



## AIAA Greater Huntsville Section Attends 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of World War I Dawn Patrol

The Greater Huntsville Section of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) traveled to Dayton, Ohio to attend the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of World War I

Dawn Patrol Flying Rendezvous, visit the National Museum of the US Air Force and tour sites on the historic Aviation Trail.

The AIAA group spent Saturday morning at the Dawn Patrol encampment area where they talked to World War I re-enactors, examined replica biplane fighters and witnessed aerial demonstrations including simulated dogfighting. The Dawn Patrol Rendezvous is held every two years but the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemoration resulted in even larger crowds and more aircraft in attendance.

The group spent the afternoon touring the National Museum of the US Air Force where they learned about the history of military aviation from the Wright Brothers' first flying experiments to the cutting edge technology of the 21<sup>st</sup> century Air Force. Veterans within the group provided their personal perspectives on operating some of the systems in the



museum including a detailed presentation on Cold War missile operations.

same presentation that was used for the X-51 program's Collier Trophy nomination briefing.

That evening, the group received an informative presentation on Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) hypersonic propulsion research including the X-51 hypersonic demonstrator. Mr. Bob Mercier, AFRL's Deputy for Advanced Technology, gave the AIAA members the

On Sunday morning, the group toured sites on Dayton's historic Aviation Trail including Huffman Prairie where the Wrights conducted their first flying experiments, the Wright Cycle shop, the Dunbar Interpretive Center, the Parachute Museum, the Wright Brothers Memorial and the Wright Brothers gravesite.



The group returned to Huntsville late on Sunday night, tired but enriched by the opportunity to experience the history of aviation from the birth of aerial combat in World War I to the leading edge hypersonic research of the present day.

The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) is the principal society and voice serving the aerospace profession. Its purpose is to advance the arts, sciences, and technology of aeronautics and astronautics and to foster and promote the professionalism of those engaged in these pursuits. The Greater Huntsville Section of the AIAA works to provide a professional forum for the local aerospace community. For more information, visit [www.hsv-aiaa.org](http://www.hsv-aiaa.org) or e-mail [distribution@hsv-aiaa.org](mailto:distribution@hsv-aiaa.org).