



# Maple-Leaf News

Winter 2011

Laugh a little, learn a little & take a break from the daily grind

Maple-Leaf Construction was the contractor for the BAE Bold Stroke project detailed in the September 29, 2010 Nashua Telegraph article below. Maple-Leaf has been serving the defense industry as a General Contractor/Construction Manager since its founding in 1964.

## Goal Of BAE's \$20 Million Center Is To Better Protect U.S. Airmen

If Tom Arseneault gets his way, the two names that front BAE Systems' new Worrell/Weeks Aircrew Protection Center will be the last American airmen to die under enemy fire.

Arseneault, president of the Nashua-based branch of the global defense company, gathered Tuesday with other BAE officials and uniformed troops to formally dedicate the Merrimack center, named in honor of Matthew Worrell and Jamie Weeks, two Army soldiers who died in 2006 after their helicopter was shot down in Iraq.

Equipped with a full indoor testing range, the new facility will help engineers design systems better equipped to detect and defend against enemy attacks on helicopters and other aircraft, Arseneault told the crowd.

The \$20 million facility is the first of its kind in the region, officials said.

"This is personal for us," Arseneault told the crowd, including members of the Worrell and Weeks family, who attended from Texas and Tennessee, respectively.

"We're doing everything we can to protect the airmen who so bravely and selflessly fly into harm's way," Arseneault said firmly. "We want them all to come home."

BAE engineers have worked for years to accurately simulate wartime conditions to better defend against air attacks, they said Tuesday. They have worked to replicate temperature, vibrations and directions of enemy missiles to outfit aircrafts with better defense systems.

But without a full testing range, the measurements have been inexact, forcing engineers to rely more on actual flight tests on real helicopters to strengthen the results.

"(Those tests) can be really expensive," said Burt Keirstead, BAE's director of Navy solutions. "It really does lower the costs to test the systems first. You don't have to go out on a live range."

Instead, the new facility, featuring missile and flight motion simulators, can

reproduce temperature, motion and other field conditions indoors.

The missile simulator, a black crane-like device, roams along the back wall of the 120-foot testing range, replicating the angles and the vibration of a true heat-seeking missile. Meanwhile, the two flight motion devices, large and circular, spin in place at the head of the room, simulating the motion of helicopters or other aircrafts.

Under BAE's missile warning system, released years ago, aircraft defend against missiles by releasing artificial heat signals, leading the missiles to follow a false path. But the new aircraft protection center will lead to advances allowing for better identification and quicker responses to missile attacks, officials said.



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# Our Holiday Message

This past year has been another challenging one for many of us. The hoped-for economic recovery has been slow to develop, causing continued strain on individuals, families and businesses, and sapping our confidence in the future.

Nevertheless, we all have much to be thankful for, and especially at this time of year, need to take time to appreciate our individual blessings. As a business, we are grateful for our dedicated, hardworking employees, outstanding building team partners, supportive corporate friends and, of course, our loyal clients, who are the reason our company exists.

Our nation has experienced tough times before, and we've always risen to the occasion, battled our way through our problems, and emerged better and stronger. This time will be no different.

On behalf of the entire Maple-Leaf team, we wish you a safe and healthy holiday and a new year filled with happiness, hope and great opportunity.



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# Protect U.S. Airmen...

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"What we're trying to do is alert the airmen there's a threat out there," said Stu Libby, an assistant engineering manager. "We need to distinguish between a real threat and something that appears to be a threat."

The protection center, in development for several years and under construction for about nine months, is part of a \$70 million program to improve aircraft protection efforts at BAE, officials said. In addition, plans are in place to improve manufacturing equipment at BAE's Nashua facility, officials said.

BAE officials touted the investments in the midst of Pentagon budget cuts and a challenging economy. The company is the nation's sixth-largest defense contractor and the largest private employer in Greater Nashua. More than 4,500 people work in New Hampshire alone.

Next year, BAE plans to connect the new protection center to its outdoor testing area to allow for more realistic conditions.

The new center can stimulate temperatures between -67 and 135 degrees. "We want to expose the system to the real environment it'll see out there," Libby said.

But soldiers and other observers on hand Tuesday said the center is already taking a large step toward protecting troops.

"This is a special day for us. It reminds us that our son is not forgotten," said Dora Worrell, Matthew Worrell's mother who traveled from Lewisville, Texas, for the ceremony.

"It's encouraging for us to see this facility so other families might not have to go through what we've been through," she said.

—by Jake Berry, Staff Writer

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