

JANNAF PDCS and S&EPS Subcommittees Meet in Charlottesville

The JANNAF 31st Propellant Development & Characterization Subcommittee (PDCS) and 20th Safety & Environmental Protection Subcommittee (S&EPS) joint meeting was held at the Doubletree Hotel in Charlottesville, Virginia from 25-27 March 2003. A total of 154 scientists, engineers, managers, and other specialists attended the meeting, which featured 70 papers in 17 technical sessions, numerous panel meetings, and a keynote address by Dr. Judith Pennington of the U.S. Army Engineering Research and Development Center, Vicksburg, MS. Mr. Daniel F. Schwartz of the Air Force Research Laboratory at Edwards AFB and Dr. David Mattie of the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright Patterson AFB served as Meeting Chairs for PDCS and S&EPS, respectively. Dr. Pennington's keynote address focused on the fate and transport of energetic materials used in DoD propulsion systems and explosive testing when introduced into soil and groundwater at U.S. test and training ranges. Dr. Pennington is a Research Biologist and Chemist with the AERDC Waterways Experiment Station. Mr. Jon Mullin of NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC received the JANNAF Subcommittee Certificate of Recognition for his stellar leadership as S&EPS TSG chairman from 1997 to 2002.

PDCS paper sessions included propellant surveillance and aging; chemistry and test methods; propellant processing and rheology; liquid and gel propellants; solid propellant formulations and ingredients; and guns and high gas output devices. A joint PDCS and S&EPS session on developments in the area of Green Energetic Materials was held for the second consecutive year.

The Solid Propellant Ingredients and Formulations panel continued its series of ingredient supplier briefings, which provided JANNAF participants with the latest information on energetic materials availability and supply issues. Mr. Chuck Davis of NASA/Kennedy Space Center updated Liquid Propellants Panel attendees on the domestic supply status of hydrazine and nitrogen tetroxide. Monitoring the domestic supply status of critical propellant ingredients has received renewed attention over the last few years, so much so that CPIA has initiated the development of the Propellant and Explosive Ingredients Database (PEID). Jointly funded by the Air Force and Navy, the PEID will leverage previous database efforts and bring critical, real-time supply information to a secure Internet site for use by qualified individuals and organizations. It is scheduled for implementation later this year. The Guns and High Gas Output Devices panel continues to support additional characterization of gun propellants for input to a future Propellant Electronic Database to be developed by CPIA. S&EPS paper sessions covered issues and developments related to the toxicity of propellant ingredients and risk assessment modeling methods; the emissions, treatment, modeling and management for environmental compliance; the treatment, conversion, recycling, recovery and modeling for demilitarization; and instrumentation.

Various S&EPS panel and town meetings were held to discuss current issues and future meeting agendas. The S&EPS technical steering group (TSG) met twice, and discussed the status of updates to CPIA Publication 394, *Hazards of Chemical Rockets and Propellants*. The conversion of the current hardcopy version into electronic form is

continuing. After serving as its CPIA technical representative for over eleven years, Mr. James "Jim" Cocchiaro bid farewell to S&EPS. Mr. Stephen E. Mullins has replaced Mr. Cocchiaro as the CPIA technical representative for S&EPS. Mr. Cocchiaro has accepted a new position with Northrop Grumman in Alexandria, Virginia, where he will provide technical assistance with the administration of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency programs.

The next joint PDCS/S&EPS meeting is tentatively scheduled for late July 2004 in the Seattle area. The development and characterization of explosives and other energetic formulations is receiving special emphasis from the PDCS with plans for restricted and classified sessions on explosives at the 2004 subcommittee meeting. The TSG has also requested JANNAF Executive Committee approval for changing its name to the Energetics Development & Characterization Subcommittee (EDCS).

The CD-ROM proceedings of the 31st PDCS and 20th S&EPS meeting will be available in May. For ordering information, please contact Dottie Becker or Mary Gannaway at CPIA at 410-992-7302 ext. 204 or 211, respectively.

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