

Paper Airplane Contest Wows STC 2001 Conference Attendees



SALT LAKE CITY – The audience surrounding the foyer at the Salt Lake Convention Center erupted into a giant “ahhhhh,” when the paper airplane sailing effortlessly from the platform launch landed 73 and one-half feet down the makeshift runway below them. Although he didn’t know it yet, Steve Smith had just won first place at the first ever *CROSSTALK* Paper Airplane Contest held May 1 as part of the 13th Annual Software Technology Conference (STC).

For his winning flight, Smith, engineer project manager at the Joint Force Program Office, took home a Handspring Visor Prism handheld computer. In second place, with 70 and three-fourths feet, was John Stark, chief engineer, Predictive

Technologies Division, Science Applications International Corp., who received a \$100 gift certificate to Barnes & Noble. Third place went to Maj. Stewart Laing, deputy chief of Testing Division, Global Transportation Network Program Management Office, with a flight of 65 and two-thirds feet. Laing won a \$50 gift certificate to the Olive Garden.

In its first year, the paper airplane contest drew 105 entrants who constructed their airplanes from a choice of two paper weights pre-printed and supplied by the Software Technology Support Center (STSC) at Hill Air Force Base and the contest sponsor SHIM Enterprise, Inc. The STSC held the airplane contest as a gathering event to solicit authors for its

monthly journal *CROSSTALK*, *The Journal of Defense Software Engineering*. Contest participants were cheered on by about 350 spectators eating pizza, kabobs, and desserts while listening to running contest commentary by co-announcers Dave Cook and Les Dupaix, engineering consultants at the STC.

Nearly 3,000 people attended the STC conference, “2001 Software Odyssey: Controlling Cost, Schedule and Quality,” offering 199 software-related presentations along with 167 trade show exhibits. The conference is co-sponsored by the Departments of the Air Force, Army, Navy, Defense Information Systems Agency and Utah State University Extension. ♦

Call for Articles

If your experience or research has produced information that could be useful to others, *CROSSTALK* will get the word out. We welcome articles on all software-related topics, but are looking for pieces in several high-interest areas. Drawing from reader survey data, we will highlight your most requested article topics as themes for future issues. We will place a special, yet nonexclusive, focus on the following tentative issues of *CROSSTALK*:

Software Legacy Systems

December 2001

Submission Deadline: July 18, 2001

CMMI

February 2002

Submission Deadline: Sept. 19, 2001

System Requirement Risks

March 2002

Submission deadline: Oct. 24, 2001

Software Estimation

April 2002

Submission Deadline: Nov. 21, 2001

Forging the Future of Defense Through Technology

May 2002

Submission Deadline: Jan. 02, 2001

**We accept article submissions on all software-related topics at any time;
issues will not focus exclusively on the featured theme.**

**Please follow the Author Guidelines for *CROSSTALK*, available on the Internet at
www.stsc.hill.af.mil/CrossTalk/xtlkguid.pdf**