



International Test and Evaluation Association George Washington Chapter **NEWSLETTER**

February 2005

Volume 15, Number 2

President's Corner

We had a very successful luncheon in January with the Director, Operational Test and Evaluation, Tom Christie "telling it like it is." And now we can look forward to Col Linda Palmer speaking on T&E in missile defense. Col Palmer is the number two tester in the Missile Defense Agency and she will be literally talking about rocket science. I know that we all need more of that!

We are also looking forward to Dr. John Foulkes, the director of the new Defense Test Resource Management Center, who will be our March speaker. Then in April, we will have Robert Pryor talk about T&E in Transportation Security Administration (TSA). Mr. Pryor is responsible for operational testing of security equipment deployed at air, rail, and port installations across the country.

We will host our annual Corporate Sponsors Breakfast in April. This is the function where we present our scholarship award checks to five local universities in accordance with the ITEA mission. More to come on this in next month's newsletter.

And finally, for those who did not know, ITEA will be celebrating its 25th anniversary at the annual symposium in Albuquerque, NM this fall. Our chapter is helping with the planning of a special event commemorating this occasion.



Bob Molepske

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

New Members

The Chapter welcomes four new members since the last newsletter:

- Mr David P Coughran of Northrup Gruman
 - Mrs Debi Denney of ASD
 - Mr John Rose of ASD
 - Mr Ronnie Smith of GTRI
- The Membership Committee reminds you that if you bring a prospective new member to a luncheon and he or she joins ITEA at that luncheon, both of you receive a future luncheon free.

Chapter Website

Check out our chapter website at <http://www.gw-itea.org>

GWC members may now pay for monthly luncheons online through PayPal using Visa or MasterCard.

Corporate Sponsors

Among ITEA corporate members, we have seven chapter sponsors:

- Anteon Corporation
- ASD
- Applied Resources Inc
- Enlighthouse Inc
- Electronic Warfare Associates
- SAIC
- Northrop Grumman

For information on corporate sponsorship, contact Committee Chair Todd Stevenson.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Feb 17 – Chapter Luncheon
Speaker: COL Linda Palmer of MDA
- Mar 2 – Chapter Business Meeting
- Mar 17 – Chapter Luncheon
Speaker: Dr John Foulkes, TRMC
- Apr 6 – Chapter Business Meeting
- Apr 13 – Annual Corporate Breakfast
- Apr 21 – Chapter Luncheon
Speaker: Mr Robert Pryor, TSA

January Luncheon

At our luncheon on January 27th at the Army-Navy Country Club, the George Washington Chapter heard the Honorable Thomas P. Christie, in his last days serving as the Defense Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, talk of "Mission Accomplishment: The True Measure of Success".



Tom Christie, DOT&E

He said that after four years in the job, he was finishing his tour in two days and recalled that when he started he had set three objectives: OT&E adequate by any standards, enhanced T&E infra-structure, and accurate reporting. The T&E community has achieved much success, but challenges remain.

One challenge is conduct of T&E during both a war on terrorism and transformation of the Defense acquisition process that has revised the 5000.2 instruction three times in four years. Another is testing increasingly complex systems. A third is maintaining the resources necessary to T&E.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Social period before the meal at the February luncheon

President's Corner (Con't)

If you would like to be involved in the future of T&E, please contact one of the chapter officers and let them know how you would like to be involved. Many hands make every job smaller. We also need a Special Events Committee Chair. If you would like to do that or know someone who would be good in that position please let me know. See you on the 17th at our February luncheon.

- Bob Molepske

January Luncheon (Con't)

Christie said that all of his predecessors called for early tester involvement in the acquisition process, and this now prevents surprises late in development that testing used to be blamed for.

Now he sees the need for more warfighter involvement in T&E because changing needs in the war on terrorism require many systems to go to war before full testing. For this he applauds combat evaluation such as the Army's Force 21.

He also now sees the need to develop a capability to test in the Joint environment.

This will require changes in procedure, for example linking into a network and testing in joint exercises.

George Washington Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs

President Bob Molepske	703-697-5550	robert.molepske@sycoleman.com	SYColeman
Vice Pres Cathy Cordova	703-614-2227	catherine.cordova@mda.mil	MDA
Secretary Jeff Mulliner	703-681-5511	jeffrey.mulliner@osd.mil	SAIC
Treasurer Mike Wetzl	703-671-3124x163	wetzlm@mail.etas.com	SAIC
Awards Cathy Cordova	703-614-2227	catherine.cordova@mda.mil	MDA
Corporate Todd Stevenson	703 697 4655	todd_stevenson@sparta.com	Sparta Inc
Education Jim Tedeschi	703-681-5523	jim.tedeschi@osd.mil	ODOT&E
Membership Debi Denney	703-695-9071	debi.denney.ctr@osd.mil	ASD
Programs Chas McKee	703-264-7240	charles.mckee@ngc.com	Northrup Gruman
Publications Fred McCoy	703-403-5537	fred.mccoy@verizon.net	JRC
Public Relations Mark Rieland	703-693.5305	mark.rieland.ctr@osd.mil	ASD

He said evaluation will have to be from a Joint perspective, not single Service, and testing will have to address interoperability, not single systems.

Christie is concerned that these advances in T&E have to be made in the face of adverse trends, such as the decline in systems' suitability in recent years. He evaluated half of the last 14 systems "Not Suitable" and the Defense Science Board estimated that 80% are. The fix to this is more and better Developmental Testing.

Another adverse trend is deterioration of the test infrastructure, with shortfalls mainly in instrumentation, targets, and open-air ranges. He sees hopeful signs in creation of the new Defense Test Resources

Management Command and in increased institutional funding.

In closing, Christie thanked everyone in the T&E community for progress made during his four years.

After the talk, Chapter officer Jeff Mulliner presented Christie a framed engraving of George Washington's Mount Vernon estate in thanks for his talk.



NEXT CHAPTER LUNCHEON

Thursday, February 17th

Army Navy Country Club

Speaker: COL Linda Palmer, Director of T&E, Missile Defense Agency

Topic: "Test and Evaluation in Missile Defense"

Cost of lunch: \$20

To make a reservation to attend, contact Kristin Hasselbrack by noon Tuesday, Feb 15th at:

khasselbrack@alionscience.com or (703) 614-9524

or

By PayPal at the chapter website: <http://www.gw-itea.org>



ITEA George Washington Chapter
ATTN: Fred McCoy, Newsletter Editor
Alexandria, VA PO Box 8390, 22306

NEWSLETTER