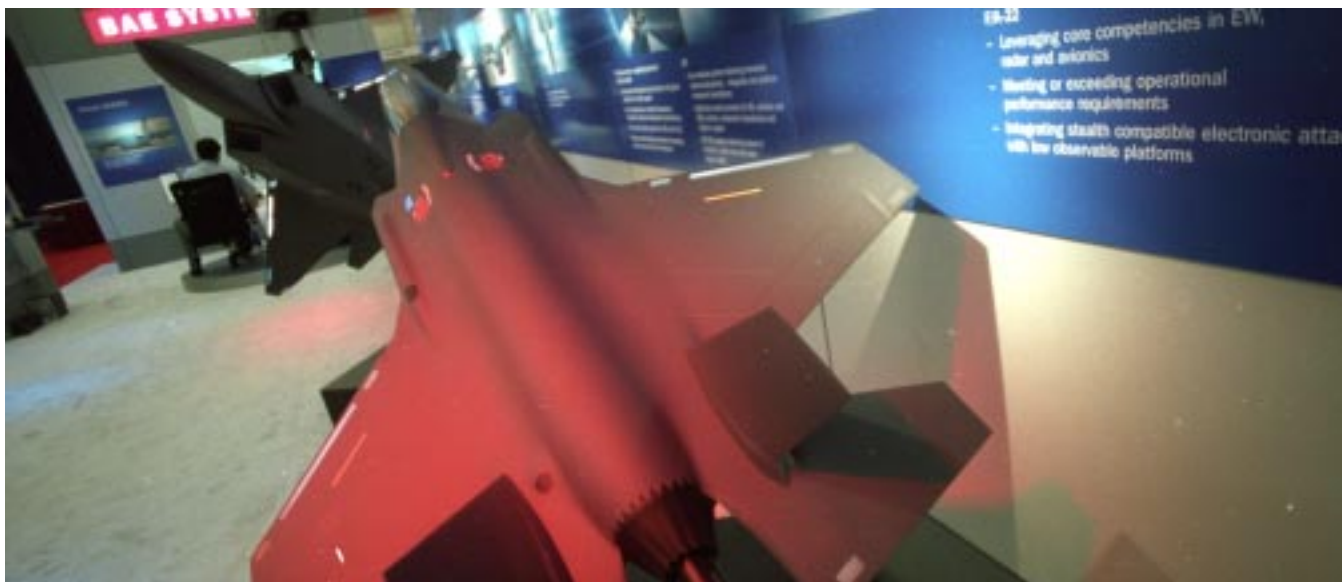


Technology Exposition

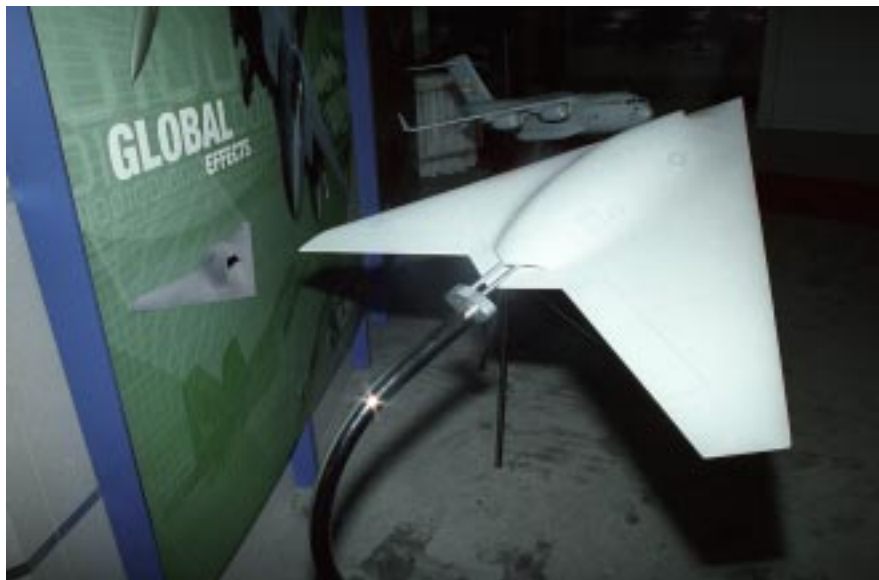
AFA's technology showcase offered conference attendees a glimpse of tomorrow's advanced capabilities.



Staff photos by Guy Aceto

The Air Force Association's annual Technology Exposition featured 141 exhibitors, showcasing aerospace technologies that will help keep USAF at the forefront of air and space power.

At top, BAE Systems emphasized its role in development of USAF's new F/A-22 stealth fighter and the F-35 strike fighter. At right, a Boeing display promoted the company's C-17 airlifter and provided a look at its X-45 Joint Unmanned Combat Air System.



At left, TSgt. Mike Rivers, a C-130 flight engineer from Little Rock AFB, Ark., takes the controls of one of the many hands-on simulators at the show.



Among the exhibits were displays explaining the accomplishments of the five teams selected for the 2004 Chief of Staff Team Excellence Awards. At left, MSgt. Timothy Lauber and MSgt. Robert Keifer from the 18th Flight Test Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla., show off their team's trophy.

The "Life in the Fast Lane" Test Team at Hurlburt created a training course that helped shorten training time for weapon system test directors, which allowed the unit to eliminate a backlog of tests for systems used in recent operations.

The Textron display at right featured a sensor fuzed weapon of the type used in combat in Iraq. Below, another exhibit featured the AIM-9X and some air-launched ground attack weapons.



Special operations forces are expected to continue to play a key role in the war against terrorism. One of the many exhibits with a special ops emphasis was this model of the CV-22 tilt-rotor developed by Bell Boeing. USAF plans to purchase the CV-22 variant for Air Force Special Operations Command.



At left, USAF officers talk over the benefits of the single panel touch screen cockpit display developed by Rockwell Collins. The new avionics panel will be used in the F-35. The expo, which had several international exhibitors, attracted the attention of foreign military attendees. Below, two members of the Czech Republic's military force tour the exhibits.



The expo had an abundance of aircraft models and numerous hands-on displays. At right, Elan Smith, a General Dynamics engineer detailed to Air Force Research Laboratory, shows Maj. Mark Durrell the fine points of maneuvering space vehicles.



Among the Air Force exhibitors was the Information Warfare Center, headquartered at Lackland AFB, Tex. At left, TSgt. Nadina Szeredy explains the center's work to an attendee.



Pratt & Whitney used a cutaway F-35 model to showcase its F135 propulsion system. The F135 must meet requirements for the three F-35 variants—conventional takeoff and landing, carrier takeoff and landing, and short takeoff and vertical landing. At left is the STOVL variant.

At right, conference attendees from Air Force Space Command talk with an airpower legend, retired Maj. Gen. John Alison of Flying Tiger fame. Below, two former Air Force Academy classmates, retired Lt. Col. Doug Fry (left) and Maj. Gen. Jack Catton Jr., now on the joint staff, chat during the expo.



The expo had an abundance of computers and software experts showing off technologies that help gather and consolidate information and help put bombs on target.

The 2004 expo drew more than 6,000 attendees, including 116 news media representatives. ■