



***Integrity ★ Service ★  
Excellence***

**NATO AVT – 250**  
**INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE  
& TECHNOLOGY**  
***ENVIRONMENTAL PARTICULATES –  
FOREIGN OBJECT DAMAGE  
(EP-FOD)***

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**Grizelda Loy-Kraft**  
**Turbine Engine Division**  
**Aerospace Systems Directorate**  
**Air Force Research Laboratory**  
**(937) 785-2734**

## BLUF

- **Future operations will demand presence and maneuverability in all types of harsh environments**
  - *We won't have the luxury of just avoiding these areas*
- **Integrating/transforming EP knowledge from new insights**
  - **Outputs of recent programs**
  - **Integration of effects of volcanic ash, sand/dust, etc.**
  - **Collaboration synergy has started – All-in**
  - **International team - operators, academia, & industry**
- **Opportunity exists to look forward and link our knowledge**
  - **Planning for AVT-250 output to be computationally useful**

# Overview

- **Environmental particulate impacts to operations**
- **AFRL and NATO responses to Ops needs**
  - **VIPR III**
  - **EP-FOD**
- **Making output of AVT-250 computationally useful**
- **Vision and Way Forward**
- **Conclusions**

# Particulate Impacts to Aviation



EFFECTS ON HUMANS

REROUTING AND  
AIRCRAFT EVACUATION

ENGINE COKING  
AND  
GLASS



REDUCED VISIBILITY



ELECTRICAL CHARGE BUILDUP



ABRASION



LOSS OF  
ENGINE/AIRCRAFT



INCREASING SEVERITY

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PARTICULATES – FOREIGN OBJECT DAMAGE (EP-FOD) IMPACTS**

- **Unintegrated EP-FOD S&T investments**
- **Unintegrated message between aerospace, geology, weather**
- **Immediate and latent degradation**
  - Weapon system power and propulsion
  - Propulsion system power and propulsion performance
  - What Engine Health Management (EHM) technologies are needed?
  - Life and cost of ownership
- **NATO operations in 2010 impacted by lack technically aligned information**



# OPERATORS NEED CONFIDENCE

## Capability To Operate In Harsh Environments

### TODAYS

#### INVESTMENTS FOCUS CROSS ROADS

*People, Products, Place, Participation*

### AVT -250

#### INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE & TECHNOLOGY

*NATO maintainers, operators, mission planners, & decision makers*

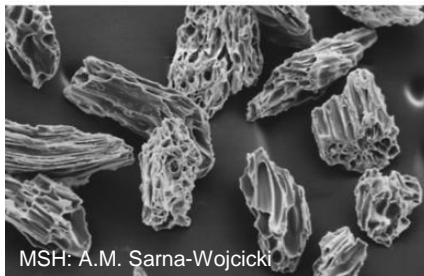


*Lays A Foundation For Integrated Guidance & Harsh Environment Protocols*

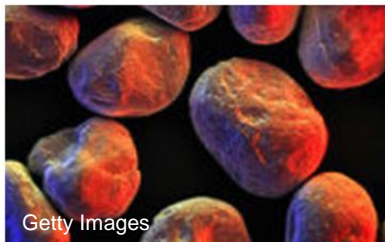
## EP-FOD Types

- **Similar damage**

- Volcanic ash



- Sand & dust



- Volcanic and pollution aerosols
- Detonation dusts
- Fire ash

- **Other**

- Ice
- Maritime salt
- Weapon dust
- UAS Swarm ingestion

Cause similar types of engine damage

## Vehicle Integrated Propulsion Research (VIPR-III) Ash Ingestion Test (2015)

- Controlled concentrations of volcanic ash were injected into a running C-17 engine
- Borescope inspections conducted after the tests failed to reveal the extent of damage
- Current procedures would have indicated that all-is-well → **WRONG DECISIONS**
- Incomplete reporting failed to accurately characterize battlespace conditions



Data Analysis & Engine  
Analytical Condition  
Inspection are now complete!



**Teardown Inspection revealed  
significantly  
greater amounts of deposits**



Courtesy of  
Rory Clarkson



# NATO Task Group AVT-250 EP-FOD Impacts to Military Operations

## AVT-250 Report/Information Structure Progress

### Technical Report 1: Environmental Particulates in Relevant Environments and Member Nation Survey

- Characterize World Map: Type, Sample, Test, Sense, Measure, Analyse, Report, Coordinate
- Particulate Inventory & Test Protocol
- Geographical Context –Weather
- Geographical Context –Geology
- Member/ Nation Capabilities and Resources

### Technical Report 2: Database of Incidents and Mitigations

- Characterize World Map: Family Type, Incidents, Failure Modes, and Mitigations Incidents
- Failure modes
- Mitigations

### Technical Report 3: Risk-based Guidance and Tools Integrates Technical Reports 1 & 2

- Vulnerability data and processes integration
- Tactics, techniques, and procedures for EP-FOD
- Strategic communication

### Common integrated structure

#### Common outcomes

- Science gaps and science to endorse

#### Common database

- Threat database
- Incident database
- Mitigation database
- Appendices (All information collected)

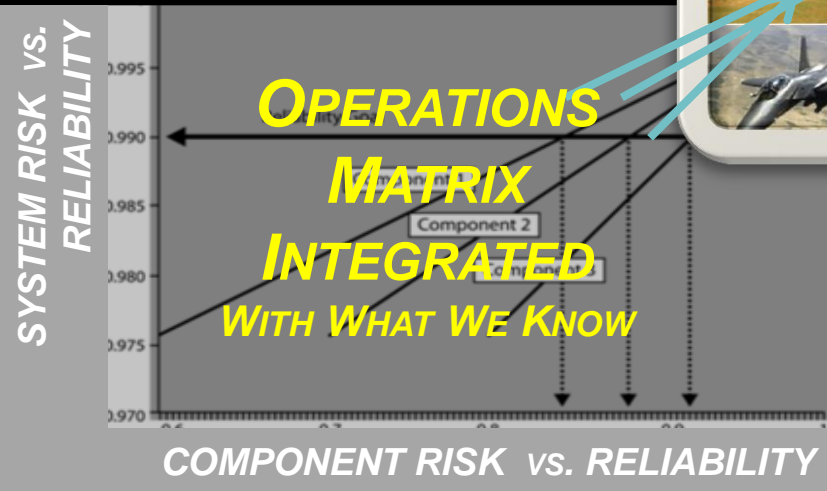
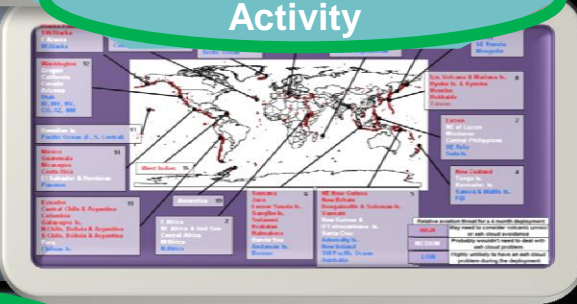
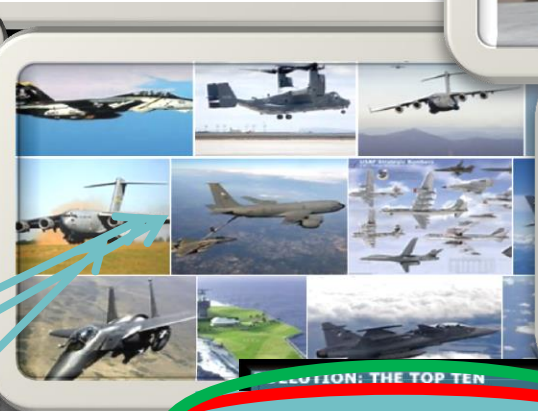
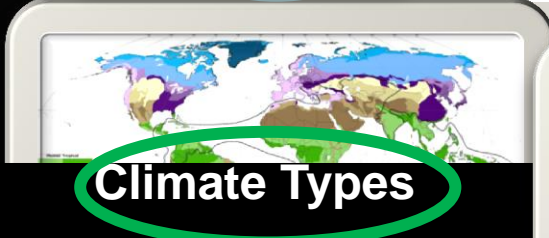
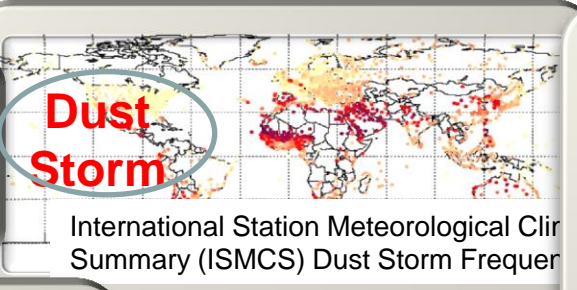
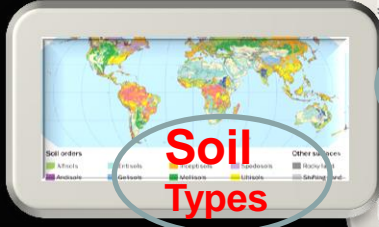
#### Common management

- Technical support
- Templates-surveys, citations
- Chapter completion and integration matrix
- Shareable ScienceConnect folder structure



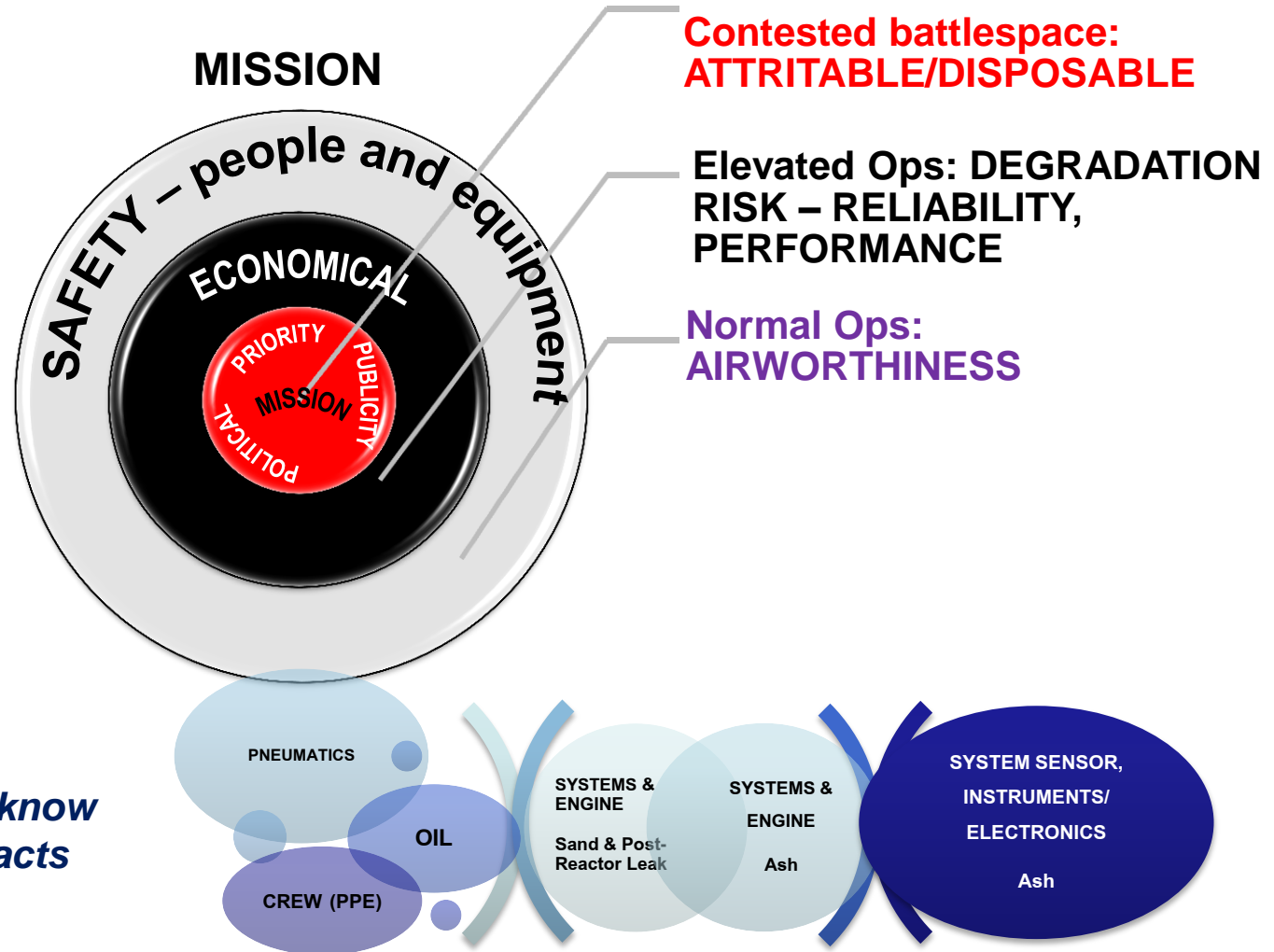
# Integrating Research, Data, & Models

## Key to Future Operations in EP-FOD Environments



# ACCELERATING OPERATOR'S DECISION-MAKING

**EP THREAT -  
Degraded Visual  
Environment  
Impact**



*What we think we know  
for some EP impacts*

# NATO AVT-250

## Feeding Digital Thread Use-Case

- **Operators, OEMs, Geology, & Weather – One Team**
- **Today's and Future Operations Opportunities**

Delivering Three Technical Reports – Aligned to appropriate user

- TR-1 “Threat Environment- EP and their transport and detection”
- TR-2 “Vehicle Incidences Experience and Characterization”
- TR-3 “Products and Application for the Warfighter  
Impacts, Tools(integrating TR-1 & 2) , and  
Procedures for Operations in EP Environments”

- **Next Gen UAS considerations**
- **EP-FOD**

**Advice/data to accelerate operator's decision making!**

# Planning for Future Operating Concepts

- **Special opportunities to deliver operational multi-domain agility**
- **Acquire limited high-cost/high-capability & many lower-cost/lower-capability platforms**
- **Considerations for operations in EP-FOD conditions**
- **Development of appropriate mitigation options and guidelines EP-FOD**
  - Bring an orchestrated effort to advance understanding, generate mitigations
  - Payoffs: Long endurance missions, autonomous operations
- **Sensors, electrical systems and subsystems are susceptible to EP-FOD**
  - Performance degradation
  - Latent failures...high cost, unreliability, and impacts to availability
  - Catastrophic events
- **Yesterday's UAS is not tomorrows UAS**

**... We need to understand EP-FOD impacts to design health management**



# Way Forward

- **Define and set standards for global EP-FOD battlespace awareness**
- **Assemble documented experiences and lessons learned.**
- **Identify partner nation EP-FOD related capabilities and resources**
- **Obtain foreign disclosure authorization to share framework**
- **Leverage our digital thread and twin technologies**
- **Develop use-case making output of AVT-250 computationally useful**
- **Establish common procedures for technical/business cases**
- **Mature semantic technologies for standardizing data collection**
- **Bridge tech gaps by leveraging international efforts /collaborations**

# Conclusions

## ***...We Are At A Crossroads***

- **Understanding, advancing & mitigating EP-FOD impacts**
- **Many databases and information stores exist**  
*(e.g., particulate types, environmental demographics, effects on aircraft system)*
- **VIPR III provided critically important data points, but we need more...**

## **NATO AVT-250 goal**

- **Proactive international partnership of academia, industry, & gov**
  - Integrate knowledge base
  - Fill in technology gaps in current efforts
  - Deliver guidance and useful tools to planners, operators, and maintainers
  - Deliver the future roadmap digital thread use case and advanced predictive health

***Please Join Us in this Revolutionary Journey***

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- Source: Rory Clarkson, Rolls-Royce; approval to use via e-mail (as long as we credit him and put RR logo on the slide).