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Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey

PRESS RELEASE



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Local Navy teams and individual recognized at ceremony

Dec 20, 2011, LAKEHURST, NJ -- Four local Lakehurst teams located on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst recently received Naval Air Warfare Aircraft Division (NAWCAD) Commander's Awards or Innovation Awards. Farhad Choudhury was recognized individually at this 11th Annual Commander's Award Ceremony held by NAWCAD in Patuxent River, Md.

The NAWCAD Commander's Award acknowledge team and individual efforts in specific problem areas, break throughs or outstanding fleet support in technical, business or leadership excellence. The NAWCAD Innovation Award is given to teams or individuals who achieve NAWCAD corporate goals.

These awards show the value that NAWCAD places on innovation in the technical, acquisition support, system life cycle support and corporate/institutional support categories, according to Rear Adm. Randolph Mahr, Commander, NAWCAD, awards presenter.

The NAWCAD Lakehurst, the Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS) team was recognized for the successful first launch of an F/A-18E Super Hornet from the new electromagnetic launcher at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ. The team matured the technologies beyond "state of the art" through disciplined systems engineering to design, build and test a new aircraft launch system for future aircraft carriers beginning in 2015.

CAPT. David P. Gleisner, NAWCAD Vice Commander, noted "The EMALS team changed Naval aviation this past year when the first F/A-18E was electromagnetically launched at NAWCAD Lakehurst on December 18,

2010. EMALS team lead George Sulich accepted the award.

The F/A-18E/F Ground Handling Nose Landing Gear (NLG) Project Team was recognized for successfully delivering a “ground handling” NLG that resolved a burdensome maintenance workflow limitation at ship and shore sites.

NAWCAD Lakehurst’s F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Jet Blast Deflector Test (JBD) Team was recognized for designing a highly complex Data Acquisition System for JBD compatibility testing. It refurbished the inactive test site for F-35, provided work space for 100 engineers and completed the test program in a major cooperative effort across NAWCAD.

The individual Commander’s Award recipient at NAWCAD Lakehurst was program manager Farhad Choudhury. Choudhury has approval to receive \$2.0 million in Research and Development funds for his proposal to test and evaluate a commercially available drogue (funnel-shaped device at end of refueling line) for the Navy’s Aerial Refueling. The new drogue will reduce engine damage caused by drogue parts coming loose. This is especially important for single engine aircraft, such as the F-35B/C. A \$2.0 million cost per year in engine repair could be avoided.

The NAWCAD Innovation Award (Technical Support) recipient team from NAWCAD Lakehurst was the Aircraft Launch and Recovery Equipment – Compact Swaging Machine Team. This team developed a machine to replace the current unsafe casting process with a swaging (pressing) machine useable in a restrictive shipboard environment to press terminals into the aircraft recovery wires.

Mauricio Borrero, NAWCAD Director of Program Management, Kathy Donnelly, Director, Support Equipment and Aircraft Launch and Recovery Equipment (SE&ALRE), attended the ceremony in person while CDR Brady Bartosh, Military Director of SE&ALRE, attended with those recipients remaining at NAWCAD Lakehurst.

Gary Kessler, NAWCAD Executive Director; Brian Barr, AIR-1.3.2/4 PEO(A) and (U&W) Programs Supervisor at NAWCAD Lakehurst; Anthony Manich, PMA-201 Deputy Program Manager; Farhad Choudhury, AIR-1.3.4.1 Deputy IPT Lead for Air Refueling Program at NAWCAD Lakehurst; Captain Carl Chebi, PMA-201 Program Manager; Captain David Gleisner, NAWCAD Vice Commander, and Rear Admiral Randolph Mahr, NAWCAD Commander stand after Commander’s Award Presentation.

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