



**ARSAG '03**

6-10 October  
Aladdin, Las Vegas

## Conference Minutes

ARSAG celebrated its twenty-fifty year with ARSAG '03 at the Aladdin Resort and Casino in Las Vegas NV 6 through 10 October. ARSAG was founded in 1978; this year's conference was its fiftieth meeting.

The conference general session convened at on Tuesday, 7 October, when Nellis AFB's Col Michael Norris graciously welcomed ARSAG to Las Vegas and to Nellis and described Nellis' general operations as an introduction to our Thursday tour. ARSAG was honored that our Guest Speaker was Capt (sel) Jeffrey Penfield, US Navy. His interesting and informative briefing described aircraft carrier aerial refueling operations, missions over Iraq and USAF aerial refueling tanker support.

Representatives of international air forces and ministries of defense presented status briefings. They were followed by status briefings by delegates from United States military services. The ARSAG Chairman briefly described ARSAG's first meeting at the Strategic Air Command in March 1978 in Omaha NE, ARSAG's past accomplishments and current projects and suggested future activities relating to advanced development.

Tuesday's luncheon was complemented by an address by Mr. Robert Gower of the Boeing Company who discussed the near future of the KC-767 tanker and its merits.

In the awards session following the luncheon, ARSAG recognized the AMC tanker crew from McConnell AFB, Kansas, who were awarded the Air Force's Distinguished Flying Cross. Present to receive plaques were Capt Tricia Paulsen-Howe and Capt Nathan . Darrell Page, retired chief engineer at Sargent Fletcher was recognized. Appreciation was extended to ARSAG's departing members including: Gerald Montgomery, long-time ARSAG Reliability and Maintainability Panel Chairman; CMSgt Dan Mongeon, AMC, Co-Chair of the Training Panel; CMSgt Craig Blessing, ACC, an ARSAG Steering Group member who arranged for ARSAG's tour to Nellis AFB to take place on Thursday. Peter Turner, Flight Refuelling Ltd was honored with a plaque for his significant support of ARSAG. Others who received certificates in recognition their contributions to ARSAG were: Bob Mengel, MTC, who has assisted in ARSAG conference and planning meeting arrangements; Troy Ribail, NAVAIR, a panel co-chair; David Ludwig, USN, who assisted in founding ARSAG's Test Panel; Col Ed Breen of AMC whose support and encouragement will be greatly missed; Capt Christoff Mueller, German Air Force who sat on ARSAG's Steering Group and participated as a panel co-chair; and Col Lee Roy Martin, who in the mid-1990's first represented NATO in ARSAG. Farhad Choudhury and Jim Steimke of the US Navy also were recognized for the honors they were awarded during the past year.

The Panel Chair briefings included much discussion of the 767 Tanker leasing program as described by Maj Gen Wm. Hodges, SAF/AQQ who participated with the Studies and Analysis Panel. Briefings in the Industry and Training Panels included discussions about Airbus tankers. Other briefings discussed the immediate need for advanced developments of automated aerial refueling for unmanned and future manned air vehicles. The need for more drogues/booms per tanker was addressed by the Advanced Concepts and other panels.

Special Topic Project Meetings were held on 6 and 10 October and covered those topics completed/underway and to be discussed at future meetings. These topics discussed included aerial refueling probe/drogue loads failure modes, aerial refueling lighting and points of contact for aerial refueling clearance process and administrative methods for implementing and communicating the projects to the ARSAG Conference General Assemblies. Meeting minutes will be forwarded separately.

On Wednesday, 8 Oct, a special session addressed an immediate problem the French AF was having with the C-135 boom-to-drogue adapter kit. Mr. Richard Ferris of OC-ALC/LCFT foreign military sales requested the meeting on behalf of the French Air Force and Mr. Jean-Christophe Plotka.