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## 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, MSME, 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 Musashe, Capt, USN, "The goal this year is to stress the three "R's" 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



**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 Chair.

recognition, we congratulate the newly certified Aerospace Physiologists and recognize 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 P. 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 Musashe, 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 aviator, 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.



**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.



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, N.T.I., 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 ATMO, 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 Heibl 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 Physiologist Society can be followed monthly in the ASEM Journal on the Aerospace Physiology Report and obtained from their web site: [www.aspsociety.org](http://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: Charlie Anderson, Bill Little, Timothy J. Byrne, Charles J. Curry, Richard D. Heimbach, Kent E. Magnusson, Donna M. Murdoch, Richard J. Jehue, Harold T. Pheeny, Susan E. Richardson, Robert M. Shaffstall, Paul J. Sheffield, Richard B. Trumbo, James T. Webb, Wilbur T. "Tom" Workman and the staff of International ATMO, Inc. From the beginning, the prime mover and inspiration for the Air Force Aerospace Physiology Program following WWII was the former Air Force Surgeon General, Lt. Gen. Alonzo A. Towner, now deceased. He and his successors, such as Lt. Gen. George E. Schafer, deserve more than special mention for their leadership.

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. Shaw. 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 1973 and 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 experiential 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 1 January 2004 will receive 2 years credit for dues at the initial membership price of \$10.00. We also encourage our senior leaders in civilian and military physiology organizations to promote AsPS membership to their peers and subordinates. The

qualifications for membership in the Aerospace Physiology Society are:

"Member in good standing in AsMA..

"Demonstration of genuine interest in Aerospace Physiology consistent with the objectives and purpose of the AsPS.

"Annual Dues: \$10.00 US.

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@holloman.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

c/o 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 scientific disciplines;

"Stimulating and accomplishing physiological investigation; studying and disseminating pertinent information through teaching and participation in scientific and technical meetings;

"Increasing the professional stature of Aerospace Physiologist and associated disciplines within 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 session on a subject pertinent to aerospace physiologists.

**Annual Society Evening Social Event**

Luncheon and Business Meeting Activities:  
SMITH W. AMES MEMORIAL LECTURE.

Established in 1982 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 periodically published as the Aerospace Physiology Report in the journal Aviation, Space and Environmental Medicine. Additional information 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 program are to:

"Encourage the study, improve 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:** CAPT Donna Murdoch, USN, Naval Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory, NAS Pensacola, FL (850) 452-3286 or dsn 922-3286; [co@namrl.navy.mil](mailto:co@namrl.navy.mil).

**President-elect:** CDR Gail Hathaway, USN, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Washington, DC (202) 762-3456 or dsn 762-3456.

**Immediate Past President:** CAPT Vince Musashe, USN, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, (202) 762-3461 or dsn 762-3461.

### I WANT YOU!

Our membership has been flat at about 3,300 for the past 5 years. We now want to increase 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 members 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

ADOX/SSGT, Holloman, AFB 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 renowned 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 Commander, 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 controller on three Gemini manned space missions, was the senior Medical Officer aboard USS 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 he retired.

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

### AsMA Future Meetings

May 2-7, 2004

Egan Convention Center  
Anchorage, AK

May 9-12, 2005

Kansas City, MO  
Hyatt Regency Crown Center

May 14-18, 2006

Caribe Royale Hotel  
Orlando, FL

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.utmb.edu/pte](http://www.utmb.edu/pte).

**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](http://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](mailto:dennis.vincenzi@erau.edu); <http://faculty.erau.edu/vincenzd/hpsaa>.

**May 25-26, 2004, Sydney, Australia.** Workshop on Remote Management of Mild DCI. Info: Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society (UHMS): (301) 942-2980; email: [uhms@uhms.org](mailto:uhms@uhms.org); websites: [www.uhms.org](http://www.uhms.org) or [www.iceaustralia.com/uhms2004/](http://www.iceaustralia.com/uhms2004/).



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