



Air Force Association **Technology Exposition 2015**

Staff photography by Heather Lewis

Attendance was up sharply at the Air Force Association's 2015 Air & Space Conference, with thousands more blue-suit and government attendees and the strongest-ever presence of Air Force general officers touring the Technology Exposition. Exhibitors presented specific solutions to USAF's most pressing needs, this year focused more on near-term requirements than futuristic capabilities. 111 BAE Systems presented a Boeing F-15E model highlighting the company's Eagle Passive Active Warning Survivability System offering—a contract it won just two weeks after the show. 121 Alenia Aermacchi's T-100 and 131 Lockheed Martin's T-50 offerings for USAF's T-X trainer competition, both based on off-the-shelf designs. Boeing and Northrop Grumman brought their new-design T-X models in enclosed trailers, available for view on an "invitation-only" basis. Textron showed its Scorpion T-X candidate as well. 141 UTC Aerospace presented an ACES 5 ejection seat.



Aerospace technology of the highest order was on display at AFA's annual showcase.

11 Retired Lt. Gen. Stephen Wood (left) and Phil Burkholder, senior vice president and president of Rolls-Royce Defense Aerospace, respectively, stand ready to answer questions about engines for C-130J transports. *12* L-3 Communications' booth was overflowed by a variant of its Cutlass unmanned aircraft. *13* The Air Force Research Laboratory showed off its BATMAN concept for lighter-weight gear for battlefield airmen, including wrist-, chest-, and helmet-mounted color displays, lightweight batteries, and communications equipment. *14* Northrop Grumman's RQ-4 Global Hawk Block 40 "soared" over its booth. *15* A General Atomics model of an MQ-9 Reaper showed off the impressive weapon load the remotely piloted aircraft can carry, including Hellfire missiles and laser guided JDAM bombs.



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111 Retired Gen. Larry Spencer, who recently took office as President of AFA, visits with one of the association's youngest Life Members. 121 LEKTRO's electric tow vehicle was a bright red splash among the gray airplane models in the exhibit hall. 131 A re-enactor portraying Gen. John "Black Jack" Pershing called attention to the World War I Centennial Commission and how people can participate in centennial activities. 141 Bombardier's Global 6000 bizjet will serve as the platform for Lockheed Martin's entry in the JSTARS recapitalization program. 151 Pratt & Whitney's PW4062 engine, shown in a cutaway scale model, will power the KC-46 fleet. As many as 368 could be built by 2027.



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111 Martin Baker's T-38 ejection seat was joined by its F-35 seat, offered for use in whatever T-X trainer the Air Force selects. 121 Alan Kollien of Raytheon tries a Rockwell Collins F-35 Generation 3 helmet on for size. Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh described the headgear as far more than just a head protector, but as also the "work space" of the F-35 fighter. 131 A full-scale model of MBDA's air-breathing Meteor radar guided missile, planned to equip some Eurofighter Typhoons, could extend the reach of jets like the F-35. 141 AgustaWestland's AW139 is a potential candidate to meet Air Force Global Strike Command's need for a new support helo. 151 A Boeing Scan Eagle unmanned reconnaissance aircraft swooped low over attendees' heads—one of many actual-size models on display.

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111 Special ops in miniature: A model Combat King refueling aircraft tanks up an HH-60 Pave Hawk at Lockheed Martin's booth. 121 and 131 Top Aces USA displayed large models of its Alpha Jet and F-16 aggressors-for-hire, an increasingly attractive training support service for air forces worldwide. 141 AgustaWestland's AW609 tilt-rotor, being developed for the commercial market, could have military applications as well. 151 A two-seat remotely piloted aircraft operator station was displayed by AECOM. It provides RPA maintenance, support, and communications.





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11 A cutaway model of Pratt & Whitney's F135 engine, based on the F119 that powers the F-22 (background painting). The turbofan powers the multiservice, multinational F-35 fighter. **12** Roger Giese with the Warrior Canine Connection led "Tamer" around the exhibit hall. The program helps veterans by teaching them to train therapy dogs to help other combat vets. **13** Kratos displayed a BQM-167A target drone tricked out with specialized target gear. **14** Orbital ATK's family of vertical-launch vehicles on display in model form. **15** Lockheed Martin's trio of USAF fighters: the F-35A, F-22A, and an F-16 Block 50 soar out from the company's booth. High visitation from key decision-makers made the ASC15 Expo a standout success. 🌟