



## ARSAG '05 Conference in Madrid a Success

Attendees at **ARSAG '05**, the annual conference of the **Aerial Refueling Systems Advisory Group International**, declared the conference to be a resounding success. Informative and interesting briefings, addresses by distinguished guest speakers, exhibits and tours highlighted a week of opportunities for international exchanges and discussions regarding aerial refueling. The conference was held at the Auditorium Hotel in **Madrid, Spain** during Monday, 2 May through Friday, 6 May.

Special meetings were held on Monday, 2 May, beginning with **Special Projects** meetings in the morning that included a STANAG review and discussion of aerial refueling clearance processes. At an **ARSAG Panel Chairs and Steering Group Meeting**, and a **Briefers' Meeting**, in the afternoon, leaders and speakers made final preparations for their conference participation.

ARSAG was privileged, for the second year, to host both the **NATO Air-to-Air Refueling (AAR)** standardization panel and the **European Airlift Center (EAC)** who held meetings on the first day of the conference week.

**The ARSAG '05 General Assembly** was convened on Tuesday morning, 3 May. Dex Kalt, Executive Director, ARSAG International, welcomed all to the conference and introduced the ARSAG's chairman, Martin Vukich who provided a brief introduction to the organization and introduced the guest speaker.

ARSAG was honored by its guest speaker, **Lieutenant General Juan Luis Ibarreta Manella**, Spanish Air Force Assistant Chief of Staff, who presented an exceptionally interesting and enlightening briefing on aerial refueling history.

**Aerial refueling status reports** were presented by representatives of international air forces and ministries of defense. They were followed by reports from the NATO AAR panel and the European Airlift Center (EAC).

ARSAG conferees were welcomed to Tuesday's **Awards Luncheon** by **David R. Oliver, Jr.**, President and CEO of EADS North America Defense Company, the luncheon's sponsoring organization. It was ARSAG's honor to be addressed by **Lieutenant General Arthur J. Lichte**, Vice Commander, US Air Forces in Europe.

Awards to **Lt Col Thomas Swiderek**, **Wg Cdr Adrian Hayward** and **Major Pedro Sipols** were presented in recognition of their significant contributions to aerial refueling during the past three years while at AAR Coordination Cell, Reaction Forces Air Staff, NATO, Kalkar, Germany in establishing a global focal point for aerial refueling and, through astute guidance and expertise, improving aerial refueling interoperability, communication, identification of requirements and standardization. In addition, **Mark Crissey** of Lockheed Martin was recognized for significant contributions to ARSAG and aerial refueling. Additional awards highlighted the work and support of other ARSAG participants including those who were moving on to new assignments. These included: Lt Col Tom Fisher, US ANG; Robert Friedman; Captain Cristiano Realacci, Italian Air Force; Maj Robert Roukema, US Air Force Safety Center; Robert Tacher, US Navy, Jacksonville; Rick Koehnke, Col, USAF (Ret); David Foulger, Flight Refuelling Ltd.; all of whom had served as ARSAG Panel Chairs. Lt Col Fisher also served on ARSAG's Steering Group.

On Tuesday afternoon, 3 May, **status briefings** continued with reports from the US Air Force, AMC; US Navy and Marine Corps; Air Force Reserves; and Special Operations forces. The **Safety Panel** and the **Studies and Analysis Panel** followed. **Major General Mark Pillar**, a long-time, active participant in ARSAG presented a briefing in the Studies and Analysis Panel entitled "KC-135 Replacement – Road Ahead".

On Tuesday evening, conferees and their guests attended an **Exhibitors' Reception**. Enlightening and interesting exhibits were mounted by **EADS, Boeing, Lockheed Martin, General Electric, Pratt & Whitney, Hamilton Sundstrand, Xwave, Defense News, Thales Group, Icon Polymer, Flight Refuelling Ltd./Sargent Fletcher, Smiths Aerospace, CESA, and Intertechnique**. Conference attendees were invited to visit the exhibit area during the conference week.

On Wednesday morning, 4 May, **Julien Ferte** of EADS opened the General Session with a briefing that outlined the schedule for that afternoon's tours. The **Advanced Concepts Panel** and **Industry Panel** presented timely and informative briefings.

The afternoon's activities included a **tour** of the **EADS facility** in Madrid where ARSAG attendees were treated to a luncheon, a tour of the Euro 2000 aircraft assembly plant and a visit to the boom tower development rig including a receiver aircraft motion simulator. The afternoon was capped by a **visit** to the **Spanish Air Force's Torrejon Air Base** where a **static aircraft display** included: a French C-135R tanker equipped with boom and wing drogues; a KC-130 tanker with wing drogues; Italian KC-707 tanker with fuselage and wing drogues; and C-295/CN 2325 EADS. Receiver aircraft included: F-18, Spanish Air Force; F-1, Spanish Air Force; and the Euro 2000 fighter Spanish Air Force. In the evening, EADS hosted an enjoyable reception at the Torrejon Officers' Club. ARSAG expressed its appreciation to **Lt Col Alfredo Ortega** who had worked with ARSAG and EADS in arranging the visit and the static air display and to **Brigadier General Jose Antonio Porto**, Commander, Torrejon Air Base.

On Thursday, 5 May, the General Session continued with the **Operations Panel**, **Interoperability Panel** and **Reliability and Maintainability Panel** presenting valuable and notable briefings related to the focus of their panels. Conferees were welcomed to a luncheon sponsored by the Boeing Company by **Lieutenant General John B. Sams, Jr., USAF, (Ret)**, Vice President of Air Force Systems Business Unit at Boeing. He presented an interesting and informative briefing. In the afternoon, important topical briefings presented by the **System Design Panel** and the **Test and Evaluation Panel** ended the day's session.

A tour to historic **Toledo** on Thursday evening was enjoyed by more than two hundred of the conferees. During the conference week, attendees' **guests** were invited to participate in **day trips** into Madrid and to Avila. Alanna Fallon, Linda Pillar and Dorothy Custer graciously agreed to guide the day trips.

On Friday morning, the General Session included valuable briefings presented by the **Training Panel** and the newly-formed **Lighting and Markings Panel**.

ARSAG was greatly honored by the participation of **Brigadier General Kenan Kocak** of Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe who participated in the full week's conference sessions. The meeting concluded with a wrap-up summary of the week's activities by the ARSAG Executive Director and expressions of gratitude to the attendees, exhibitors, briefers, sponsoring companies and military organizations who made the ARSAG '05 conference a success.

A uniformed, twenty-four hour security staff was provided throughout the week by EADS. Their professionalism and attention to conferees' welfare were a positive addition to the conference.

#### ARSAG '05 Conference in Madrid, continued

Representatives of EADS organizations in Spain, France and the United States provided invaluable assistance in organizing and supporting many aspects of the conference in Madrid. EADS personnel who were recognized included: **Stephanie Offerdahl**, **Bruno Charveron**, **Jaime Iglesias-Sarria** and **Belen Fierro**. Additionally, their work in arranging the Wednesday tours and the Thursday evening and Friday afternoon events was exceedingly helpful in making the conference week enjoyable as well as instructive.

**Expressions of appreciation** were offered to those who assisted with registration and administration of the conference, including Babs Bokkes, Laura O’Gorman, Kathy Bandak, Thomas Coggeshall and Stacy Sizemore, and to the assistants from EADS who helped with administration chores and greeted conferees. Appreciation was expressed to **Dale Fredrickson** of NAVAIR who taped the proceedings.

Particular thanks were expressed to **Dave Sly** of Boeing who managed the audio visual portion of the program, setting and running the PowerPoint briefings. Dave will compile the records of the conference briefings, have them copied to CD’s and distribute them to the attendees.

The Madrid conference location was convenient for many **new European members** of the aerial refueling community to be introduced to ARSAG. The attendance list for ARSAG '05 includes 388 participants, a **record attendance** for an ARSAG conference. This number does not include about forty guests of conferees.

Summary reports of special meetings and panel meetings will be available in the ARSAG '05 Minutes on the ARSAG website at [www.arsaginc.com](http://www.arsaginc.com)

#### Thank You

Dex Kalt, ARSAG’s Executive Director/Programs Chairman wishes to thank all those who worked so hard before the conference and during the conference week to make ARSAG '05 a success. ARSAG’s Secretary, **Gomer Custer**, Col USAF (Ret.) was vital in achieving a well-organized conference. In addition, ARSAG’s **Panel Chairs** deserve particular recognition for working to schedule the important briefings that make each annual ARSAG conference, the only conference dedicated to aerial refueling, a valuable open and interactive aerial refueling forum.

## ARSAG '06 Set for San Diego

The ARSAG '06 conference will be held **24-28 April** at the **Westin Horton Plaza** Hotel in San Diego, California. The conference hotel is an urban, chic, full-service hotel, located in the heart of downtown San Diego. It is adjacent to the Horton Plaza Shopping and Entertainment mall, one of the nation's premier centers, offering a wide variety of specialty shops, dining, and entertainment venues. Just a short stroll will bring you to the historic San Diego Gaslamp District, an array of San Diego's finest award-winning restaurants, live entertainment and distinguished arts, cultural events, and the San Diego Convention Center. The hotel also is just minutes from Sea World, the world-famous San Diego Zoo, Balboa Park and museums, sandy beaches and many other premier attractions.

The hotel's 450 guest rooms radiate modern luxury and all feature dual-line speaker phone with voicemail, Turbo Net High Speed Internet Access, and an oversized desk.

ARSAG conference delegates will share their combined experience, expertise and forward thinking in a week of focused working sessions. A full agenda of timely briefings, speakers, discussions and events is planned.

**Please mark your calendar for 24-28 April for ARSAG '06 in San Diego.**

## Winter Planning Meeting for ARSAG '06

The Winter Planning Meeting for Steering Group and Panel Chairs for ARSAG '06 is planned for Atlanta, Georgia on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Special Topics meetings are proposed for February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be held in Atlanta, Georgia. Agendas will be sent as soon as dates and venue are firm. Lockheed Martin is participating as host for the meetings.

### ARSAG '05 CD's

The CD's containing the briefings, minutes and photos from the ARSAG '05 conference in Madrid are in the reproduction process. The projected mailing date is 15 August.

### Send us your news

Please send news about your organization, yourself or aerial refueling, for inclusion in future editions of the ARSAG International Newsletter. Send to [arsaginc@earthlink.net](mailto:arsaginc@earthlink.net).

**Did you notice:** the cover article in the recent issue of "Air Power" magazine regarding aerial refueling?

## *From the Desk of the ARSAG Chairman:*

With record attendance and major international participation, ARSAG 05 was one of the best organized, most productive annual conferences in the long history of the Aerial Refueling Systems Advisory Group. This huge success further enhances ARSAG as the recognized forum for addressing technical issues and promoting standardization throughout the worldwide aerial refueling community. ARSAG continues to provide enormous benefits that reach everyone from industry manufacturers to the military users.

Our hats are certainly off to the multitude of people who helped organize and support this year's meeting in Madrid. Their roles in handling the facilities, the arrangements, the administration, the agenda, the security, and the transportation were evident throughout the week. All these grand efforts coupled with the magnificent Spanish hospitality made everything go right on schedule -- absolutely like clockwork.

The EADS CASA group are in line for special praise. As our national hosts, they were at the forefront of all the planning and execution efforts, providing numerous staff members and extensive financial support throughout the conference week. Their local people worked long hours, saw to everyone's tiniest needs, and made everyone feel right at home in Madrid. These contributions were truly outstanding. In line for equally special praise are the major industry **sponsors** and the **exhibitors** -- **Boeing, Lockheed Martin, General Electric, Pratt & Whitney, Omega Air, Smiths Aerospace, Flight Refuelling, Sargent Fletcher, Parker Hannifin, Hamilton Sundstrand, Honeywell, Air France, Airbus Military, Argo-Tech, MTC, Xwave, Thales Group, CESA, Intertechnique, Icon Polymer, and Defense News** -- I salute you one and all and extend our deep appreciation. Known to all, of course, are our Executive Director and his co-anchor and teammate, Dexter and Janet Kalt, who are icons in the history of ARSAG.

As we look forward to continued work on the various on-going issues and programs in all the Panels, I pledge the full support of our Board in providing the means and backing for the ARSAG mission. I further pledge that ARSAG will continue to provide essential access, foster working relationships, and enable exchanges of information between the international military services and industry, both the major global airframe and engine companies along with the various aerial refueling system component manufacturers. Communication and interaction regarding aerial refueling are our job and we want to do it well.

We look forward to seeing everyone back for ARSAG '06 in San Diego.

Martin L Vukich  
Chairman of the Board, ARSAG