Arcata Associates’ Research Facilities and Engineering Support Services (RF&ESS) Team at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center received a 99% award fee score for its performance for the 6-month period ending July 31, 2011. It is the third 99% award fee score and 18th consecutive Excellent award fee rating received by the Program.

“Congratulations to Arcata Executive Vice President Anthony Ng, RF&ESS Program Manager Leigh Ann Szymczak and the entire RF&ESS Team on this phenomenal achievement. It is a testament to the Team’s consistent level of professionalism and strong emphasis on customer satisfaction,” said Tim Wong, Arcata President.

The Program received strong scores in all three areas of evaluation: technical performance, technical management and cost control. The performance report highlighted Arcata’s strengths in several areas including:

- The STS-135 and the successful conclusion of the Space Shuttle program. “The related ground-based support areas have been key to the many years of success the Space Shuttle has demonstrated.”

- Ikhana Tactical Reconnaissance and Counter-Concealment-Enabled Radar (TRACER) test flights. TRACER, a radar that detects objects that are buried or concealed under foliage in real time, has been undergoing test flights on the Ikhana, a fixed wing unmanned aerial system. “The TRACER project could not have accomplished its mission milestones without the support of the Arcata support team.”

- Agency Assessment & Authorization (A&A) process. “Arcata provides exemplary support for the A&A process – helping to ensure that DFRC IT systems are managed properly.”

- Support of the Enhanced Flight Termination System (EFTS). Components were developed to allow customers and users to configure a workstation at the push of a button, instead of requiring the assistance of an Engineer. “This will greatly reduce cost and time needed to configure the EFTS system.”

Arcata’s RF&ESS Team is proud to have supported every Shuttle mission since contract inception including the five landings made at Edwards AFB, California.

Arcata NSSC Employees Recognized With Group Achievement Award

On August 10, 2011, Arcata NASA Shared Services Center (NSSC) employees: Vessie Means, Mary Carter, Dawn Graham, Melanie Hunt, and Selena Ladner were recognized with a NSSC Group Achievement Award for their accomplishments as members of the External Training Process Improvement Team. The award was presented by Robert Lightfoot, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, Center Director and Michael J. Smith, NSSC Executive Director, Acting at the 2011 NSSC Honor Awards Ceremony at the NASA Stennis Space Center, Mississippi. (Continued Page 3...)
Steve Winn
As Arcata’s Chief of Maintenance for the Joint Range Technical Services (J-Tech) contract, Steve Winn is responsible for the Maintenance Management Organization that keeps systems and equipment available and ready to support aircrew-training exercises for the US Air Force Warfare Center at Nellis AFB.

Steve’s job is instrumental in making the training range as realistic as possible. On the NTTR, threat simulator systems are used to replicate the electronic signals of real-world radar systems. When the simulators are down, the training range does not mirror as closely the environment faced by pilots in a real wartime scenario.

Under Steve’s leadership, there has been a significant increase in the amount of training among the contractor, customer, and other ranges, such as the Electronic Combat Range at China Lake. This led to an increased availability of the spare parts necessary to bring threat simulators back to operational status in minimum time. The overall result has been higher threat simulator density and capability, and therefore more realistic training for pilots flying in major exercises such as Red Flag. This accomplishment contributed to the J-Tech Team recently receiving the highest award fee score since contract inception.

Steve’s career started in May 1998. Immediately after graduating from Edwardsville High School in Edwardsville, Illinois, he enlisted as a new trainee in the USAF at Lackland AFB. After basic training, Steve went to Keesler AFB where he studied to become a Ground Radio Maintenance Technician, leaving a distinguished graduate. In 2001, Steve was faced with the decision of being transferred to Minot, North Dakota or Las Vegas, Nevada, as he would say, “a tough choice indeed.” His decision to come to Las Vegas and Nellis AFB has brought many new challenges and great successes, both personally and professionally.

In 2005, Steve started working on the J-Tech contract as a Telecommunications System Technician. After two years in this position, Steve took on an offer to work with Air Force Quality Assurance at the NTTR in the areas of Threat Management and Maintenance Management.

Then in May of 2008, the Arcata Chief of Maintenance position opened and Steve jumped at the opportunity. He knew of Arcata’s excellent reputation as an employer and saw this as a great chance to continue working on the J-Tech contract. Over the past three years Steve and his team have completely revamped NTTR’s maintenance activities. Steve developed and successfully implemented a comprehensive Maintenance Management Plan and Maintenance Work Management Process. With the help of his team, Steve was able to effectively correct a backlog of over 1,000 aging work orders down to a manageable level of less than 100. He also led the effort to overhaul the Preventative Maintenance (PM) program. The Team completed over 25,102 PM’s with an effective completion rate of 99.9%.

In a continued effort to improve customer service, Steve spearheaded the effort to develop the NTTR Maximo database. This aggressive build enabled automation of several key contract deliverables; reports and completion data, resulting in a full “man-year” plus of time savings.

In his free time, Steve enjoys traveling and playing music. He has been a drummer since he was 3 years old. He also likes to build and race cars at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway. He has a 1996 W65 Trans Am with over 1000hp that he has owned since age 19 and it is raced as often as possible. He also has 2009 Shelby GT300 that he uses to get back and forth to work. Steve is currently pursuing his Bachelor’s Degree in Business Management and plans to get his MBA after graduation. “I take great pride in what I do every day to support our military customer. It’s difficult to express the satisfaction I receive from knowing that what I do directly impacts the war fighter.”

Employee Spotlight

Steve Winn with Fredbird, the St. Louis Cardinals mascot.

For three days last year (November 29 – December 1, 2010) a core team of seven people led by Vessie Means (Arcata) and Mike McCann (Civil Servant) attended a Lean Six Sigma Kaizen Event which resulted in the implementation of a streamlined, paperless process. The process was implemented in February 2011. As of July 2011, the group has achieved a 97% metric of processing requests within five days. Vessie Means, Arcata NSSC HR Training & Development Supervisor, commented, “I would like to thank the team for all of their unrelenting efforts as well as their tenacity to get the job done. Without the contributions from each team member this achievement would not have been accomplished.”

Tim Wong, Arcata President, and Allan McCaleb, Arcata Vice President of Program Development and Operations attended the ceremony. Tim Wong said, “I congratulate the entire External Training Purchasing Team on their commitment to achieving and maintaining the highest levels of Customer Satisfaction. The Group’s efforts to address problems directly, improve service levels, and continually measure and monitor performance serves as a classic example of how a total quality management system works. Performance like this exemplifies Arcata’s values to always strive for excellence and to exceed our Customer’s expectations.”

Arcata Receives Three NASA Group Achievement Awards

Thirty-two Arcata Associates Research Facilities and Engineering Support Services (RF&ESS) Team members were included as part of three NASA Group Achievement Awards for their work at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center (DFRC), Edwards, California. The awards, presented at a NASA Honor Awards Ceremony on August 16, 2011, went to the following teams:

- **Dryden Full-scale Advanced Systems Testbed/Model Reference Adaptive Control Research Team Group Achievement Award** for, “exceptional team performance in developing a cutting edge flight research tool while accomplishing challenging, high-risk technical goals under extreme time pressure.”

- **NASA/Northrop Grumman Global Hawk Development Team Group Achievement Award** for, “exceptional group achievement of the completely successful development of the first civilian usage Global Hawk platform system for the NASA science community.”

- **Orion Abort Flight Test Pad Abort-1 Dryden Team, “for exceptional contributions, outstanding dedication, numerous sacrifices and incomparable teamwork performed in support of the Orion pad Abort-1 flight test.”**

“These awards recognize the strong teamwork and professionalism that our employees exhibit on a daily basis on a broad range of technically challenging projects. I wholeheartedly congratulate their efforts,” said Tim Wong, President of Arcata Associates.

Arcata Enhances Training Realism With Mobile Radio Electronic Combat System

As part of the Joint Range Technical Services (J-Tech) contract, Arcata recently completed the design, development, assembly and testing of the Mobile Radio Electronic Combat System (MRECS), a portable, trailer-mounted communication system that can jam airborne radars and communications links. MRECS will be an important asset at the Nevada Test and Training Range, helping to provide a more realistic training environment for aircrews that will face adversaries in real-world combat situations.

The MRECS can serve as a mobile threat that can jam airborne radars and communications links. MRECS will be an important asset at the Nevada Test and Training Range, helping to provide a more realistic training environment for aircrews that will face adversaries in real-world combat situations.

The MRECS is the first system on the NTTR capable of simultaneous radar spoofing and communication jamming capabilities in a single, mobile unit. By having an onboard electrical generator and microwave commutation, the fully self-contained MRECS can be used in locations with little or no infrastructure.

The MRECS raises situational awareness in combat environments by electronically creating multiple false bogeys and utilizing aggressive air-to-air attack scenarios. To meet new requirements or actual theater occurrences, MRECS also has the ability to alter its mission configuration during training exercises.

MRECS helps create a more realistic training environment.

RF&ESS Team members receive NASA Group Achievement Awards.
Community Happenings

María Etheridge and Stacey Goodloe receive Pacesetter Award from United Way of Southern Mississippi.

Nancy Wong, Toni Tippetts, and Mary Gardner receive Pacesetter Award from United Way of Southern Nevada.

Arcata’s 2011-2012 United Way Campaign in four locations raised $24,557! In recognition of our successful campaigns, Arcata received Pacesetter Awards from the United Way of Southern Mississippi and the United Way of Southern Nevada.

The 14th Annual Arcata Bowling Tournament in Las Vegas raised $3,200 for the literacy program at Lomie Heard Elementary School on Nellis AFB as well as $3,300 for the family of USAF Captain Eric Ziegler who was killed in an aircraft crash on the Nevada Test and Training Range.

Arcata has continued the fight against cancer by raising funds across the country by sponsoring events and raising money. The RF&ESS Avengers Team raised over $5,000 at the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life in Palmdale, California and finished as the #1 Team. Arcatans in Southern Nevada and at the NSSC participated in Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walks - Las Vegas, Nevada and Harrison – the Gulf Coast, Mississippi – raising over $3,600.

Arcata Southern Nevada employees make strides against breast cancer.

Colorado
- Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure
- Ronald McDonald House

Mississippi
- American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk
- Gulf Coast Women’s Center
- March of Dimes
- Red Cross – Gulf Coast Chapter
- Special Olympics
- West Hancock Pee Wee Cheer

Alabama
- Alabama A&M University Youth Motivation Task Force
- The ARC of Alabama Golf Tournament
- Buckhorn Girls Softball
- Huntsville Middle School Football
- Huntsville Hospital Foundation – Liz Hurley Ribbon Run
- Still Serving Veterans – gold sponsorship

California
- American Cancer Society Relay for Life
- Bailey Oaks Charter School - Robotics Team Sponsorship
- Desert High School - Unfunded Sports
- Tehachapi High School - Robotics Team Sponsorship

Nevada
- Air Warrior Courage Foundation
- American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk
- Clark County Public Education Foundation
- FBI Las Vegas Citizens Academy Alumni Association
- National Junior Basketball
- Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association
- Thunderbird Chapter Air Force Association
- US Vets