

Department of Mechanical Engineering

William Maxwell Reed Seminar Series

USAF Flight Test: How Test Teams Contribute to Delivering War-Winning Combat Capabilities

Lt. Col Michael B. Baker
USAF

Abstract: The United States Air Force (USAF) puts defense contractors on contract to deliver products that ensure our nation's warfighting edge in the air, space, and cyberspace domains. Developmental Test and Evaluation (DT&E) is the methodology by which the USAF determines a delivered product's maturity and its compliance with contractual requirements. DT&E is also used to determine the product's ability to provide effective combat capabilities. This presentation will demonstrate, and provide specific examples, of how pilots and engineers work together in test teams to ensure DT&E is conducted effectively, efficiently, and safely. These test teams are key to ensuring the delivery of war-winning combat capabilities to our nation's warfighters.

Bio: Mike Baker is a Lieutenant Colonel in the USAF. He earned his B.S. Chemistry from Georgetown College in 1997. He also earned a B.S. and M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Kentucky (UK) in 2000 and 2002 respectively. Upon finishing his graduate degree, he worked in industry for L-3 Communications as a design engineer on Blackhawk, Little Bird, and Chinook helicopters. It was here his desire to become a test pilot was realized and he departed L-3 for the USAF in 2003. He has over 300 combat sorties in the C-17 and has flown more than 30 different aircraft. He earned a M.S. in Flight Test Engineering upon graduating from USAF Test Pilot School in 2003. He presently works in the Pentagon as a program manager on one of the USAF's top 3 acquisition programs.

Date: February 10, 2017

Time: 3:00p to 4:00p

Place: CB 110

Contact: Dr. Alexandre Martin 257-4462

Meet the speaker and have refreshments
Attendance open to all interested persons