

AFRL announces six new fellow honorees

by *Lanourra Gillmaster, AFRL Public Affairs*

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — The Air Force Research Laboratory has announced its selection of six new AFRL Fellows.

The Fellows program annually recognizes and rewards AFRL's most outstanding scientists and engineers for achievements and technical excellence. The 2004 recognition banquet will be held Sept. 29 at the United States Air Force Museum, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

This year's honorees are: Dr. Edward Watson, Sensors Directorate, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio; Dr. Alok Das, Space Vehicles Directorate, Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.; Dr. Nelson Forster, Propulsion Directorate, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio; Larry Perkins, Materials and Manufacturing Directorate, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio; Dr. Craig Denman, Directed Energy Directorate, Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.; and Dr. Gregory Ginet, Space Vehicles Directorate, Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass.

Dr. Watson has been recognized for outstanding contributions in laser radar and agile beam-steering, especially steering of broad spectral band radiation. His contributions are crucial to finding a solution to one of the most important problems facing the Air Force—reliable combat identification.

Dr. Das was selected, in part, for his outstanding technical and leadership skills of spacecraft structures and vibration isolation. His vision of small satellite technologies and motivation to develop technology strategies both AFRL and nationally attest to his world recognized authority in this field.

Dr. Forster is an internationally recognized scientist and technical leader in mechanical systems for gas turbine engines. He was selected for quality research, personal talents and dedication which have had dramatic effects on mechanical systems for gas turbine engines.

Mr. Perkins is a renowned expert in three major areas: welding and joining, failure analysis, and technology transition. He was chosen for exemplary work across several DoD weapons systems to include Air, Space and weapon platforms. His team of scientists and engineers were classified as Category 1 (World Class) by the Scientific Advisory Board panels in 1999, 2001 and 2003.

Dr. Denman was chosen for outstanding technical contributions as a visionary technical leader in the areas of high energy laser weapons and related systems development. The Sodium Guidestar Laser, developed by Dr. Denman and his team, is essential for the successful application of large ground based telescopes for Space Situational Awareness and Offensive Counter Space Missions.

Dr. Ginet was selected for scientific and technical leadership in space physics, space weather, and the effects of space environmental hazards on the operation and lifetime of DoD and national systems. Dr. Ginet has been key in creating AFRL's world-class space weather program.

To be selected for the Fellows program, military and civilian scientists and engineers must have been assigned to AFRL for the past three consecutive years and have at least seven years of active federal service. Their laboratory work being recognized for its significant contribution to the Air Force mission must adhere to the following criteria:

- Discovery of a factor, theory, etc., of sufficient magnitude to warrant recognition as a pioneering breakthrough in the scientific or engineering community;
- Recognition as a national or international authority in more than one field, including widespread recognition in the Air Force;
- Continual advanced achievements in programs of the utmost importance to AFRL, the Air Force, or national defense;
- Large personal contributions above and beyond normal lab expectations; and
- Maintaining an impeccable record of scientific and technical achievements, creativity and leadership, patents, referenced publications, organizational skills, and development of lab programs.

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“The scientists and engineers of AFRL pride themselves on working in a world-class organization with world-class researchers,” said Dr. Thomas Cruse, AFRL’s chief technologist. “This year’s fellows represent our ideals of technological superiority, scientific achievement, and commitment to excellence.”

If you are interested in attending the banquet to honor the new AFRL Fellows, tickets may be purchased for \$27.50 from any directorate chief scientist’s office or from AFRL/CT no later than Sept. 12, 2004. On-line registration for the banquet can be found at: <http://www.afrl.af.mil/index2.html>. @