

# Air Force Materiel Command

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## US Air Force Initiative to Enhance Hypersonic Test Capabilities

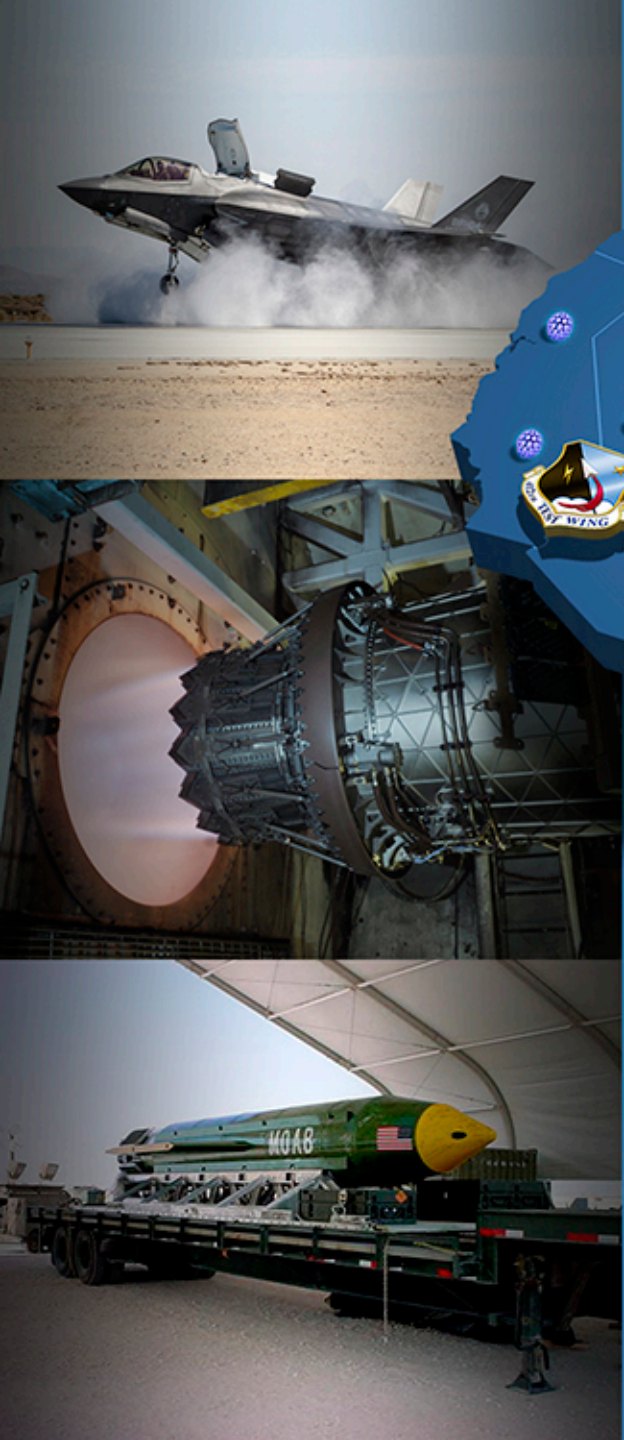


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32<sup>nd</sup> Annual NDIA National T&E Conference  
San Diego Marriott Mission Valley, San Diego CA  
8 March 2017

# AIR FORCE TEST CENTER



*AFTC is the only organization in the US Air Force responsible for Developmental Test & Evaluation*

*DT&E is a crucial part of all acquisition processes and the key to the success of all weapon programs*



# AF Test Center Mission and Vision



*Conduct Developmental Test and Evaluation of air, space, & cyber systems to provide timely, objective, and accurate information to decision makers*



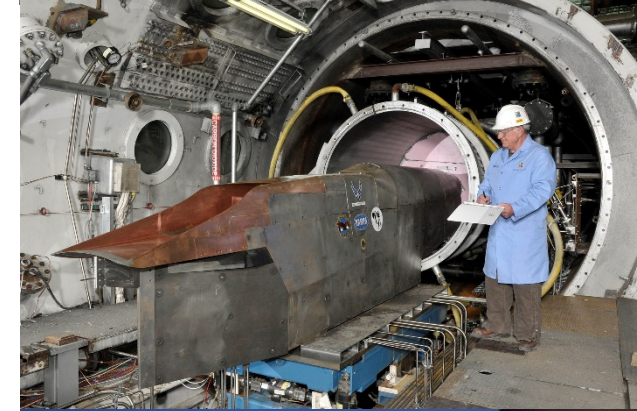
*Tester of Choice...Today and Tomorrow*





# Hypersonics DT&E

## An AFTC Enterprise-Wide Endeavor





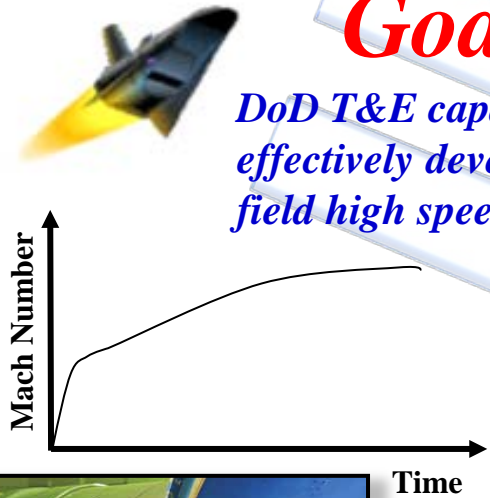
# Partnering with Test Resource Management Center to Close Hypersonic T&E Capability Gaps



*Developing and Investing in Improved Test Tools, Technologies, Techniques, Facilities, and Technical Workforce for Ground Test, Flight Test, and Modeling and Simulation to Enable Effective Acquisition-Caliber T&E of High Speed Systems*

## Goals

*DoD T&E capability to effectively develop and field high speed systems*

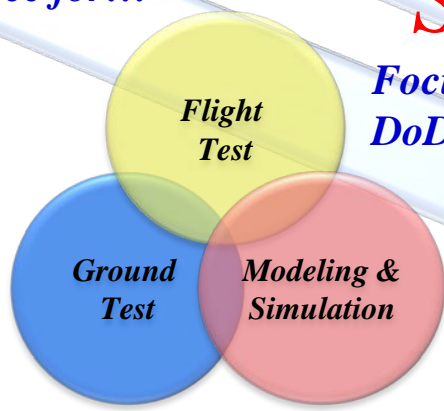


## Needs

*Improved tools, techniques, capabilities and technical workforce for...*

## Solutions

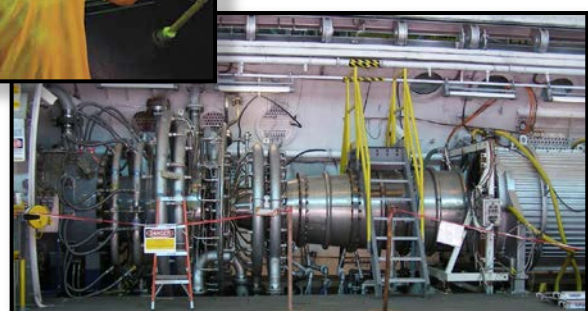
*Focused investments in DoD Test Ranges/Centers*



Air Force Test Center



Test Resource Mgmt. Center





# Partnering with Test Resource Management Center to Close Hypersonic T&E Capability Gaps

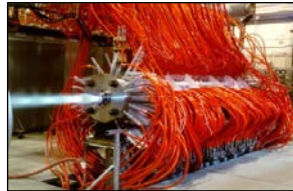


## T&E/S&T High Speed Systems Test (HSST) Technology Area

**Mission:** Develop and transition technologies for high speed systems T&E

- Paving the way to close critical MRTFB gaps
- Managed ~\$200M in technology development projects since inception
- HSST projects are key to achieving future national T&E capability vision

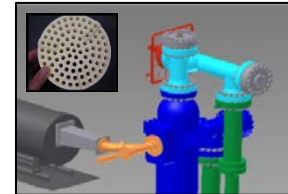
Mid Pressure Arcjet



Remote Sensing & Telemetry



Clean Air / Variable Mach



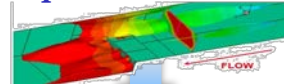
Advanced Propulsion



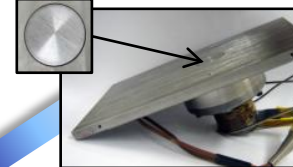
Aerodynamic & Aerothermal



Computational Tools



Instrumentation



Flight Test



## Collaboration



- Government
- Industry
- Universities



# Congressionally Directed Hypersonic T&E Infrastructure Study



- **Led by Office of Science & Technology Policy (OSTP) and DoD**
  - Use cases: conventional boost-glide and scramjet cruise missiles
  - Re-useable platforms were recognized but not considered for the study
- **Participants included:**
  - OSTP, TRMC, Military Services
  - Testers and facility owners
  - Weapon technology developers (DARPA, AF, Navy, Army)
  - Acquisition stakeholders (government and industry)
- **Assessed facility readiness for Developmental Programs**
  - Identified Critical T&E Gaps
- **Presented 5 year/\$350M T&E Infrastructure Roadmap**
- **Roadmap fully funded in FY17-21 President's Budget**

*National Level Program to Advance Hypersonic T&E Infrastructure*



# Hypersonic T&E Investment Program

## T&E Capability Enhancement Areas



**AFMVC**

### *Aeropropulsion*



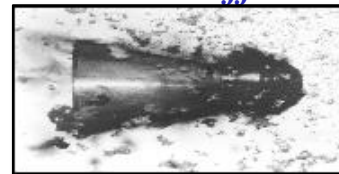
Improving Propulsion Ground Test Methods, Expanding Test Envelopes, Improving Accuracy & Fidelity

### *Aerodynamic & Aerothermal*



Improved Aeroheating & Ablation Test Capabilities, Improved Flow Quality, Aero-Thermal Structural, Aero-Optics, High-Speed Munitions Dispensing Testing

### *Weather Effects*



Developing Capability to Simulate Thermo-mechanical Responses of High Speed Thermal Protection Systems and Control Surfaces in Natural Environments

### *GN&C, Seekers, Lethality*



Developing Integrated End-to-End Hardware in the Loop Mission Simulation; GN&C and Seeker/Sensor; Ordnance Evaluation

### *Flight Test*



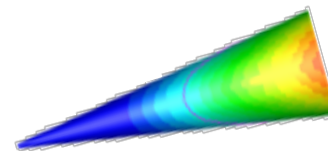
Evaluating Range Corridor and Infrastructure Needs, Improving Mission Assurance and Launch Flexibility, Developing In-Flight Measurements, Increasing Data Capture per Flight

### *Instrumentation & Test Techniques*



Innovative New Sensors, Improving Accuracy, Increasing Measurement Ranges, Test Techniques for Improved Correlations

### *Modeling & Simulation*



Improved Flight Performance Prediction Capabilities. Validating Codes, Developing Complex Physics-Based Tools

### *Workforce Development*



Develop Advanced Workforce Skills, Techniques, and Expertise for Current and Future Hypersonic T&E Workforce

*M&S, Instrumentation & Test Techniques, and Workforce Development Embedded in Multiple Capability Enhancement Areas*





# Hypersonic Weapon Development

## A “Manhattan” Class Effort



- Will require ...
  - The development of new test facilities, capabilities, techniques and analytical methods
  - Close collaboration between the research, development, and test communities
  - Significant capital investment in all the above



*Yes ... Huge Challenges ... But also Huge Dividends*