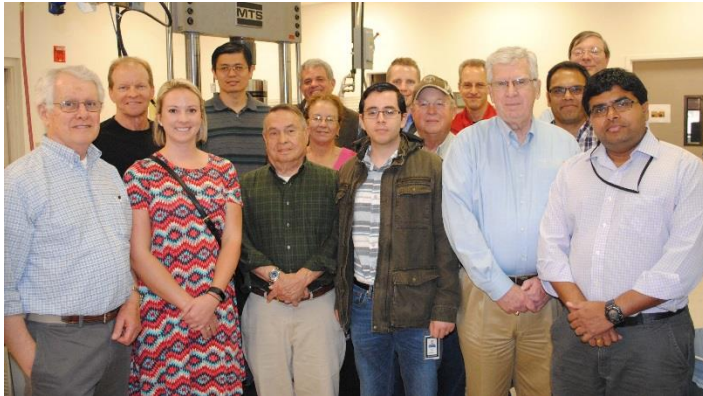


Section Tours of UTSI and AEDC

By Arloe Mayne



*Tour group and UTSI staff
Photo by Arloe Mayne*

On 24 March 2017 approximately 20 Section members, friends, and family participated in tours of the University of Tennessee Space Institute (UTSI) and the US Air Force's Arnold Engineering Development Complex (AEDC), near Tullahoma, Tennessee. We were met at UTSI by Mr. Joel Davenport, who conducted our tour, and Dr. Ed Kraft, Associate Executive Director.

UTSI is a graduate education and research institution internationally recognized for graduate study and research in engineering, physics, mathematics, and aviation systems.

Among their alumni are 9 astronauts. At UTSI the group was shown several research facilities used by faculty, graduate students, and research customers.



*University of Tennessee Space Institute
UTSI photo*



*Examining UTSI's Large Vacuum Chamber
Photo by Arloe Mayne*

These facilities included the subsonic Low Speed Wind Tunnel, the supersonic High Speed Wind Tunnel, the Large Vacuum Chamber, a Ludwig Tube nearing completion, and others. After the tour the group enjoyed lunch at UTSI's *The View* restaurant overlooking scenic Woods Reservoir.

After a short drive from UTSI, we arrived at AEDC where we boarded their bus that still had that new vehicle aroma. Our tour was capably conducted by Deidre Ortiz. AEDC is the most advanced and largest complex of flight simulation test facilities in the world, operating more than 55 aerodynamic and propulsion wind tunnels, rocket and turbine engine test cells, space environmental chambers, arc heaters, ballistic ranges and other specialized units.



*Arnold Engineering Development Complex
Tallahoma News photo*



*A portion of the group at AEDC
Photo by Arloe Mayne*

The AEDC tour took the group through the entire complex, with stops to go into the Mark I Aerospace Environmental Chamber, the 16-foot Propulsion Wind Tunnel, and the turbine Engine Test Facility.