



## AirSpeed team wins two Commander's Awards

By Bill Bartkus

In a first of its kind, the NAVAIR Depot AIRSpeed team from across the three depots won two first place awards and an honorable mention at the fourth annual Commander's Awards held at Commander, Naval Air Systems Command headquarters in Patuxent River, Md.

The team won in the Industrial/Logistics category, and tied with the Streamlined Delivery Order Process Team (AIR 2.4.1) for first place in the Business Operations category. Depot AIRSpeed also won an honorable mention in Quality of Service. There are five Commander's Award categories. The other two are Program Management, and Engineering, Testing and Technology.

AIRSpeed Team leader, Capt. Tim Trainer, NAVAIR Depot North Island executive officer, accepted the two first place awards on behalf of the entire 500-member AIRSpeed team; 202 of whom are employed at North Island.

"Acknowledging the accomplishments of NAVAIR teams has been, and will continue to be, a command priority." Commander Naval Air Systems Command Vice Adm. Wally Massenburg said, "The Commander's Award recognizes the achievement of teams as they successfully support the main goals of the command."

Adm. Massenburg commended the Depot AIRSpeed Team in Logistics/Industrial for demonstrating full engagement and alignment with the vision of Navy leadership to reduce the cost of doing business while providing

the fleet with the most cost-effective solutions. "Your efforts in reducing delivery time for the EA-6B aircraft by 11 days, cutting the cycle time on the F404 engine in half, and developing a



**Capt. Tim Trainer, AIRSpeed Team lead, accepts two Commander's Awards from Commander Naval Air Systems Command Vice Adm. Wally Massenburg.** Photo courtesy of NAVAIR Headquarters Public Affairs Office

new bearing process will result in significant cost avoidances on future production costs," he said.

The admiral highlighted the fact that Depot AirSpeed is the first Team to ever win a Commander's Award in more than one category. He cited the AIRSpeed Team in Business Operations for their use of Theory of Constraints, Lean Manufacturing and Six Sigma to transform the way the depots do business

and the method that the team has increased aircraft availability to the warfighter. "By reducing cycle time, increasing throughput and decreasing work-in-progress on multiple product

lines, the team has kept less aircraft in the depots and more aircraft on the flight line," Massenburg said. "Each of your activities eliminated non-value-added processes, reduced waste and standardized process flows."

NAVAIR Depot Cherry Point (N.C.) reduced the average cycle time on the H-53 Standard Depot Level Maintenance to 292 days from 309 days. NAVAIR Depot Jacksonville (Fla.) reduced component work-in-progress by 13 percent and reduced fleet degraders by 63 percent. The AIRSpeed Team at North Island reduced the cycle time in the Landing Gear Shop for many critical fleet degraders by 68 percent.

Trainer mentioned that as he and the admiral were listening to the emcee read the award citation, the admiral quietly said to him, "Good job. Now do it faster!"

"AIRSpeed has taken on a life of its own and is spreading like wildfire," Trainer said in his acceptance remarks. He thanked the 497 people on the team. "They make it happen every day. They are the purveyors of knowledge and the expertise," he said. Trainer said that these people include artisans, supervisors, facility personnel, material and information technology professionals, engineers, logisticians, comptrollers "and everyone at each depot that make the AIRSpeed Team a success."

Trainer mentioned that the Cherry Point teammates are employing AIRSpeed tools to expedite work on CH-46

## Continued from page 1

helicopters thereby enabling the Marine Corps to perform their duty in Iraq. “This year, 24 aircraft have been completed on an average of 20 days early,” Trainer said.

Trainer noted that at the Jacksonville EA-6B line, employees reduced turnaround time by 20 percent and have a planned target to reduce turnaround time by another 14 percent next year on the Planned Maintenance Interval line.

“They reduced the number of aircraft in flow from 19 in July 2003 to 12 last month. This is seven more aircraft that are available for operational tasking,” Trainer told the national audience watching the awards ceremony via teleconferencing.

The North Island team has used *AIRSpeed* techniques in the Components program to reduce the S-3 and F/A-18 wheel fleet back orders from

118 to zero. “They produced 159 last quarter as compared to 88 in their previous best quarter,” Trainer noted.

“These are just three examples of *AIRSpeed* efforts that were accomplished by the 497 awardees. We have 10,000 people in the depots, and we’re not there yet. We have a lot of work to do,” Trainer said, and the *AIRSpeed* team is looking forward to continuing their efforts for the fleet.”