The History of the Aerospace Physiology Society---Part III

By Donald C. Choisser, Colonel, USAF, BSC (Ret)

Annual Meetings

Each year, the AsPS meet in conjunction with AsMA. Activities include a certification examination, Planning Committee meetings, a social function in a local popular venue and a business luncheon. The luncheon involves the President's Welcome, recognition of officers, committees, the founding fathers and charter members, past presidents, new members and guests. Reports are given by the Treasurer, the Nominating Committee and Certification Committee, and Society awards are presented.

One of the high points of this gathering is the Smith W. Ames Memorial Lecture, sponsored by the David Clark Company, Inc. The guest speaker presents from his or her knowledge on subjects that range from physiological rigors and consequences of mountain climbing to adventures in space. The 2003 meeting was privileged to have Ms. Amy Ross, MSM, Space Project Engineer of the Johnson Space Center, NASA, delivering a lecture on "The Future of Space Suit Design - Suiting Up for Mars."

The Smith W. Ames Memorial Lectures are interesting and noteworthy for several reasons, of content, style and demonstration. In 1978 at the New Orleans Meeting, one of the proposed lecturers was Dr. Fred A. Hitchcock, pioneer physiologist at Ohio State University. As a senior citizen, he flew a stagger-wing vintage Beachcraft airplane. Due to health reasons, he was unable to attend and another speaker presented on "Electronic Warfare Mechanisms Used in Operation Red Flag." The Society President at that time, Don Choisser, did a telephone interview with Dr. Hitchcock and taped it for presentation to the membership. Dr. Hitchcock provided words of greeting and inspiration to all that attended. And, when asked about his health, he responded in his own unique way by saying, "How do I feel? - Pretty good, considering most people my age are dead." This comment and his words of encouragement were exhilarating to the members and provided an appropriate finish to the luncheon.

The business luncheon also provides an opportunity for the Society members to enjoy fellowship with friends, recognize professional achievements and share the common interests in the field of aerospace physiology. In the past year our fellow members have participated in "Operation Iraqi Freedom" and we have witnessed the deep loss of several of our close colleagues in the shuttle Columbia disaster. Both events have left the members with renewed dedication to expand the envelope of the profession. In the words of the 2002-2003 President, Vince Musasse, Capt, USN, "The goal this year is to stress the three "Rs" of renewal, relevance and recognition. We renew our old acquaintances with our fellow professionals. We see the relevance of what we do in the eyes of our distinguished Smith Ames Memorial Lecturer. In

1969, FIRST AWARDS—(Left) Dr. Smith W. Ames, left, President of AsPS, presented the first Paul Bert Award for outstanding research in aviation physiology to Dr. Richard Bancroft. (Right) CDR Elizabeth Reeves, USN, presents the first Paul Bert Award for operational physiology to Dr. Smith W. Ames. Both awards were first presented in 1969.

1973, FIRST WILEY POST AWARD—The first recipient of the newly named award was Lt. Col. Donald C. Johnson, right, who was presented the award by Kay Benson, left, representing the sponsoring Phillips Petroleum Co., and by Lt. Col. Giles Hall, USAF, Awards Chairman. The award recognizes the newly certified Aerospace Physiologists and recognizes our stellar performers through our Society Awards Program. To those who make all of this possible, our sponsors, and all who have contributed to the success over the past year, we extend our heartfelt thank you.

The annual award presentations are another distinguished portion of the luncheon meeting anticipated and enjoyed by all attendees, members and sponsors. The awards presented with their 2003 recipients were:

Wiley Post Award -- Lt. Sean M. Lando
Paul Bert Award -- James F. Webb, PhD
Fred A. Hitchcock Award -- Col. Kent E. Magnussen
Presidents Award for Outstanding Service -- Col. Mary F. Foley
Excellence in Education Award -- Carol Heibl

As the 2003 business luncheon concluded during the AsMA meeting in San Antonio, Texas, Capt. Vince Musasse, MSC, USN, turned over the AsPS gavel to the new President for 2003-2004, Capt. Donna Murdoch, MSC, USN.

Society Awards

A description of the Annual Society Awards is as follows. The previous winners are listed on the Society web site listed below.

Wiley Post Award For Operational Physiology. This award was established in 1969 and originally entitled the Paul Bert Award for Operational Physiology. In 1972, the Wiley Post Award took the place of the Paul Bert Award for Operational Physiology. The award is named in honor of the pioneer avian, Wiley Post. It represents all crewmembers that have benefited from the efforts of operational aerospace physiologists. The award, consisting of a wall plaque, certificate and honorarium, is presented annually for exceptional service and achievements in operational physiology, including education and physiological support of USA, USAF, USN, FAA, NASA, and allied or civilian aircrews. The award and honorarium were sponsored by the Phillips Petroleum Company of Bartlesville, OK from 1973 to 1989, by the Aerospace Physiology Society in 1990 and by the Gentex Corporation of Carbondale, PA beginning in 1991. The 2003 recipient was Lt. Sean M. Lando.

Paul Bert Award For Physiological Research. Established by the See PHYSIOLOGY HISTORY, p. 197.
1972, FIRST HITCHCOCK AWARD—Dr. George H. Kydd received the Fred A. Hitchcock Award for excellence in aerospace physiology from Dr. Hitchcock. Looking on are Dr. Paul Webb, left, Awards Chair, and Dr. Edwin Hiatt, right, President.

PHYSIOLOGY HISTORY, from p. 196.

Aerospace Physiology Society in 1969, the award is named in honor of the famous French physiologist and "Father of Pressure Physiology." The award is presented annually for outstanding research contributions in the field of aerospace physiology. The award consists of a wall plaque, a certificate and an honorarium. Since 1973, the Sierra Engineering Company of Sierra Madre, CA has sponsored the award and honorarium. In 1978, Sierra Engineering Company merged with Scott Aviation of Lancaster, NY. In 2002, NTL, Inc. became the newest sponsor of the award. The 2003 recipient was James P. Webb, PhD.

Fred A Hitchcock Award For Excellence in Aerospace Physiology. Established in 1972 by the Aerospace Physiology Society, the award is named in honor of the exemplary physiologist and co-translator of Paul Bert's classic work Barometric Pressure. The award is presented annually for excellence in either operational physiology or physiological research. The award consists of a certificate, an honorarium and a copy of Barometric Pressure. International ATMOS, Inc. sponsors the award and honorarium. The 2003 recipient was Col Kent E. Magnussen.

Excellence in Education Award. The Excellence in Education Award is a presentation and monetary award to a science teacher in the city hosting the ASMA Scientific Meeting rewarding excellence in teaching and promoting the sciences. The 2003 recipient was Carol Hebl of San Antonio, Texas.

Acknowledgments

Several inputs for this article are testimony that joint and combined military aerospace physiology endeavors of the members are very successful. Aerospace Physiologists have developed unique working and professional relationships that have been synergistic for the Department of Defense, industry and academia. They have added value to the aerospace physiology corporate knowledge, Society functions and a zest for life are present within the profession.

Current information on the Aerospace Physiology Society can be followed monthly in the ASEM Journal on the Aerospace Physiology Report and obtained from their web site: www.aspsociety.org. The web displays material on the Society's objectives and purpose, membership, officers, committees, events (including the Smith W. Ames Memorial Lecture and speakers), awards and certification.

There have been several informational contributions for this article. Persons who deserve specific thanks for their special and significant contributions of information and resources for this article include:


It is fitting that we acknowledge the oldest living members of the Aerospace Physiology Society. Col. Harold Lou Bitter, USAF(Ret.), was a researcher and manager who was educated at Johns Hopkins University, the University of Maryland, and received his PhD in 1958 at the University of Rochester under H. Rahn and E. Shavy. His work included primate studies on the Sub-gravity State during parabolic flight, and ranged through research and development management at the School of Aerospace Medicine in the mid-1960s when he was head of the Pharmacology and Biochemistry Branch. He retired in San Antonio in 1989, but is in good health. In his 85th year, he walks 80 minutes a day, 7 days a week, stays quite active playing golf at least once a week and has a blood pressure of 125/65 of which we are all envious. We wish him the very best for a long, healthful, happy future.

Capt. Walter L. E. Goldenrath, USN, served as a line officer during World War II, returning to U.C. Berkeley to finish his PhD after the war. He was recalled to active duty as MSC and stationed at the School of Aviation Medicine in Pensacola, FL. In 1955, he was stationed at NAS North Island, CA, working with pressure suits (PS). The author was one of his Pressure Suit students in 1960 during the Pressure Suit evaluations for Project Mercury. Following North Island, Walt went to the University of Southern California to work with Dr. Patrick Meehan on instrumentation of the first chimpanzee in space, HAM. He later served at Miramar NAS, and later as Director of ACEL Labs in Philadelphia and then at NASA AMES Research Center, CA. Capt. Goldenrath retired in 1975, plays some golf, says he is in reasonably good health at the age of 85, and likes to hear from old (and not so old) shipmates. We wish him smooth sailing and continued good health in Palo Alto, CA.

Conclusion

The Aerospace Physiology Society members of today, given the energy and spirit, have a marvelous opportunity for advanced and experimental education, growth, unique performance and a broad variety of interactions that are rewarding and a patriotic challenge.

All photos republished from Aviation, Space and Environmental Medicine, 1979; 50:498-501.

Aerospace Physiology Society New Membership Drive

For several years now, the Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA) has been offering a 2 for 1 sale for new memberships. To qualify, you must have never been a previous member of AsMA, and you must join during the Annual Meeting. In keeping with the spirit of membership in professional organizations, The Aerospace Physiology Society (AsPS) is also conducting a membership drive.

Part of that drive for 2003/04 is a special dues offering. New members who join the AsPS after January 1, 2004 will receive 2 years membership for the price of 1. If you are eligible and would like to join AsPS, please request a membership brochure from the AsPS Treasurer, Membership Chairman at the address below. E-mail requests can be sent to her at: Brenda.Crook@holoman.af.mil. An e-mail attachment will be returned, which can be completed and then mailed with initial dues payment to:

Treasurer
Aerospace Physiology Society

/z0 Brenda Crook
3824 Trawood Drive
Alamogordo, NM 88310

Aerospace Physiology Society Objectives and Purpose

To encourage, promote, and advance the science and practice of aerospace physiology and other related scientific disciplines.

To stimulate and accomplish physiological investigation; studying and disseminating pertinent information though teaching and participation in scientific and technical meetings;

To increase the professional status of Aerospace Physiologist and associated disciplines with AsMA;

Providing a single unified voice within See AsPS, p. 198.

AsPS, from p. 197
AsMA to present the views of the Society.
AsPS Events Held During the AsMA
Annual Scientific Meeting
Education and Training Day
Sponsored or co-sponsored scientific ses-
sion on a subject pertinent to aerospace
physiologists.
Annual Society Evening Social Event
Luncheon and Business Meeting Activities:
SMITH W. AMES MEMORIAL LECTURE.
Established in 1962 and named in honor
of a former president of the society.
Presented at the annual Society luncheon
and business meeting.
Presentation of the Society's Annual
Awards: See previous article.
Information Sharing During the Year:
Articles and announcements are periodi-
cally published as the Aerospace Physiology
Report in the journal Aviation, Space and
Environmental Medicine. Additional infor-
mation is mailed directly to members during
the year.
Certification in Aerospace Physiology
AsMA has offered certification in
Aerospace Physiology since 1977.
The objectives of the certification pro-
gam are to:
* Encourage the study, the practice, and elevate the standards of excellence in
  Aerospace Physiology.
* Promote the professional stature of the
  Aerospace Physiology Society within AsMA.
* Provide an avenue for professional and peer
  recognition.
* Serve as a goal which members can
  strive to attain through dedication, self-
  study, and personal contributions to AsMA
  and the Aerospace Physiology Society.
Current AsPS Officers are:
President: CAPE Donna Murchotch, USN,
Nasal Aerospace Medical Research
Laboratory, NAS Pensacola, FL (850) 452-3286
or dan 922-3286; co@nams.navy.mil.
President-elect: CDR Gail Hathaway, USN,
Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Washing-
ton, DC. (202) 762-3462 or dan 762-3456.
Immediate Past President: CAPE Vince
Muscarella, USN, Bureau of Medicine and
Surgery, (202) 762-3461 or dan 762-3461.

I WANT YOU!

Our membership has been flat at about
3,300 for the past 5 years. We now want to
elevate our rolls. I WANT YOU to get a
new member for AsMA sometime during
the next 6-12 months. Ask a colleague in
your institution or workplace and consider
giving an AsMA membership as a gift to a
deserving colleague. Let's all get behind this
and surge. I will keep you posted on how we are doing. Thank you.

Clinical Aviation Medicine
This is a reminder that the book "Clinical
Aviation Medicine" which was donated to
AsMA by the authors (Rayman, Hastings,
Kruyer, and Levy) is available free of
charge (a $110 value) to new AsMA mem-
bers only through 2004. Please recruit a
new AsMA member soon, before this offer
expires.

Russell B. Rayman, M.D.
Executive Director

Secretary: Capt Julia Sundstrom, USAF,
USUHS, Bethesda, MD (301) 319-6988.
Treasurer: MAJ Brenda Crook, USAF, 49
AADOX/SSEGT, Holloman, AB NM.
Consider joining our organization and be
enriched by the experiences they will hold for
you - receive academic updates, develop
a rapport with our international and inter-
service counterparts, initiate opportunities
to exchange ideas and develop contacts in
related fields or disciplines, and especially
enjoy our evening gatherings. The AsPS is
referred for the "big event" each year - we
always sell out!
Visit the Aerospace Physiology Society web
page at: http://www.aspsociety.org/
Hope to see you in Anchorage in May 2004
and at future meetings beyond.

In Memoriam
Richard Millington

Richard A. Millington, Capt., USN (Ret.),
died November 28, 2003. He attended college
at Pomona College in Claremont, CA, and
graduated from the University of Iowa
College of Medicine in 1956. He then became
a flight surgeon in the Navy in 1958. He joined
the staff at the Naval School of Aviation
Medicine, serving as Head of the Aviation
Physical Examination Division until 1960.
After completing an M.S. program in radiation
biology at the University of Rochester, he
served as Force Medical Officer of the Com-
mander, Naval Support Force, Antarctica. He
was part of a team that flew from Cape Town,
South Africa, to McMurdo Station, Antarctica,
a world record first, earning him the distinction
of having a glacier named after him.
He also served as the medical flight con-
troller on three Gemini manned space mis-
sions, was the senior Medical Officer aboard
US Enterprise (CVN 65), was Medical
Director of Physicians Assistant and Advanced
Hospital Corps School at the Naval School of
Health Sciences in San Diego, CA, and was
Force Medical Officer, Pacific Fleet. He became
Commanding Officer of the Naval Aerospace
Medical Institute in August 1985, a position he
held until his retirement.
He was a diplomat of the American Board of
Preventive Medicine, a fellow of the
Aerospace Board of Preventive Medicine, and
a past president of the Society of Naval Flight
Surgeons, as well as holding an appointment
as an associate clinical professor at George
Washington College of Medicine.

MEETINGS CALENDAR
February 17-20, 2004, Galveston, TX.
The University of Texas Medical Branch,
Department of Preventive Medicine
Residency and the U.S. Army School of
Aviation Medicine will host "Pushing the
Envelope V—Medicine in Challenging
Environments", at the Moody Gardens
Hotel in Galveston. For information see
the website at www.umbt.edu/pet.
February 18-22, 2004, Orlando, FL.
The American College of Preventive Medicine
(ACPM) presents Preventive Medicine.
2004. Caribe Royal Suites and Villas. Info:
www.preventivemedicine2004.org; or
Ginger Walters, ACPM Education Manager,
(202) 466-2044, ext. 111.
March 22-25, 2004, Daytona Beach, FL.
Human Performance, Situation Awareness,
and Automation Technology Conference II.
Info: Dennis A. Vincenzi (386)226-7035;
dennis.vincenzi@erau.edu;
http://faculty.erau.edu/vincenzi/htapa.
Workshop on Remote Management of
Mild ODI. Info: Undersea and Hyperbaric
Medical Society (UHMS): (301) 942-2980;
email: ahms@uhms.org; website:
www.ahms.org or

Australian Certificate
of Civil Aviation
Medicine
14 tc 25 June 2004
An exciting two week program held in
Melbourne, Australia, open to medical
graduates. Prerequisite in Australia for
appointment as a Designated Aviation
Medical Examiner.
Email shortcrs@med.monash.edu.au
www.med.monash.edu.au/epidemiology/acmac

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