

# Requirements Symposium to unite industry, government and ideas

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The Fourth Annual Warner Robins Air Logistics Center Requirements Symposium is set to give base senior managers a chance to discuss their future vision and present their requirements for the next two years to private industry leaders Wednesday and Thursday.

The two-day event, co-sponsored by the Warner Robins Area Chamber of Commerce and its subcommittee, the Aerospace Industry Committee and hosted by the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, will bring nearly 1,000 base managers and community business leaders together at the Perry Agriculture Center to lay out plans for warfighter support.

The 2006 symposium's theme is "Sustainment: Leading Change through Innovation."

Frank Feild, Warner Robins Area Chamber of Commerce president, said the symposium's focus has always been on bringing planners from the military and corporate communities together to take a sensible approach to doing business.

"I think the very fact that we're conducting this kind of constructive dialogue that we've been doing speaks for itself," he said. "I can remember not too terribly long ago when base officials, not just here but throughout the mili-

tary, were scared to death to talk to any kind of contractor. They were concerned they may be held liable for a misstatement or inference that 'such and such' might happen."

But, the symposium has helped the two groups break down barriers to communication.

Mr. Feild said the conference encourages a meeting of minds.

"This is a process that's evolutionary and quite frankly, I don't think there's any other place in the country or within the Department of Defense establishment that has the capability of having something like this evolve like it has," he said.

Charlie Williams, deputy assistant secretary for contracting in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, is one of five guest speakers at this year's conference. Other guest speakers include Maj. Gen. Loren Reno, vice director of the Defense Logistics Agency, and Grover Dunn, director of transformation and deputy chief of staff for Logistics, Installations and Mission Support.

The symposium luncheon's guest speaker will be Lt. Gen. Chris Kelly, Air Mobility Command vice commander, who will present, "Supporting the War Fighter: A Perspective on Doing Business with the Government."

Kenneth Percell, WR-ALC

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# SYMPOSIUM

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executive director, said the symposium focuses on each of the four wings at the base and their needs to accomplish their missions in the near future.

“The 542nd Combat Sustainment Wing will talk about what procurement is needed to replace spare parts and what we’re doing to get services for ‘sparing,’” he said. “And then, the 330th Aircraft Sustainment Wing will talk about major projects we’re doing on the platforms of the Air Force for different aircraft we manage. The 402nd Maintenance Wing will talk about the equipment procurement, capital investments, facilities, and changes they’re going to make or services they’re going to acquire.”

Mr. Percell said Robins hopes to get what it requires for less money through partnership agreements and eliminating

waste and administrative burdens and time lost due to communication in contractually based arrangements.

“I’m sure there will be a lot of interest in exactly what our requirements are going to be,” he said. “Over the past years, there has been a lot of focus on some of the emerging requirements that come from our aging aircraft systems.”

Mr. Percell said he believes changes in the Air Force budget will have a major impact on what the base asks for.

“This year, with the Air Force committing to drastically reducing costs and those sorts of things, I think two things will happen. The industry I’m sure is on the edge of its chair to see what we have in the way of requirements this year because of our reductions in our budget. More importantly, I think industry is also going to be interested in how it changes the character of what we ask for because we’re being so cost conscious this year,” Mr. Percell said.

Robins hopes to leverage what assets it does have through its partnerships to make the most of funds available for the aging aircraft fleet.

Starting Wednesday, keynote speakers will meet with conference participants in the morning and requirements breakout sessions will follow in the afternoon.

A networking social will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Museum of Aviation’s Century of Flight Hangar. Civilian dress should be business casual and military dress is uniform of the day for the evening event.

Patsy Reeves, director of contracting at the Center, said the symposium gives the base and industry leaders a central location to discuss Air Force requirements and sustainment activities.

“The symposium has been well received by industry and continues to grow in quality and quantity of attendees every year,” she said.