



NAVAL AIR ENGINEERING STATION

Lakehurst, New Jersey

PRESS RELEASE

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Navy Lakehurst Receives Meritorious Unit Commendation

LAKEHURST, NJ - -May 25, 2004: The Secretary of the Navy recently awarded Naval Air Engineering Station (NAES) Lakehurst and Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD) Lakehurst, New Jersey with the prestigious Meritorious Unit Commendation.

This award, normally bestowed on deploying fleet units was given in recognition of Lakehurst's superior effort in delivering unparalleled and unique support to the deployed sailors and marines during Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM, from October 1, 2001 through October 31, 2003.

The Lakehurst team provided outstanding technical support and expertise for carriers at sea and expeditionary airfield operations on the battlefield. As stated in the award, the men and women at Lakehurst "demonstrated 'second to none' fleet customer support that significantly and directly enhanced operational readiness, safety and overall mission success." Eligible military personnel will be now authorized to wear the Meritorious Unit Commendation ribbon, while similarly eligible civilian employees of NAES and NAWCAD will receive a similar unit commendation lapel pin. The award also authorizes the installation to fly the Meritorious Unit Commendation pennant.

Lakehurst is the world's only provider of the full spectrum of support for sea-based and expeditionary aircraft launch, recovery and support equipment systems.

According to Captain Mark Bathrick, Commanding Officer of NAES Lakehurst, "there's a saying around the base that goes 'without us, they don't go and they can't get back'. That saying truly captures the singular responsibility we have for the day-to-day safe and effective mission accomplishment of our deployed Navy and Marine Corps air forces. If we don't do our job perfectly, every time, those Navy and Marine Corps aircraft and helicopters can't take off and can't return safely to their ships and expeditionary airfields. It is a weighty and sobering responsibility, but one that Lakehurst has borne with great pride and excellence for over 50 years."

The Meritorious Unit Commendation, like the 2004 Dale Carnegie Leadership Award and the 2004 Commander-in-Chief Installation Excellence Award, which Lakehurst also received this year is truly a team award. It recognizes the collective achievement, professionalism and unfailing devotion to duty of the military officers, enlisted personnel and civilian employees who make up this winning team. Bathrick also states, "every job here is important and every member of the organization has a significant and unique contribution to make that is critical to our mission success, regardless of seniority, position, military or civilian."

Along with other recent firsts - the Dale Carnegie International Leadership Award and Commander-in-Chief's Installation Excellence Award, this marks the first time in Lakehurst's 83 year history the a Meritorious Unit Commendation had been bestowed upon the installation.

Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst is also a joint base with a heritage of service and serving as a model for the future. The Navy Lakehurst-Fort Dix-McGuire Air Force Base Joint Installation Partnership is the first of its kind agreement among all military services in the United States, setting the example for future similar Joint alignments within the Department of Defense. Lakehurst continues to demonstrate its imaginative and innovative management actions that promote support to the fleet and the Department of Defense through enhancements in readiness, quality of life, quality of service and business processes.

Navy Lakehurst – "A Heritage of Service, A Model for the Future"