians who need help can call the Arnold Sexual Assault Hot Line's 24-hour number at (931) 581-7494. Sipe is on-call 24 hours a day to help when someone needs it. She invites those with a need or simply an inquiry to contact her. Calls are confidential.

"Being the victim of a crime such as a sexual assault can be devastating," Sipe said. "Sharing your story with someone can be extremely difficult, as the victim may feel they are re-living the occurrence again and again. It is a necessary component to overcome this type of trauma."

Sipe says her role is to advocate for the victim and help them navigate through a difficult time by providing emotional support and education, accompanying the survivor to appointments if they desire, performing crisis intervention and collaborating with other helping agencies on the victim's behalf. The advocate can also provide accurate information on medical, investigative and legal services for a victim.

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UTSI students honored for work with AEDC

Four students recognized for their efforts in educating community

By Shawn Jacobs
ATA Public Affairs

The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) recently honored four University of Tennessee Space Institute (UTSI) students for their educational outreach in supporting projects through AEDC.

The awards were handed out Nov. 17 at the UTSI cafeteria during the AIAA Tennessee Section's annual luncheon to honor individuals whose research and service achievements go above and beyond in furthering science and engineering or in providing education outreach.

Ben Klamm, James Rogers, Rayne Sung and Andrew Wilson were instrumental in a community effort aimed at promoting interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

The students were nominated by Tom Best, AEDC director of engineering and technical management, and Dr. Stan Powell, an engineering specialist in AEDC's Technology Branch.

Dr. Trevor Moeller of UTSI's mechanical, aerospace and biomedical engineering (MABE) department accepted an award on behalf of the student branch of the Tennessee Section of

AIAA for its support of the Arnold Association of Professional Society's (AAPS) "Build Your Own Missile" booth held Sept. 18 during Polly Crockett Days in Cowan.

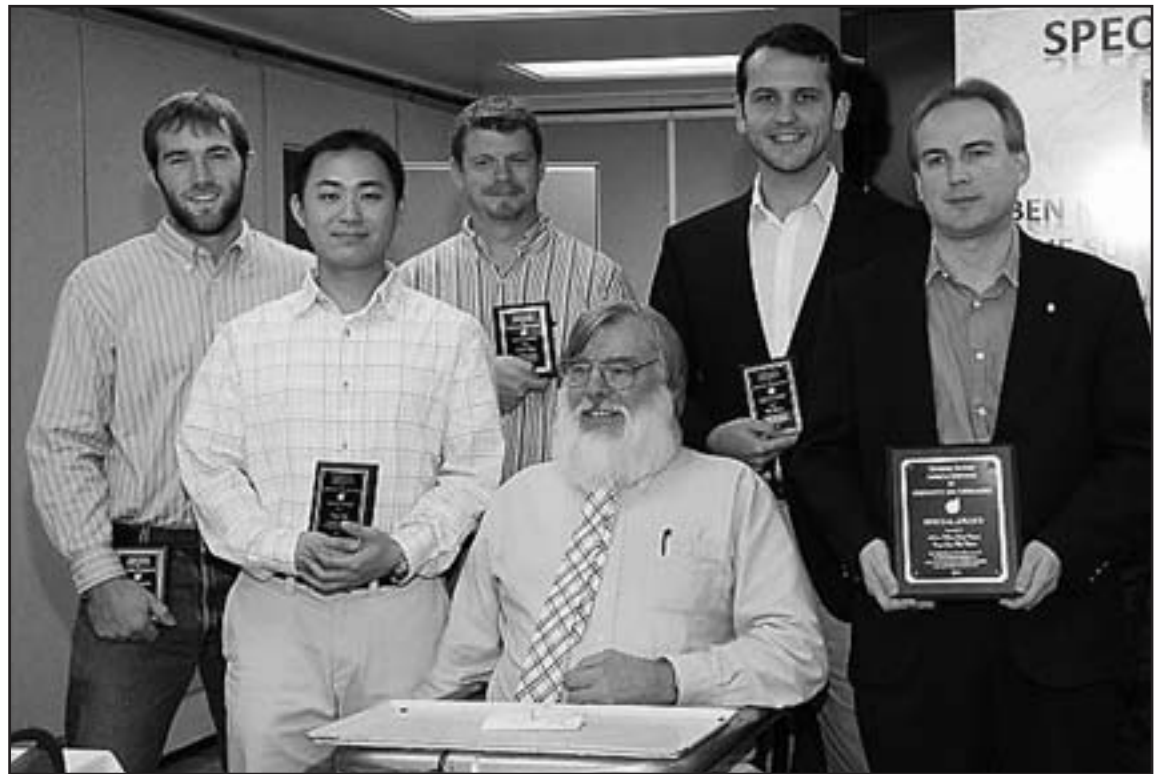
"That was the first opportunity we have had to make use of the students, but we hope to do more cooperative outreach programs with them," said Dr. Powell, who presented the students with their awards. "The students enjoyed it, and they were very good at it."

Dr. Powell is the pre-college outreach member of the local AIAA Council and is a member of the national committee that oversees the pre-college outreach programs for AIAA, as well as the committee that oversees programs for college-age students for the organization.

"You never know what will spark a middle school student's interest, but if they're not exposed to the idea of the fun things that engineers do they won't even consider it later on," Dr. Powell said. "These kinds of programs are important because they expose them to options that they would not otherwise have considered."

Several other UTSI students and faculty were also recognized at the luncheon.

Brian Maicke received the AIAA Award for displaying



AEDC Engineering Specialist Dr. Stan Powell (seated) presents AIAA awards for educational outreach to UTSI students James Rogers, Rayne Sung, Andrew Wilson and Ben Klamm, Nov. 17. UTSI Professor Dr. Trevor Moeller (far right) accepted on behalf of the student branch of the Tennessee Section of AIAA. (Photo provided)

remarkable spirit, teamwork, leadership, support and mentorship. The award recognizes his research in the fields of high speed propulsion and theoretical modeling of aerospace engineering problems.

He has also helped to develop two short courses for AIAA covering topics in hybrid rocket analysis and perturbation methods. Maicke was nominated by Professor Joe Majdalani, Arnold Chair of Excellence in Advanced Propulsion.

Professor Jay I. Frankel of the MABE department received the prestigious General H. H. Arnold Award for outstanding personal contributions to the advancement of thermal analysis in harsh rocket environments and high speed propulsion systems.

Frankel is an active researcher in the area of integrating advanced measurement concepts and new sensor technology into a formulation for predicting heat-flux variations and temperatures in harsh environments, such as

hypersonic combustors.

Frankel will be the Technical Chair for Thermophysics at the 50th Aerospace Science Meeting (ASM) to be held in Nashville in January 2012. He was nominated by Professor Joe Majdalani.

UTSI Executive Director Dr. Robert Moore commended the students and Professor Frankel as deserving recipients.

"To have such an active and supportive student section of AIAA speaks well for the university," Dr. Moore said.