Trip Report for Wright-Patterson AFB
September 13, 2022

Fellow DOCA Members:

"If you weren't there you don't know what you missed."

In recent years, DOCA has traveled to and been hosted by war fighting commands, nuclear standup commands, sustainment commands, research commands, and most recently, the new space command. None of these can perform without Air Force Material Command, through which every acquisition, subsequent purchase, and sustainment testing to discover the lifecycle needs of EVERY new piece of equipment, including both conventional and nuclear arms.

On top of this, they stand up the assignment of every new recruit and officer rank as well as civilian personnel and contractors to get the most out of every assignment. All of the above is headed by Commander Duke Richardson in support of the "World's Greatest Air Force."

In a brief but concise presentation by Curtiss Petrek, Director of Staff for over 90,000 personnel, we experienced the "dots coming together" in a way that explains the overall support that all of the commands we have visited throughout the past years receive.

As if this were not enough, we were then hosted by Dr. Rick Finger, Dr. Jeff Donbar and Dr. Matt Borgn in charge of the Aerospace Systems Directorate. These three "young men" walked us through what they have achieved so far, both in hypersonic engines and material testing capabilities. Most of us know that the SR-71 can fly in excess of mach 3, but we learned that the hypersonic scramjet engines can only start in excess of mach 2! Then at these speeds, trying to measure the effects of heat and deflection on the outside material, every picture or other required information must be measured inside of .02 seconds!

It takes more than brilliant engineering; it takes enthusiasm at a level that impacted every DOCA member fortunate enough to be part of these briefings.

Best regards,

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Chairperson
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