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## Society Highlights: Armed Forces Communications-Electronics Convention Report

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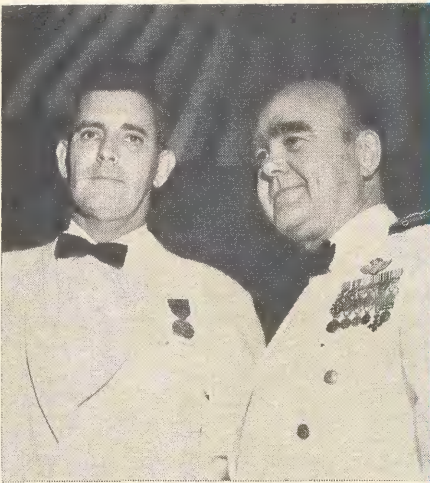
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# Society Highlights

## Armed Forces Communications-Electronics Convention Report

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Lt. General Harold Grant, Deputy Administrator, FAA, awards R. E. Jones, Chief, Range Support Division.

USAF PHOTO



AFCEA Panel on the Atlantic Missile Range.

THE 17TH ANNUAL AFCEA Convention was held on 4, 5, and 6 June 1963 at the Sheraton Park Hotel in Washington, D.C. This year's convention was considered the most successful and productive in AFCEA History.

Four technical panels formed the nucleus of the convention, with such distinguished keynote speakers as Mr. Najub E. Halaby, Administrator, Federal Aviation Agency; Lt. General Alfred D. Starbird - Director, Defense Communications Agency; and Mr. H. I. Rommes - President, Western Electric Company.

Providing the finishing touches was a group of technical exhibits sponsored by both military and industry which exceeded in every respect any exhibition previously collected in a single convention. Not only did the displays and demonstrations cover the entire field of Communications, Electronics, and Optics, but they all highlighted the very latest in engineering developments, emphasizing such things as solid state techniques, microminiaturization, and operational versatility.

Almost without exception, the displays were in working condition and could be actually operated by the visitors. As examples, the REL Display afforded the visitor an opportunity to talk from Washington to Europe over the new USAF Tropo System; the Mite Corporation had miniaturized teletype equipment in operation on a closed circuit basis; and Granger Associates demonstrated the actual assembly of their new vertical log periodic HF antenna. These were but three of the 180 exhibits located inside and around the grounds of the massive Sheraton Park Hotel.

One of the outstanding highlights of

the convention was the panel presentation on the Atlantic Missile Range sponsored by the Cape Canaveral Chapter of AFCEA. The Cape Canaveral Chapter is one of the youngest AFCEA Chapters and became well known at the convention by being the first such organization to sponsor a convention panel.

Mr. R. E. Jones, Chief of the AFMTC Range Support Division, was responsible for preparing the material, recruiting the speakers, and formulating the agenda. Major General L. I. Davis, Commander of the Atlantic Missile Range and DOD Representative for the Mercury/Gemini Programs, acted as panel moderator. His panel, entitled "Atlantic Missile Range—World's Largest Electronics Laboratory" consisted of Mr. R. E. Jones - "AMR Orientation"; Mr. Robert Gray, Chief, Goddard Field Projects Branch at Cape Canaveral - "Range User Comments on AMR Support"; Mr. John Hodge, Flight Operations Division, Manned Spacecraft Center, Houston - "Communications Aspects of Manned Space Operations"; and Dr. George Hess, AMR Chief Scientist - "Long Range Development for the AMR."

The AMR panel enjoyed excellent attendance and participation. One of the highlights of the panel presentation was a real time communications demonstration by Mr. Jones at the conclusion of his presentation. For the demonstration, he produced a telephone and called the Cape Canaveral Technical Control Station. The telephone had been connected so that the audience could hear the entire two-way conversation. After contacting Cape Canaveral over DCA circuits between Washington and the Cape, a direct phone patch

via single side band radio to Antigua was placed. Then calls were placed to Ascension Island via another sideband link and to two AMR instrumentation aircraft via another sideband patch. The aircraft were enroute between Antigua and Ascension Island. The entire communications exercise was clearly audible to the audience.

The Cape Canaveral Chapter has received numerous compliments on the services of their sponsorship of the convention panel and it is with extreme gratitude that we thank General Davis and his panel for their efforts, time, and support of the AFCEA.

One of the outstanding events during the entire convention occurred during the banquet ceremony. In the presence of some 2500 conventioners, Lt. General Harold Grant, Deputy Administrator of FAA and previously Commander of the USAF Communications Service, presented Mr. Jones with the Air Force's highest civilian award, the "Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service." The citation read "In recognition of exceptional performance as Chief, Range Support Division, Directorate of Operations, Air Force Missile Test Center, from February 1963 to May 1963. His superior planning, technical knowledge, exceptional management abilities, and direct solution of operational problems in the communications - electronics field contributed immeasurably to the successful accomplishment of the Mercury MA-9 mission. Mr. Jones' efforts and dedication reflect the highest credit upon himself and the civilian employees of the United States Air Force"—signed Eugene M. Zuckert - Secretary of the Air Force.