

# Coalition Chronicle

Report to the National Industrial Base Workforce Coalition

Vol. 6, Issue 1

Winter 2002



Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld meets with a delegation from the *National Industrial Base Workforce Coalition*. (Photo courtesy of DoD)

## SECRETARY OF DEFENSE INVITES COALITION MEMBERS TO THE PENTAGON

While some in Washington DC claim that the door to the Secretary of Defense and his inner circle is closed to outsiders, that has not been the case for *Workforce Coalition* unions in the defense industrial base. Like his predecessor, Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney, **Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld** maintains an open door to our unions. Early this year, Rumsfeld began inviting groups of labor union leaders—representing a wide variety of industries—to meet with him. In May 2002, *Coalition* leaders passed through tight security at the Pentagon to attend a briefing involving DoD strategy on terrorism, missile defense,

procurement and transformation.

The meeting took place in the Secretary's private conference room adjacent to his office. Key members of his team who attended included **Edward C. "Pete" Aldridge**, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics; **Major General Peter C. Franklin**, Deputy Director of the Missile Defense Agency; and **Victoria "Torrie" Clarke**, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs.

Since missile defense is a priority of the administration and officials wanted to ensure that *Coalition* members understood the program, General Franklin

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# Rumsfeld Meeting

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was the first to brief the union leaders. He presented a thorough briefing that detailed the history of the program along with an explanation of the threat that now exists. Currently, the United States has no protection against long-range missiles yet over 20 countries have ballistic missile capability. Once a country has acquired space launch capability, they have also attained intercontinental ability. (See related article for more information on missile defense.)

Following General Franklin's presentation, Secretary Rumsfeld and Under Secretary Aldridge conducted a question and answer session on missile defense and other industrial base issues. *Coalition* leader and President of the International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers (IFPTE), **Greg Junemann**, asked about ship procurement, explaining that he represents workers at many of the nation's shipyards. Secretary Rumsfeld admitted that the Navy definitely needed more ships than the current trajectory. "The procurement holiday hurt us," explained Rumsfeld.



Secretary Rumsfeld discusses missile defense priorities.

"You can get away with that for awhile, but sooner or later it will catch up with you." Aldridge confirmed that the Pentagon was conducting a study to analyze how many and what types of ships the Navy needs to reach its capability. Aldridge also stated that in all areas, not just ships, the DoD is trying to make up for the procurement deficit. Secretary Rumsfeld's support for increased combat ship-

building in the missile defense category was appreciated by **William "Chico" McGill**, Business Manager and Financial Secretary of the International

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**Charles Bofferding**, Executive Director of SPEEA, asks Secretary Rumsfeld a question concerning defense strategy.

## Coalition Chronicle

National Industrial Base  
Workforce Coalition

Representing American scientists, engineers, technical, professional, service and production workers in maritime, aerospace, defense, electronics, energy, telecommunications, transportation, pharmaceutical, and basic industries in both the public and private sectors.

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# Defense Budget Press Conf.

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Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 733, whose members build the Aegis class missile-firing cruisers and will be building the new DDX class of stealth ships. McGill represents shipyard workers in Mississippi and Louisiana and is part of a larger contingent of shipbuilding unions throughout the country. He joined the *Coalition* two years ago and has been an active participant on a wide range of issues.

Another question that was on the mind of many of the attendees was raised by **Charles Bofferding**, Executive Director of the Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace (SPEEA). Bofferding inquired about the potential reduction in the procurement of current weaponry as well as R&D funds due to a shift in defense strategy and the financial struggle over funding priorities. Secretary Rumsfeld understood the importance of the question to those

present and conceded that the combination of budget priorities within the administration, the need to overhaul major entitlement programs, and the demands of homeland defense will impact on DoD strategy involving current programs. Secretary Rumsfeld said that there is no question that research and development funds need to be increased. However, the budget question presented a “complex problem” and a “balancing act.” He continued that there are various categories of demands that would be placed on DoD resources such as personnel, transformation and modernization. Stating that there is not an unlimited supply of money, Rumsfeld responded that you have to balance risks – modernization risks, threat risks, transformation and investment risks – making it a difficult job to figure out where to spend defense money.

Secretary Rumsfeld concluded that he would do everything in his

power to stay close to the unions to preserve the skilled workforce throughout the industrial base and to continue the dialogue with them. He also promised to meet with other unions in the *Coalition* throughout his term as Secretary. *Coalition* members are extremely appreciative that the Secretary has opened the lines of communication between his office and the members of the *National Industrial Base Workforce Coalition*.

At the close of the meeting, the Secretary and his staff thanked the union members for all they do with one official exclaiming, “The President, the Secretary and everyone in the administration sleep better at night knowing that anything we give our armed forces to protect people was made by the best labor in the world. We’re very grateful. Thank you for everything you do for the nation. I know it doesn’t get said as often as possible.”❖

## Coalition Members Participate in Defense Budget Press Conference

Personally Invited by Representative Curt Weldon

In early March 2002, **Representative Curt Weldon** (R-PA) called *Coalition* leaders to personally invite them to participate in a bi-partisan, Capitol Hill press conference he hosted, along with other House members, to discuss efforts to ensure that the full \$10 billion of the President’s war contingency fund was authorized to support the war effort. During the first week of March, the U. S. witnessed the bloodiest and heaviest fighting yet in Afghanistan during Operation Anaconda, and the preparedness of American troops was on everyone’s mind.

The *Coalition* has enjoyed a long friendship with Representative Weldon who, as Chairman of the Military Pro-

curement Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee, has always stood behind the defense programs that employ American workers in our country’s industrial base. Other House members joining the press conference were **Representatives Roscoe Bartlett** (R-MD), **Saxby Chambliss** (R-GA), **Joe Wilson** (R-SC), **Rob Simmons** (R-CT), **Bobby Scott** (D-VA), **Gene Taylor** (D-MS), **Duncan Hunter** (R-CA), **Buck McKeon** (R-CA) and **Bud Cramer** (D-AL).

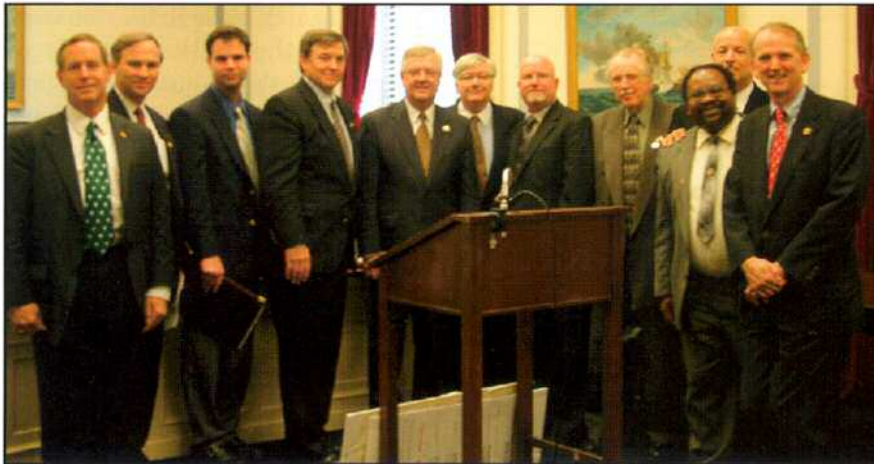
The group of concerned lawmakers, representing both the House Armed Services and Appropriations Committees, gathered to publicly declare that the defense bill should be

fully funded at the level requested by the President in his State of the Union address. “Now more than ever, we must not turn our back on our commitments to our fighting men and women,” said Weldon. “Authorizing these funds for areas that have been shortchanged for so long will not only strengthen our country for future missions, it will allow our troops currently serving to obtain the necessary resources to win the war against terrorism.”

As Rep. Hunter from California pointed out, providing these funds cannot be delayed. He acknowledged that American troops were operating “right now,” indicating they needed

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# Defense Budget Press Conf.



(Left to right) Reps. Joe Wilson (R-SC), Rep. Randy Forbes (R-VA), Matt Biggs, Legislative Rep. IFPTE, Rep. Dunan Hunter (R-CA), Rep. Curt Weldon (R-PA), Mike Balzano, Executive Director *National Industrial Base Workforce Coalition*, Denny Wilderson, President S.E.A., Rep. Roscoe Barlett (R-MD), Rodney Denton, President IBEW 1805, Jerry Robinson, SPEEA Communications Chairman and Rep. Rob Simmons (R-CT).

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equipment “right now,” and they were short on ammunition, “right now.” Rep. Hunter called for support in maintaining the President’s top line of the defense budget because there could be no more delays in getting the necessary resources to our troops in action.

The primary goal of these congressional members was to guarantee that the \$10 billion was spent for defense and nothing else. “We cannot

allow these funds to be used as a piggy-bank for non-defense programs... underfunding our military is no longer an acceptable option following September 11,” exclaimed Weldon.

The congressmen identified various key defense areas with identified budget shortfalls including shipbuilding, aircraft purchases and space-based capabilities – all are areas extremely important to the preservation of the industrial base. *Coalition* members appreciated being included

at such an important news conference and were impressed that members of both parties came together as a bipartisan group with one message. *Workforce* leaders were also pleased that by the end of the month the House passed the President’s budget, reserving the \$10 billion contingency fund for the war on terrorism. Concerned lawmakers received the assurance that these defense dollars would be used only for defense needs and that some of the money would be used for weapons procurement. Unfortunately, the final bill from the House and Senate conferees did not contain the \$10 billion contingency fund sought by the administration.

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*The legislators are seeking the creation of a multi-state, multi-union workforce coalition to help with the defense budget battles that will come in the FY04 budget.*

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Nevertheless, members of this bipartisan legislative group have kept in contact with members of the *Workforce Coalition* stating their concern about the procurement budget in the upcoming legislative cycles. They are particularly concerned with how the procurement budget will fair with all of the other domestic priorities that must be considered before the next presidential election. The legislators are seeking the creation of a multi-state, multi-union workforce coalition to help with the defense budget battles that will come in the FY04 budget. We will monitor and report the activities of this bipartisan group of legislators and report to our member unions as the defense debates unfold. ❖



Rep. Curt Weldon (R-PA) opens the press conference in support of the war contingency fund.

# Chronicle Commentary

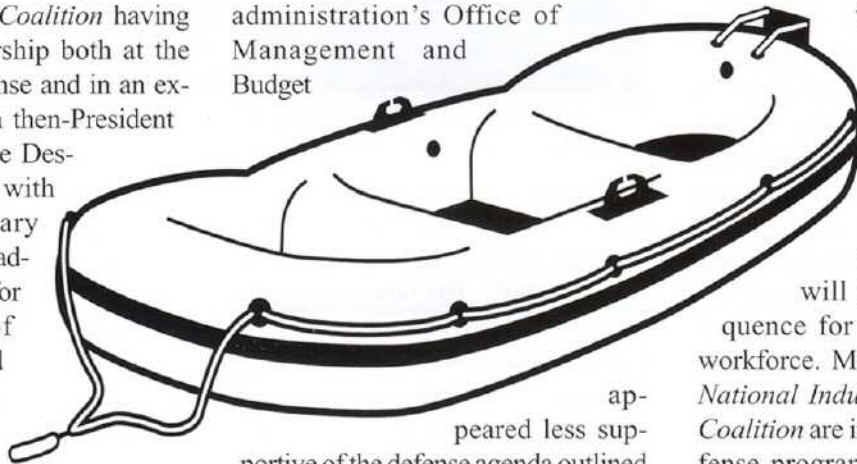
## WE NEED A BIGGER BOAT - REVISITED

With the election of **George W. Bush**, hope increased among defense workers that the defense budget would be expanded to cover current and future defense systems. During the 2000 presidential election platform hearings, *Workforce Coalition* leaders presented testimony to the platform committees of both parties and were assured that if either party were elected, defense spending would be increased.

Shortly after the Republican victory, *Coalition* members met in January with **Vice President Richard B. "Dick" Cheney** who is very familiar with the *Workforce Coalition* having met with the leadership both at the Department of Defense and in an extended meeting with then-President Bush, Sr. prior to the Desert Storm conflict with Iraq. At the January meeting, *Coalition* leaders thanked Cheney for his past support of their efforts and said that they were encouraged by his campaign promise to the military that "help is on the way." The *Coalition* leaders told Cheney they expected that the administration might make changes involving some of the systems employing their members, but that they hoped that defense spending would increase.

Later, as *Workforce Coalition* leaders followed the confirmation hearings of **Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld**, they were also energized by his testimony that a substantial increase in the Pentagon budget would be needed to meet Bush's defense objectives. "We must work together if we are going to be able to address the real problems of inadequate funding, unreliable funding and resistance to change. Without cooperation and collaboration we will fail,"

Rumsfeld said. However, once Rumsfeld was confirmed, the increases in the defense budget went to increased living allowances and other quality of life issues for military personnel and for operations and maintenance. *Coalition* members, of course, supported these increases for the men and women in our armed services and for the increased funding for military operations and maintenance. However, union workers were upset that additional funding for defense procurement accounts was not also forthcoming. Moreover, the administration's Office of Management and Budget



appeared less supportive of the defense agenda outlined by Rumsfeld during his confirmation hearings. For a while it appeared that the Pentagon and OMB were in total disagreement as to the President's commitments on defense.

The appearance of a disagreement between OMB and DoD did not go unnoticed by the Democrats. The administration came under fire from **Senator Joe Lieberman** (D-CT) and other Democrats arguing that the Bush Administration was not keeping its promise to increase defense spending. In early August of that year, Armed Services Committee members from both parties and both chambers criticized the administration for its lack of commitment to campaign promises. As expected, the bipartisan critics of the President's defense strat-

egy came from members who had large numbers of defense workers as constituents. Then came the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon terrorized the country.

The 9/11 attacks catapulted us into the new reality of global terrorism, a war in Afghanistan and the impending conflict in Iraq. Now a quantum jump had to be made in both Pentagon thinking and the funding for transformational technologies to meet these fearsome challenges. Prior to the 2000 presidential election, the concept of transformation was in an embryonic state. Today, this term reverberates through the halls of the Pentagon. Transformation, however, will have a major consequence for the defense industry workforce.

Many of the unions in the *National Industrial Base Workforce Coalition* are involved in building defense programs that are in various stages of development. For example, the F/A-22 Raptor air dominance fighter and the V-22 tiltrotor aircraft are now in low-rate production, but the reality is that both of these programs and others will be judged against the concept of transformation. The probability is high that some programs may be canceled. A more likely scenario, however, is that the quantity of current programs will be reduced. This in itself is a slippery slope to cancellation. The defense workforce well remembers how the B-2 bomber suffered the "death of a thousand cuts" when the originally envisioned 132 plane buy was later reduced to 75 and then, with the end of the Cold War, to 21 aircraft.

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# Healthcare Reform – Saving Pharmacies

## Coalition Continues to Fight for Community Pharmacies

Last year we reported on *Workforce Coalition* activity aimed at preserving the local community pharmacies that serve union retirees and their families. The workforce effort over the past year and a half was initiated in response to the administration's Prescription Drug Discount Card Program. The program was designed to give prescription drug coverage to low-income Medicare seniors until Congress could undertake a Medicare overhaul, which would include a prescription drug benefit. However, despite the administration's good intentions, union members realized that the discount card would have threatened the existence of the community pharmacy by handing over control of the Prescription Drug Discount Card Program to HMO-style middlemen called Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs). The PBMs would have limited the number of community pharmacies that could take part in the program, effectively forcing seniors to use complicated and impersonal computer or mail order services, thereby possibly eliminating the druggist-patient relationship altogether.



Coalition Regional Coordinator, **Joseph "Slugs" Smarrella** testifying before the Alliance for Health Reform Symposium in November 2001.

Union members wrote, called and visited members of Congress to bring attention to the negative effects of the discount card. The unions contacted all of those congressional committees with jurisdiction over Medicare, stating that they did not want a discount drug program that would sacrifice the relationship of trust between retirees and their druggists. They asked elected of-

ficials why the government was attempting to impose such an important interim drug discount card program without holding congressional hearings where union leaders could testify.

You will recall that in last year's *Chronicle*, we reported that *Coalition* members attended a symposium in November 2001 in Washington D.C. that was sponsored by the *Alliance for Health Reform* to examine prescription card discount cards. Workforce leaders presented **Senator Bill Frist** (R-TN) with a packet of letters from union members around the country. Senator Frist chaired the symposium and is the leader in the Senate in seeking reform of Medicare to provide a prescription drug benefit. At this symposium, union leaders also asked questions of the panel of experts. This symposium was the only opportunity in 2001 where public comment was allowed and where union members could stand up and voice their concerns. Senator Frist was most congenial and spoke freely to the union leaders, assuring them that the Senate did not want to harm the community phar-



**Rep. Charlie Norwood** (R-GA) (3rd from left) met with **Jim Carroll**, President IAM Local 709 (3rd from right) Marietta, Georgia, **Carl Mason** (Left), **Jerry Kelley** (2nd from left) and other union members regarding their concerns about House bill H.R. 4954 that uses Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) to administer a prescription drug benefit to Medicare Seniors.

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# Healthcare Reform – Saving Pharmacies

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macy. On the other hand, **Tom Scully**, the administration's architect of the PBM policy and Director of Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), would not address the union concerns and would not even speak with *Coalition* members.

The 2001 debate ended with the discount card being stopped in federal court. However, in 2002, the debate over prescription drug coverage shifted to the Congress. Because this was an election year, prescription drug coverage was a hot topic. Both political parties wanted to take credit for some reform that would help senior citizens pay for the outrageously high price of medicines. Lawmakers urgently wanted to pass something before the elections. Therefore, *Workforce Coalition* members closely monitored the debates to detect whether any newly proposed bill would threaten community pharmacies.

Union leaders waited patiently as Congress reconvened in January 2002. *Coalition* members were preparing to testify at congressional hearings on a Medicare prescription drug benefit after having identified a bipartisan bill, H.R. 3626 introduced by **Representatives Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO)** and **Mike Ross (D-AR)**, which provided comprehensive Medicare reform to include a prescription drug benefit without using PBMs. Union representatives contacted congressional members to support Emerson-Ross because it guaranteed seniors the flexibility of using any pharmacy of their choice. They hoped to testify at the appropriate hearings, however, it soon became clear that none would be held. In fact, nothing happened for months as congressional leaders chose not to start a debate on Emerson's bill or any other legislation.

On May 2, both political parties rolled out competing prescription drug coverage proposals. **Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert (R-IL)** unveiled the Republican proposal for the House side while **Senators Bob Graham (D-**



A crowd gathers outside the Arrow Prescription Center in New Britain, Connecticut at a press conference calling for congressional support of community pharmacies inclusion in any Federal prescription drug benefit program.

FL) and **Zell Miller (D-GA)** revealed a Democratic plan on the Senate side. The normal partisan bickering ensued. Democrats claimed the Republican's bill was inadequate and did not spend enough money on the problem. The Republicans claimed the Democrats' bill

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*Union representatives contacted congressional members to support Emerson-Ross because it guaranteed seniors the flexibility of using any pharmacy of their choice.*

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was too costly and irresponsible. *Coalition* leaders took their cue from their local pharmacies and looked more closely at both proposals. Unfortunately, BOTH the Republican and Democrat bills placed the programs under the control of the PBMs. Once again, local pharmacies, and their trusted personal service to union retirees, were threatened by the potential passage of either of these bills. As union leaders often commented, any PBM-based system threatens the very existence of local drugstores that are unable to qualify for participation in

the federal program.

Because the House Republican leadership backed their PBM-based bill, H.R. 4954, and they controlled the agenda, they pushed this bill through to committee the week after the plan was announced and brought it to the floor with record speed. To pass the legislation, Republicans needed the support of virtually every House member. Since the GOP leadership was quickly moving the bill through the legislative process, *Coalition* members immediately began writing and calling members of Congress. However, when contacting House members, union leaders conveyed their support for the Emerson/Ross H.R. 3626 bill and opposition to any bill that favors a PBM-based prescription drug plan like the GOP leadership bill. Also, while monitoring the media, a *Coalition* member read that **Representative Charlie Norwood (R-GA)** had misgivings about the Republican bill. *Coalition* members from Georgia, in Washington, D. C. at the time on other business, went to see Norwood in his Capitol Hill office to ask him to stand his ground in opposition of the bill.

*As the union leaders soon discovered, clearly, legislators did not understand the issue or the devastating*  
*See PHARMACIES, page 8*

# Healthcare Reform – Saving Pharmacies

*From PHARMACIES, page 7*  
*effect of their bills on the community pharmacy.* The potential destruction of the community pharmacy was never discussed in the media coverage of the prescription drug bills. To respond to this void, one *Coalition* leader, in June, spoke at a press conference in New Britain, CT. Flanked by representatives of union retiree organizations, **Jim Parent**, President of the IAM Connecticut State Council of Machinists, addressed the crowd of senior citizens and pharmacists saying, “*We can’t support any bill that will force our union retirees into an HMO-style plan in order to get prescription drug coverage...PBMs are in the business of mail order drug services and won’t be happy until every senior citizen on Medicare is getting prescriptions through the PBM’s 800 numbers and Internet websites.*” Unfortunately, the Republican leadership forced a vote as quickly as possible, and the House passed the GOP bill only two days after the Connecticut press conference.



**Jim Parent**, President, IAM Connecticut State Council of Machinists at the Connecticut press conference speaking against a federal drug discount program that would force senior citizens into using prescription mail order services.

Since there was no companion bill in the Senate, congressional debate centered around amendments to a bill sponsored by **Senators John McCain** (R-AZ) and **Charles Schumer** (D-NY), dealing with patent laws and generic drugs. Three different amendments were introduced: one by Republicans, another by Democrats (the Graham-Miller bill mentioned earlier), and a third that was labeled the “Tri-Partisan bill” because of its support by Democrats, Republicans and Independents. Although different in many ways, each bill incorporated PBMs.

*Fearing that the Senate could pass a PBM-based bill like the House did, union leaders contacted Senators to voice their opposition to any PBM-based program and argued for a senior citizen “pharmacy benefit” that would allow retirees to fill prescriptions wherever they choose.*

Each amendment was voted down one by one; however, these votes were largely on partisan lines. There is still a large void in the knowledge on

the Hill and in the general public about the dangerous impact that PBM-based legislation will have on community pharmacy and union families. Moreover, because the Republicans now control both the House and the Senate, it is certain that they will try to enact some kind of PBM-based legislation early in 2003. In fact, there is talk already on the Hill of congressional members resurrecting the Tri-Partisan bill. *Coalition* members are preparing now for any attempted assault on the community pharmacy.

At the same time, the AFL-CIO will be very involved in the 2003 Medicare prescription drug debates as will the state federations and their senior affiliate groups. The enormous cost of prescription drugs will continue to drive the debate toward major federal intervention, which could include a single-payer, government-sponsored discount card program. It could even include price controls to make life-saving drugs affordable to the average Medicare recipient.

Union leaders realize that the only way to increase congressional and public knowledge about the threat to their local pharmacies is to bring the story to the local communities. Therefore, the *Workforce Coalition* plans to duplicate the Connecticut press conference in other states and congressional districts. *Coalition* leaders are also preparing to testify before Congress in opposition to any PBM-based legislation as well as to advocate a Medicare prescription drug benefit that allows seniors to use any pharmacy they choose.

We are now less than two years away from the next presidential election. Pressure on politicians to enact some prescription drug legislation will continue to grow as each month passes. Union members will be at the forefront of the fight to protect the pharmacies that serve their retirees. The trusted relationship between patients and their pharmacists must be protected in any law that intends to address rising prescription drug costs!❖



# NASA Administrator

## Coalition Members Meet New NASA Administrator



Administrator O'Keefe explains his vision for NASA to members of the *Workforce Coalition*.

The winter 2001 issue of the *Coalition Chronicle* reported that a new NASA Administrator had been selected following the departure of **Daniel Goldin**, NASA's longest serving Administrator. On December 21, 2001, **Sean O'Keefe** was sworn in as the 10th Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. *Coalition* members have always enjoyed an excellent working relationship with past NASA Administrators, and so this spring, a group of workforce leaders traveled to Washington D.C. to introduce Administrator O'Keefe to members of the *National Industrial Base Workforce*

*Coalition* and to its activities with the past three NASA Administrators.

Administrator O'Keefe was briefed on the *Coalition's* 16-year history and its support of NASA for more than a decade. He learned that some of the union members present represented employees at NASA headquarters and NASA facilities. He quickly grasped the relationship between the public employees that represent NASA and those unions such as ASPEP and SPEEA as well as unions in the basic industries who supported NASA during the critical years following the tragic explosion of the *Challenger*. During those years, ASPEP played a

major role as Legislative Chair for the Council of Engineers and Scientists Organizations (CESO). Today, **Joe Grabowski**, Executive Director of ASPEP holds the position as Legislative Chairman of CESO. ASPEP leaders have been crucial in lobbying for NASA programs.

*Coalition* leader, **Charles Bofferding**, told O'Keefe during the roundtable discussion that the *Workforce Coalition* and NASA share the same interests and that, "when push comes to shove, you have people in this room who can really stand up and be heard." Administrator O'Keefe expressed interest in beginning a dialogue with the unions on important issues and took the opportunity to discuss his vision and agenda for NASA, noting that he and his staff were currently working on determining the agency's priorities. O'Keefe emphasized a desire to focus on new opportunities for a wide variety of programs. For example, the new Administrator would like to see steps taken with propulsion power generation because our space exploration is limited by the speed at which we are able to travel. Propulsion power generation, he explained, is not a program but an integrated part



Members of the *National Industrial Base Workforce Coalition* meet with NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe.

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# Space Station

## Upcoming Shuttle Launches to International Space Station in 2003

(as we go to press)

March 01, 2003	STS-114 <i>Atlantis</i>
May 23, 2003	STS-115 <i>Endeavour</i>
July 24, 2003	STS-116 <i>Atlantis</i>
October 2, 2003	STS-117 <i>Endeavour</i>

## Security at Kennedy Space Center

After the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, NASA adopted new security policies. Shuttles blast off under unprecedented security, and the exact launch times are not released to the public until 24 hours before. Air National Guard F-15s as well as a diverse array of ground and sea forces are utilized. The shuttle was always viewed at risk because of its high profile launches. However, in June 2002 these assumptions were linked to specific data. U.S. Administrator O'Keefe acknowledged this threat after the Endeavor launched in June, "there is no question that [the shuttle] is a high value target."❖

## Space Launch Initiative

To design a replacement for the 4 space shuttles that were designed in the 1970s and first flown in the 1980s, nearly \$1 billion a year will be spent through 2005 to come up with a design. An ambitious team of engineers is envisioning a craft the size of a business jet that will afford them a much higher assurance of survivability should a launch mishap occur. It will be the primary means of servicing the ISS, leaving at least one smart new space taxi docked for months at a time to serve as a lifeboat for an emergency crew to escape. Unfortunately, realistic assessments suggest the shuttle replacement will not be flight-ready until 2020 — at the earliest.❖

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of every program that NASA is involved in, whether launching satellites or probes, going to Mars, or going to the Space Station.

When discussing the International Space Station, Administrator O'Keefe called it an "engineering marvel" and a "great achievement" of which the workforce should be proud. He acknowledged that constructing what was once considered a fantasy was "risky business," with each mission building on the next. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary to ensure that each milestone is correct or the next step will not fall into place. NASA's ability in systems integration, even though a challenge, is what makes NASA so unique. *Coalition* leaders departed the meeting convinced that

O'Keefe was committed to the Space Station. Most assuredly NASA will need the help of the *Workforce Coalition* in the coming budget cycles.

In a recent broadcast of a nationally syndicated weekend talk show, NASA was again placed in the crosshairs. On December 1, 2002, the McLaughlin Group, a program that normally deals with current events and political topics, focused on the future of NASA in the current era of tight budgets. Program participants quickly divided into politically conservative and liberal camps, reminiscent of that which occurred in the Congress following the *Challenger* tragedy. The conservative participants on the McLaughlin program argued that NASA's goal of space exploration was

more important than ever, while the liberal participants advocated shifting NASA funds to other national priorities such as saving the environment. Even more frightening from the liberal side was the charge that NASA might now be engaging in defense-related projects such as missile defense, a statement that could quickly undermine support for NASA in some quarters of Congress. The *Workforce Coalition* may soon be faced with an assault on NASA programs that will quickly translate into lost jobs in the scientific, engineering and manufacturing sectors. The *National Industrial Base Workforce Coalition* will monitor this debate closely and pledges continued support to NASA and the International Space Station.❖

# Missile Defense

## America's Ballistic Missile Defense System

Since the 1960's, critics of missile defense have successfully hindered the development of a U. S. missile defense system on the theory that it could escalate another arms race. This has left America with no anti-missile defense system to defend against even one ballistic missile launched at our country or our allies. Following the Cold War, the U.S. began to see an increased threat to world peace as rogue nations - Iran, Libya, North Korea, Syria and others - began to develop ballistic missile technologies.

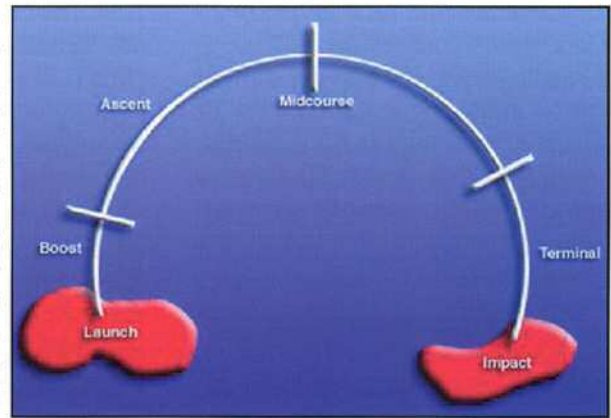
Believing that proliferation of nuclear material would spur the development of missile technology by rogue nations, George W. Bush made missile defense a major cornerstone of his presidential campaign. After being elected, President Bush established four top priorities for missile defense.

- First, to defend the United States, deployed forces, allies, and friends;
- Second, to employ a layered Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) System to intercept missiles in all phases of their flight (i.e., boost, midcourse, and terminal) against all ranges of threats;
- Third, to enable our armed services to field elements of the overall BMD System as soon as practical; and
- Fourth, to develop and test technologies, use prototypes, and test assets to provide early capability, if necessary, and improve the effectiveness of deployed capability by inserting new technologies as they become available or when the threat warrants an accelerated capability.

America's BMD System is currently in the research and development stage with companies such as Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, TRW and others receiving R&D funding. The unions in the *National Industrial Base Workforce Coalition* are pleased that American workers will be needed in

all phases of missile defense: constructing new silos, building infrastructure to house radar, and constructing roads, bridges, and highways for isolated launch sites. Jobs in designing and producing ships, planes, tanks, missiles, satellites, radar, avionics, electronics systems, and in-flight communication systems will also be in high demand.

December 13, 2001, marked an important victory for President Bush and missile defense when he gave formal six-month notice to Russia that the United States would withdraw from the Anti Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty. In 1972, the United States and the Soviet Union signed the ABM Treaty, banning nationwide missile defenses and limiting each country to two missile defense sites with no more than 100 interceptors at each site. On July 13, 2002, the day the ABM Treaty was no longer in force, the U.S. began construction of interceptor silos for the ground-based, midcourse element of our missile defense system in Fort Greely, Alaska.



Although some major victories for missile defense were achieved in 2002, such as the dissolving of the ABM Treaty and funding of \$7.4 billion for BMD research and development work, there is still much to be done in 2003. Next year, the Congress will have to deal with domestic and economic issues that will compete for funding. As with all defense and space programs, congressional supporters and critics have already begun positioning themselves for or against a ballistic missile defense system in anticipation of the FY04 budget debates. The missile defense debate next year will occur in a politically charged environment. The shift from a record surplus to a mount-

*See MISSILE, page 14*

### Missile Defense Terms

All ballistic missiles follow a three-phase ballistic trajectory in the shape of an arch. The three trajectory phases are: boost phase, mid-course phase, and terminal phase.

**Boost Phase** is that portion of the missile's flight in which it is gaining acceleration needed to reach its target. This phase lasts between 3-5 minutes.

**Midcourse Phase** is the longest part of a missile's flight when the missile is coasting toward its target in a period as long as 20 minutes.

**Terminal Phase** occurs when the missile reenters the earth's atmosphere at incredible speeds. This phase lasts approximately 30 seconds.

The Defense Department has identified eight approaches to defend against ballistic missiles: space-based, air-based, land-based and sea-based boost phase intercept, land-based and sea-based midcourse intercept and land-based and sea-based terminal intercept. ❖

# C-17

## Cargo Fleet Proves Essential in War on Terror

For the first time in nearly 20 years, the Department of Defense is expanding buys of transport planes as part of its new concentration on air mobility. This shift in focus resulted from the demands of a war on the other side of the globe, as well as the subsequent acknowledgment that all branches of the military must be able to move as quickly as possible to future conflicts.

**President Bush** has laid the groundwork for expanding the war on terrorism to Iraq; in October, Congress passed a resolution to allow the use of force there. Moreover, the world has recently seen a resurgence of al-Qaeda activity with bombings in Indonesia, Yemen and the Philippines. It is likely that U.S. troops will soon be involved in another front. However, experts say that the U.S. military will find it difficult to support an invasion of Iraq or other expansions of the war on terror with the aging and already stressed cargo

fleet. The Pentagon promises it will be able to fulfill its commitments, but the DoD is working with its lowest cargo capacity in decades.

Ironically, in 1990, the number of C-17s the Air Force planned to buy was cut from 210 to 120. At that time, the cut was justified by the diminished Soviet threat. Now, twelve years later, America's fleet of C-17s has become one of the Pentagon's most important assets in the War on Terrorism.

Military operations in land-locked Afghanistan are being supported and re-supplied exclusively by air. C-17s are the main workhorse of the mission. It is the only airlifter that is able to travel intercontinental distances with outsize cargo and land in the war zone on an unimproved dirt strip. These qualities, along with the C-17's ability to backup and operate on a narrow ramp and maintain high mission capabilities rates, make it the weapon system of choice for the Afghanistan cam-

paign and, most likely, future conflicts as well.

However, when the U.S. expands the anti-terrorism campaign to another front, the DoD may not have enough cargo planes to go around. The current fleet cannot support 2 fronts similar to the level used in Afghanistan. Fortunately, the Pentagon has already taken steps to rectify this inadequacy. In the summer of 2002, arrangements were made for the DoD to purchase 60 additional C-17s – bringing the total number to 180 C-17s, delivered by 2008. This multi-year contract drops the price per plane from \$198 million each to \$152 million each, and each C-17 is already being delivered about 3 months ahead of schedule. The new C-17s will have extended fuel capacity and the latest global air traffic management equipment as well as new weather radar to replace the existing, obsolete system. Earlier C-17 models will be retrofitted. ❖

## Commercial Application of Military Airlift Aircraft - CAMAA

The Commission on the Future of the United States Aerospace Industry, in its recent report to the President and United States Congress, presented recommendations that underscore the value of the U.S. Air Force's initiative to determine the commercial market value of a commercial version of the C-17 military cargo aircraft. The Air Force program is called Commercial Application of Military Airlift Aircraft or CAMAA. The idea behind the initiative is that the United States needs an outsize, short austere airfield capability in the Civil Reserve Air Fleet (CRAF). Since there are currently no civilian cargo aircraft that are capable of carrying outsize cargo into short, unimproved airfields, CAMAA's challenge is to define and describe the cargo market that would support developing a civilian variation of the C-17. The Boeing Company has designated the airplane the BC-17X.

If a financially compelling argument can be developed that a market for a minimum of ten BC-17s exists, the U.S. Air Force will release a Request For Proposal (RFP) and manage a competition among qualified air carriers to determine the carrier best qualified to manage an operation of ten BC-17s. The Air Force will then make the necessary investment to enable the carrier to acquire the aircraft. The aircraft would be dedicated to the Civil Reserve Air Fleet (CRAF), and in times of national emergencies would operate carrying Department of Defense peacetime cargo as a supplement to the civilian market. The American taxpayer benefits from having outsize civilian aircraft dedicated to the CRAF with a capability necessary in crises, without having to actually buy the airplanes. The commercial carrier benefits by having access to an emerging market that will grow and be profitable. The aerospace workforce benefits, since additions to backlog represented by BC-17 and a vibrant commercial market will keep aerospace workers employed with more airplanes added to the military C-17 production line. CAMAA is an initiative that has the potential of generating a win-win for America. ❖

# ISS Update

## International Space Station Update

As we reported last year, 2001 was a year of highs and lows for the space industry. Technical marvels were plagued by budgetary cost overruns. Early in 2002, newly appointed Administrator O'Keefe announced changes in order to cut costs. In March, he informed the House Science Committee that the shuttle would conduct only four missions a year. Furthermore, because funding was not allotted for the escape module, human capacity would be kept at three crew members instead of the originally intended 9-person crew. Critics, including European partners in the space project as well as many members of Congress, called a 3-person

crew a "catastrophe" and a "non-starter." Representatives from the Science Committee called the 3-person core complete configuration a milestone but not an end. By limiting the capacity of the space station, we would be limiting its scientific value.

By May, feeling pressure from members of Congress, NASA began looking for ways to increase the size of the ISS beyond three crew members to increase its productivity as a scientific lab. The *Workforce Coalition* agrees that if the administration and Congress do not commit to building the ISS to its maximum configuration, we could be in danger of losing its identity as a science laboratory

in the sky.

Unfortunately, construction of the space station hit another obstacle in June 2002 when cracks were found in the fuel-pipe liners in all four shuttles. The metal liners help direct the flow of hydrogen inside the propellant lines in each shuttle's main propulsion system. The shuttles were grounded during the summer, delaying the first in a string of critical space station construction missions as technicians, engineers and metal experts from coast to coast worked day and night to help NASA solve the mysteries of how the cracks formed and what danger they posed. By mid-

*See ISS, page 14*

### *From BOAT, page 5*

Transformation and the plight of current defense programs are unquestionably intertwined. Additionally, the U.S. may be at war early in the next session of Congress, and there is a wide array of other priorities on the administration's agenda including a massive overhaul of Medicare. The Department of Defense will have to get in line for extra funding.

If, as hoped, the DoD receives additional funding, decisions must still be made as to where the funds will be spent: military personnel quality of life issues, the Afghanistan war effort, a pending war with Iraq, R&D of new transformational weaponry, and/or continued procurement of current weapons programs. Thus, competition between the services will increase as the debates begin over the choice between "transformational" systems or the continued production of those programs now in low-rate production or final phases of engineering, manufacturing and development (EMD), which only yesterday were called "next generation" weapons systems.

Union workers throughout the country are hopeful that next year's defense budget debates will seriously consider the industrial implications of cutting or canceling the multi-decade, "next generation" defense weapons, since the impact on the industrial base would be enormous.

So where does that leave the American workforce employed on all of these competing programs? Here we repeat a recurrent theme used in earlier editorials of the *Chronicle*. Our situation can be likened to a lifeboat that only holds five people while there are eight in the water. Every time someone climbs into the boat, someone else is shoved over the other side. The workforce can, of course, choose to try and stay in the boat and keep anyone else from climbing aboard. The problem with that strategy is that each year the Pentagon is faced with the challenge of trying to fit more and more defense programs into the lifeboat. Although the FY03 defense budget received the largest increase in funding in two decades, overall, defense procurement accounts did not

receive any substantial increase in funding. The answer to this problem is that we need a bigger boat.

The *Workforce Coalition* must now focus on increasing the top line of the defense budget to cover all programs in addition to the funding needed for R&D, personnel quality of life issues, operations and maintenance, and the war efforts. This is the same strategy that the *Coalition* pursued two years ago. This does not mean that *Coalition* members will stop fighting for their individual programs but that they recognize the way to save their programs is to put more money in the defense budget to cover all of the funding needs. Over the last several years, the workforce was successful in keeping programs alive using a "one-for-all and all-for-one" strategy. Once again, the *Coalition* must revert back to the one-focus strategy and work to raise the top line of the defense budget, or programs that survived in 2002 may not make it in next year's legislative session. Over the spring of 2003, *Workforce Coalition* leaders will be meeting to map out a strategy to build a bigger boat. ❖

# F-22

## F-22 Fighter Renamed – F/A-22

In September 2002 officials announced that the F-22 Raptor would be renamed the F/A-22. The “A” represents the capability to hit ground targets as well as those in the air. The name implies that the F/A-22 will provide support to the Army, Navy and Marines ground forces.

Unfortunately, the stealth fighter is seen to be extremely vulnerable in upcoming budget battles. As always, big-ticket items are prone to cuts. Congressional members are not expected to eliminate the program entirely, but there have been internal Pentagon discussions that the F-22 could be cut by over 100 aircraft in the FY 2004 budget. Industrial base workers know that drastically cutting the number of planes ordered essentially terminates the program. That was the lesson learned with the B-2 Bomber. Changing the name of the program to F/A-22, Pentagon officials believe, will help make the case for the fighter and its capabilities once FY04 budget de-

liberations begin. The planes will be equipped with a different radar system, new weapons, and enhanced air-to-ground capabilities.

Early in 2002, the Air Force decided that the F-22 did not have to be so quiet anymore. The stealth fighter was intended to operate independently without long-distance communications. But after the cooperation and fusion between aircraft fighters and Special Operations forces on the ground in Afghanistan, Pentagon officials concluded the F-22 should be involved in the transmittance of data in future battlefields. The design of the F-22 allows it to gather electronic intelligence automatically. This data can be collected deep into danger zones and enemy camps. The role modification requires a basic change in the plane’s radar that can be accomplished by borrowing technology being developed for the Joint Strike Fighter.

Also early in 2002, a problem was detected with the F-22’s vertical

tail buffet. Additional flight testing was recommended to generate data for an investigation. The problem was eventually solved, and the Air Force is expected to install several titanium ribs to replace composite ones to eliminate high-frequency buffet. Additionally, a pressure release valve is being installed on the rudder actuator to eliminate low-frequency vibration. These changes are expected to fix the aircrafts’ tail buffet problem, which was only experienced in 1% of the entire flight envelope. The problem will be fixed before operational testing begins next year.

In early November, Lockheed Martin reported a cost overrun of \$690 million for the development phase of the F/A-22. The Air Force is investigating this cost increase as we go to press. The *Coalition* will continue to monitor the F/A-22 program in 2003 because the aircraft is still an important asset to the future defense of our country. ❖

### *From ISS, page 13*

August the cracks were traced to high-cycle metal fatigue and weld repairs to hydrogen lines began; space shuttle main engines (SSMEs) were reinstalled in the *Atlantis* shuttle first so it could finally complete its STS-112 mission originally schedule for August.

On October 9, *Atlantis* lifted off carrying the Boeing Starboard 1 (S1) truss to the ISS. During the mission, the truss was successfully installed and marked the start of the build-out of the station’s 356 feet solar array span. By early 2004, the truss will support three new 240 feet arrays, increasing station power by about seventy-five percent. The successful mission gave a major boost to NASA. As we go to press, three more U.S. and Russian missions are set for launch to the

space station by December – a major increase in flight operations to catch up after the three-month grounding.

The industrial base must remind the public about the wonders of the International Space Station. We understand that the program needs to be better managed to prevent cost overruns. However, one cannot overlook the nearly flawless assembly flights whose astronauts that have put together, piece by piece, a scientific laboratory in the sky. The ISS is unprecedented in its complexity and challenges. Yet this summer, the space program was faced with another challenge, and American minds solved it in a relatively short time. The mere fact that the Space Station is in orbit is both extraordinary and a testament to America’s industrial base. ❖

### *From MISSILE, page 11*

ing deficit has come at the same time as rising public demand for massive increases in social programs, such as Medicare and education.

Currently, the war on terrorism is consuming billions of dollars of the Pentagon’s budget. Funding most likely will be diverted from missile defense, as more money is needed to fund overseas operations and maintenance work on heavily taxed equipment. The survival of some missile defense systems will depend on the addition of sufficient funds to the defense budget. We can expect to see heated funding debates for years to come over the issue of missile defense, as it will forever change the way we defend the United States, our deployed forces and our allies, as well as the manner in which global conflicts are resolved. ❖

# Member Spotlight

## Slugs Smarrella Relishes the Good Fight



Joseph Smarrella

The *National Industrial Base Workforce Coalition* is proud to honor **Joseph “Slugs” Smarrella**, Treasurer of the United Steelworkers Local 1190 in Steubenville, Ohio, employed by Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corporation. Although he long outgrew the habit of settling arguments with his fists (hence the nickname), Slugs still relishes a fight over a good cause. As one of the longest standing members of the *Workforce Coalition*, dating back almost 18 years, Slugs has fought many times for his fellow steelworkers and for those programs employing workers in many areas of America’s industrial base. For several years, Slugs has served as the Midwest Regional Coordinator for the *Coalition*. In this ca-

capacity he has participated in dozens of industrial campaigns with other union members.

“I’m working to save jobs because our industrial base in this country has been eroded. I do

opposed the government when officials attempted to ban a solvent that would have destroyed aerospace, electronics, and high tech industries. Slugs also led the effort against the BTU tax that

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*“I’ve been here for 39 years. That’s not unusual. Most of the guys here are third-generation steel workers. We want to keep working here.”*

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what I do because Wheeling Pitt has given me a good living, and I would like to give something back.” Slugs began his mill career performing a variety of production duties, but has worked as a roll grinder for over two decades.

The Smarella’s have a long history at the Steubenville mill. “My grandfather didn’t speak English but he worked here for 44 years,” Slugs explained. “People say he was the best draftsman they’d ever seen. I’ve been here for 39 years. That’s not unusual. Most of the guys here are third-generation steel workers. We want to keep working here. These are good jobs and we do good work.”

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*Over the years, Slugs has participated in almost every effort that the Coalition has undertaken to affect legislation that impacts America’s industrial base.*

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Over the years, Slugs has participated in almost every effort that the *Coalition* has undertaken to affect legislation that impacts America’s industrial base. Along with other *Coalition* members, he

would have increased manufacturing costs around the country. He helped diminish acid rain regulations that would have shut down power plants throughout the Midwest. Most recently, Slugs has been at the forefront of the current battle to stop a PBM-based prescription drug measure for Medicare, fighting instead for a pharmacy benefit to save the local drugstores that serve his community.

As the *Coalition’s* Midwest Regional Coordinator, Slugs is in constant contact with lawmakers in Ohio and travels often to Washington D.C. to attend meetings with elected officials. He is always persistent and does everything he can to convince federal lawmakers of what needs to be done to protect jobs throughout the country.

Slugs and his wife Barbara live in Steubenville, Ohio. They have three grown children, Jennifer, Joseph Jr. and Jeffrey. Jennifer is a pharmacist, Joseph is a teacher and Jeffrey is a medical doctor currently completing his residency. The *National Industrial Base Workforce Coalition* salutes Joseph “Slugs” Smarrella! ❖

# Centennial of Flight!



Almost one hundred years ago, the Wright Brothers made their historic flight in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina – the first ever powered human flight. Though their plane only flew 120 feet in 12 seconds, Wilbur and Orville's flight changed the world. Beginning in November 2002, various events and educational projects are scheduled throughout the next year to celebrate the countdown to the centennial. In Kitty Hawk, activities will culminate on the morning of December 17, 2003 with a formal commemorative ceremony followed by a re-creation of their historic flight. For more information on the history of aviation, as well as a calendar of events, visit [www.centennialofflight.gov](http://www.centennialofflight.gov). ❖

## In Memoriam – John E. Robson



Chairman **John E. Robson** greeting **Greg Junemann**, President IFPTE, and **Charles Bofferding**, Executive Director SPEEA in 2001.

The *National Industrial Base Workforce Coalition* remembers **John E. Robson**, who passed away on March 20 from cancer. Since the 1960's, Mr. Robson held various top-level government positions before taking over the Chairmanship of the Export Import Bank in May 2001. President Bush called Mr. Robson "a man of true character and integrity" who "set an example of distinguished public service."

As reported in last year's *Chronicle*, in November 2001, Mr. Robson met with *Coalition* leaders to thank them for their efforts in helping to save Ex-Im funding. Chairman Robson left a lasting impression on *Coalition* leaders who had looked forward to working with him in the future. Chairman Robson will always be remembered as a gracious leader who made an outreach to the members of the *National Industrial Base Workforce Coalition*. ❖

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