

# SAFE News

Dedicated to Ensuring Personal Safety and Protection in Land, Sea, Air, and Space Environments

SAFE Association – Our 63rd Year

Volume 23 | Number 4 | Fall 2020

## From the SAFE Association President

I'm going to start by addressing the elephant in the room and then I'll move on. As we move into the 8th month (depending on where you are) of this national and world-wide response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are all having to adapt to the new world that we are living in. I realize that everyone's situation is unique, but this is just another obstacle in the history of humans, and we will get through this. However, as many of us in the Safety & Survival Industry know full well, we will "Improvise, Adapt, and Overcome". And in those 8 months, we have come a long way. But we are in this for the long haul. I think that most of us realized in the past few months that this isn't just going to suddenly end and go back to normal, at least not in the next few months. And even when we "return to normal", we will be living in a new world. Personally, I think that this pandemic will result in us making great advances in many areas as a result of the improvisation, adaptation, and "overcomation". As I mentioned before, simply the greater acceptance of tele-working by employers can be beneficial to both employees and their employers. But, enough said about this thing that has changed all of our lives, now on to better things.

Well, one more thing about the pandemic, it obviously resulted in us moving from an in-person conference to a virtual conference. The only other time that we didn't have a symposium was in 2001, when it was scheduled for September 17th, less than a week after 9/11. Obviously in 2001 there wasn't the technology or time to "go virtual", but since making a relative early decision to do that this year, we will be able to properly plan and prepare for a virtual symposium.

As I mentioned in the previous newsletter, I was initially apprehensive about going virtual because if done poorly, it could do more harm than good. But, with our Symposium Committee, they are dedicated to hosting a quality virtual event. By now, I think that

many people are probably getting tired of being inundated with emails touting virtual conferences, only to be exposed to yet another Zoom or Teams meeting, and getting very little out of it. When I saw the Symposium Committee's presentation, it convinced me that this isn't going to be your normal virtual meeting. I wanted to call it "A Real Virtual Symposium" because of my obsession with oxymorons, but I can honestly tell you that we are working to make this different from any of the other virtual events that you may have attended.

Back about a decade ago, I was the technical monitor for an SBIR topic on virtual training for medical personnel. Although the "patient" in the training scenario was basically a cartoonish character on the screen of a laptop computer, I can still remember the emotions in the words from a surgeon that we had evaluating this technology when he said "oh no". Two simple words, but you could hear in his voice that he was truly immersed in the scenario, almost as if he was performing surgery on a real person. He wasn't merely looking at a 15" LCD screen of a cartoon character with readings from virtual medical equipment; he truly felt a "sense of presence" of actually performing the medical procedures. THIS is the goal of our Symposium next month. And we are working diligently towards achieving this goal, and I really believe that we will get there. So, don't let your previous experiences with virtual meetings/conferences sway your decision to attend the SAFE Symposium from 30 November to 4 December. I guarantee you that it will not be "your normal virtual meeting", so keep an eye out for the emails about registering for the event, as well as for creating a virtual booth for the event.

Thank you for all of your support and participation in the SAFE Association, and I look forward to seeing you during the virtual Symposium.

## From the President-Elect:

Hello, for those of you who don't know me, I am Ebby Bryce and I am the SAFE Association President Elect. I served in the US Air Force as a Life Support and Aircrew Flight Equipment Specialist for 20 years. Much of this time was spent in an equipment shop working in and supervising everyday operations; some of those years were spent as a Superintendent at the base and Major Command level. My final years were spent as a Major Command Requirements manager. Every level in my career was extremely rewarding and educating. From inspecting, testing and repairing aircrew and survival equipment during daily operations to managing equipment, personnel, and capability requirements for the combat air forces...I fell in love with the Human Systems and Safety arenas; therefore I continued in the community I fell in love with once I retired and hung up my USAF uniform for the last time.

Upon retiring from active duty, I joined the team at Chemring Energetic Devices, where I currently work as their Electronics and Tester Manager. Fortunately for me, Chemring is a great company to work for and I have the privilege to continue working with the equipment and people I fell in love with and maintain those close friendships that have blossomed over the past 30 years.

Now it is 2020 and I will officially become the President of the SAFE Association on December 4th at the close of this year's Symposium. I cherish the relationships that the SAFE Association has brought to me over the past 23 year and I look forward to the challenges ahead. I attended

my first SAFE Symposium in 1997 in Phoenix, AZ, and never looked back. In 2010, one of my former supervisors and great friend asked me if I wanted to Join the SAFE team at a volunteer level and take on the role of the SAFE Golf Tournament Director. I had played in the golf tournament for several years, but I never really thought about taking on the challenge of setting up and coordinating an event at the many symposium locations across the country. After a couple weeks of thoughts of doubt and several conversation of encouragement from friends...I committed to taking on this challenge. This was one of the best decisions I could have made. The countless relationships that were formed in this role will last forever. After several years in this role I was pretty comfortable and enjoyed the challenge of working with new golf courses, their golf pros, and the SAFE members participating in the event. I didn't realize that as soon as I would get comfortable in this role, another friend would up the challenge and ask me if I would consider running for a position on the SAFE board of directors. Again, after a couple weeks of thoughts of doubt and conversations of encouragement...I committed to the new challenge, and in 2017 I served on the SAFE BOD as the Vice President.

Two years later, another call came and I was asked if I would consider serving on the BOD again and run for the office of president. I never get completely comfortable accepting new challenges presented at the spur of the moment, but I was interested in the challenge and accepted it after a couple days for conversation with my wife and

close friends. I am excited to become the President of the SAFE Association, and working with the great people who make up your Board of Directors.

From the executives, committee chairs, chapters, and general membership...The SAFE Association is doing great things for our members, warfighters, and Industry partners. This amazing group of people are all volunteers and work tirelessly to ensure the Association prospers. From working everything from the newsletter, SAFE journal, promoting successes through the SAFE awards, to the backbreaking/mind-blowing efforts of putting on the annual symposia...this group of amazing folks does whatever it takes ensure the Association succeeds.

Fortunately, when COVID-19 hit the world and closed down much of the United States... the SAFE Association never faltered. The BOD rallied the troops and put together an agenda to ensure the Associations future would be affected minimally by the virus. Unfortunately, the face to face/ in person SAFE Symposium has be canceled; however, through the dedicated work of Nicole, Ted, John, and the symposium committee a virtual event has been scheduled for 30 November to 4 December. The event is setting up to be one of the marque virtual events hosted in these times of COVID-19 and social distancing. It is remarkable how the board of directors, specifically the symposium committee, took a challenge head-on and they are working tirelessly to provide an event and information to the members and attendees.

I realize the bulk of this

*(Continued on page 3)*

## SAFE Symposium Friendly Reminders!

To begin, thank you again to all of our members for your support and patience while we transitioned our Symposium into a virtual event. We are excited to create this new path for the SAFE Association and have you all come along for the adventure! Below you will find some reminders and helpful information related to our 58th Annual Symposium:

- SAFE's Virtual Symposium will be held November 30th through December 4th. Virtual exhibits will go live one week prior and be open for viewing pleasure online 24/7!
- Exhibitor Registration is Open! Please visit SAFE's website to select what booth size would best suit your needs. Each exhibitor will choose the content to be displayed and our production team will do the magic in building your virtual booth! **Exhibitor registration closes on October 24th.**
- If you have already purchased a virtual booth, thank you! And please remember to submit all of your content to SAFE Administration, [admin@safeassociation.com](mailto:admin@safeassociation.com), by October 24th.
- Attendee Registration is Open! Please visit SAFE's website for the link to our registration app, sponsored by Collins Aerospace. Government/Military registration is FREE this year, Members registration is \$10, and Non-Member registration is \$30.
- There are a few spots left to feature your company and be a Sponsor for the SAFE Symposium. Our Sponsorship package is available on SAFE's website.

Our virtual symposium will be offering many of the same functions that you are used to being a part of. Our week will begin with our 2020 SAFE President, John Plaga's welcome presentation. Our Keynote Presentation, sponsored by Collins Aerospace, will then follow and we are happy to have Rear Admiral John F. Meier, USN, joining us this year as our Keynote Speaker. We would also like to mention that SAFE's Science & Technology Committee has lined up over forty technical paper presentations. Scheduled around our technical program, we will host our General Membership meeting and have our presentation of the 2020 SAFE Awards, sponsored by East/West Industries. And while we cannot meet in person this year, we've found a way to host virtual social events, sponsored by Massif and Cobham Mission Systems.

Things may be a bit different than the usual, but we hope you are planning on, and looking forward to, joining us this year! The Symposium Committee is always available by email if you have any questions or comments. For the latest updates, please remember to check the SAFE website.

Sincerely,

The Symposium Committee

*(Continued from page 2)*

message is about me and my experiences with the SAFE Association, but I want everyone who reads this to know a little more about me as I get ready to assume the position as the SAFE President. I am a little nervous, but also excited about the challenges ahead of all of us. I can't help but think we are living in times of uncertainty and that new challenges are a head of us, but I am confident that the SAFE Association will prevail and continue to thrive in 2021 and the years to come. I look forward to assuming this position and I hope that I can uphold the values as many great leaders that have come before me. Our board of directors will make every effort to not only meet this challenge but do everything possible to make improvements where necessary and maintain the high standards that have been set. Before I close, I would like to thank John Plaga for the leadership and guidance that he brought to this association over the years; especially, this very challenging year of COVID-19 while he was the SAFE President. I have big shoes to fill and I won't be able to succeed without John's guidance over the next year.

Thanks  
Ebby D. Bryce

## Reminder: SAFE Association Benefits!

### INDIVIDUALS

- Quarterly SAFE Newsletter
- Proceedings from the SAFE Annual Symposium
- All Symposium-related Mailings
- Reduced Symposium registration cost.
- Access to members only area of the SAFE Association website
- Voting privileges for your SAFE Board of Directors
- Submission information for our Annual Awards Program

### CORPORATE MEMBERS

- Quarterly SAFE Newsletter
- Proceedings from the SAFE Annual Symposium
- All Symposium-related mailings
- Reduced Symposium registration cost.
- Access to members only area of the SAFE Association website
- Voting privileges for the SAFE Board of Directors
- Submission information for our Annual Awards Program
- Corporate listing and description of products and services on SAFE Association website with link to company website.
- Reduced registration and exhibit space fees for the SAFE Annual Symposium
- Free use of the SAFE Newsletter to deliver news releases- such as personnel changes, new products, new office locations, and contact information
- Corporate Membership includes a Primary and Secondary Corporate Representative

## Human Systems Integration News

SAE International released a new best practice standard on Manpower and Personnel on 19 September 2020. This new standard (SAE1010) was created by the G-45 Human Systems Integration (HSI) Committee. The M&P Standard project team was led by Mr. Christopher Plott of Alion Science and Technology, Inc. The primary goals of a contractor M&P program typically include:

- Ensuring that the system design complies with the latest customer manpower estimates
- Ensuring that the system design is regularly compared to the latest customer Personnel estimates and that discrepancies are reported to management and the customer
- Identifying, coordinating, tracking, and resolving M&P risks and issues
- Identifying and pursuing opportunities to reduce M&P demands and costs
- Ensuring that M&P considerations are addressed in analyses, design decisions, trade-offs, and design changes
- Conducting M&P analyses and supporting human factors analyses (e.g., workload analysis) and other HSI domain analyses
- Ensuring that M&P analyses and results are timely, technically competent/complete, and included in design decisions, tradeoffs, and changes
- Ensuring that M&P issues discovered in test, evaluation, demonstration, Operational Test and Evaluation (OT&E), and operations are tracked and resolved in a technically competent/complete and timely manner
- Ensuring that the subjects used in experiments, simulations, tests, evaluations, and demonstrations are consistent with the customer's latest projected target audiences

The M&P standard is the latest in a series of SAE/G-45 Committee developments, beginning in 2005. Since then, the committee has developed the following documents for use by the DoD:

- Data Item Description (DID) for HSI Program Plan (DI-HFAC-81743A)
- DID for Human HSI Report (DI-HFAC-81833)
- SAE HSI best practice standard SAE6906

Human Factors Engineering, Training, and Safety disciplines already have Military Standards or Handbooks. SAE/G-45 is currently developing best practice standards in Force Protection and Survivability and Habitability. When these standards are released, the DoD will (for the first time) have standards for HSI and all seven of its domains. For further information on SAE standards, please contact Steve Merriman at [scmerriman@tx.rr.com](mailto:scmerriman@tx.rr.com).

## 2020 SAFE Symposium Science and Technology (S&T) Update

Welcome, everyone! The 2020 SAFE Symposium Technical Program addresses the most critical current topics within the field of aviation protection, safety and performance. This year's technical symposium has been shortened to allow for two parallel technical sessions throughout the week, starting Monday November 30th in the afternoon through Thursday December 3rd, including a total of 45 technical presentations over 11 sessions. The technical program this year is highly focused on three areas:

- Biomechanics (particularly addressing enhancing performance and protecting pilots and warfighters from multiple acceleration-based environments)
- Aerospace physiology/oxygen systems, and,
- Anthropometry/female fitment related research within the DoD

The program covers a variety of topics, including aircrew life support equipment, training, and ejection seat performance. Numerous sub-topics will be discussed over the course of 11 sessions, such as monitoring oxygen quality and detection of contaminants in the cockpit, strategies for dealing with hypoxia and fatigue, survival training, accommodation, dynamic testing, human factors, and cartridge-actuated devices. With this year's symposium being virtual and DoD CAC holder registration being free, we highly encourage you to recommend attendance of co-workers who may have not attended in the past but may have interest in the topics to be covered this year.

## 2021 SAFE Election of Officers Results

### *Nominations Committee*

The Nominations Committee is pleased to announce the following results of the Election of Officers for the 2021 SAFE Board of Directors:

President (Elect) - Jerry Reid

Vice President - Joseph Pellettiere

Secretary - Kevin Divers

Treasurer - Steve Bromley

We offer our congratulations to each of those selected to lead the Association during the coming year. We also thank all of the candidates who sought election to the Board and all who cast their ballots during this election cycle.

## 2020 SAFE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT, & FINANCE  
COMMITTEE MEMBER

**John Plaga**

VICE PRESIDENT &  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MEMBER

**Jerry Reid**

IMMEDIATE PAST  
PRESIDENT

**Edgar "Ted" Poe**

SECRETARY

**Kevin Divers**

PRESIDENT-ELECT

**Ebby Bryce**

TREASURER & FINANCE  
COMMITTEE MEMBER

**Steve Bromley**

### APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS

EXECUTIVE ADVISOR &  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MEMBER

**Joe Spinosa**

CHAPTERS COMMITTEE  
CHAIR

**Rachael Ryan**

SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE  
CHAIR

**Nicole Stefanoni**

NOMINATIONS  
COMMITTEE CHAIR

**Allen "Al" Loving**

SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE  
CO-CHAIR

**Edgar "Ted" Poe**

AWARDS COMMITTEE  
CHAIR

**Mark Jones**

INFORMATION  
MANAGEMENT  
COMMITTEE CHAIR

**Stephen C. Merriman**

ASSOCIATION  
DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE CHAIR

**Chris Dooley**

INFORMATION  
MANAGEMENT  
COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

**Harrison Smith**

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE  
CHAIR

**Steve Roberts**

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY  
COMMITTEE CHAIR

**Casey Pirnstill**

JOURNAL AND EDITORIAL  
COMMITTEE

**Camille Bilger**

### CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

CHAPTER ONE -  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

**Kirsten Larsen**

SAFE EUROPE - CHAIR

**Sarah Day**

EAST COAST CHAPTER

**John Marcaccio**

WRIGHT BROTHERS  
CHAPTER

**Mark Gruber**

ROCKET CITY CHAPTER

**Dan Meadows**

DFW METRO CHAPTER

**Lizanne Luchetti**

GRAND CANYON  
CHAPTER

**Bob LaFrance**

DOWN UNDER CHAPTER

**Steve Madaras**

PACIFIC RIM CHAPTER

**Dr. Robert Yonover**

MIDDLE EAST CHAPTER

**Mohanad Alakal**

# Butler BA-30 Parachute Replacing Legacy BA-22 Bailout Parachute

The United States Air Force is committed to fielding the best, and most state-of-the-art, equipment to provide the modern warfighter with the best chance of survival on the battlefield. To that end, the USAF is in the process of acquiring the Butler BA-30 Low Profile Parachute System for issue to all C-130 and C-17 platforms. Butler Parachute Systems has delivered over 2,800 BA-30 Low Profile Parachute Systems (LPP) to the United States Air Force, in support of their efforts to replace the legacy BA-22 Back-Automatic Parachute System.

Under the current program administered by the Human Systems Division at Wright-Patterson AFB, Butler was tasked to provide the commercial Butler BETA High-Altitude Emergency Bailout System to all the MAJCOMs that currently fly on the C-130,



C-17 and other platforms. Initial specialized fielding started in 2014, and the Air Force-wide contract was awarded in 2017.

The BA-30 LPP harness/container system integrates the HX-500 Parachute canopy, which includes the BATTM Sombrero Slider. The Slider allows for controlled openings, without pyrotechnics, at speeds beyond 170 Knots that would result in significant injuries or system failure by reefing the parachute, and as an aerodynamic device it automatically self-modulates to provide a faster opening at low speeds. The system includes the LPP Aircrew CYPRES AAD. The CYPRES Automatic Activation Device provides an additional safety measure to open the parachute in the event the crewmember is unconscious or fails to manually open the parachute by constantly calculating the altitude and rate of descent.

The BA-30 LPP system represents a 33% reduction in weight versus the legacy BA-22, allowing for significant fuel savings on the aircraft while ensuring the safety of the crewmembers. It also significantly reduces the maintenance footprint. A BA-30 LPP system can be inspected and repacked in one hour compared to the six-plus hours required for the legacy BA-22.

The BA-30 LPP will soon be worn by all crewmembers on USAF C-130 and C-17 platforms, in keeping with Butler Parachute Systems commitment to support warfighters protecting our nation.



## *Reminder* to All SAFE Members:

It is important that the SAFE Association has your current contact information so we can contact you and distribute SAFE products, such as the Newsletter. Periodically, please go to the "Member Login" at the top, right corner of the SAFE Association web page. When the SAFE Directory appears, click on **"Update Your Profile"** at the top, left. Please review your personal information and, update anything needs to be changed, and click on **"Save Profile"** at the bottom of the page. Your efforts are much appreciated!!

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **US Navy Awards Essex Industries MRO Contract**

**Saint Louis, Missouri, September 2020** - Essex Industries was awarded an MRO contract from the US Navy for refurbishment of their 10 Liter Liquid Oxygen Converters used to support USN/USMC F-18 Hornet Fighter Operations.

Essex provides the US Navy with 10 Liter LOX Converters, 50 Gallon LOX Carts, 500 Gallon LOX Trailers and components. Essex entered the cryogenics market in 1963. Essex LOX Converters are used on many of the Department of Defense aircraft, including the A-7, A-10, F-4, F-5, F-15, F-16, F-18, F-111, F-117, T-2, T-38, A-6, EA-6B, E-2C, S3, C-5, C-17, C-130, C-141, KC-135, HC-130 and the B-52 aircraft.

Founded in 1947, St. Louis, Missouri's Essex Industries is a leading supplier to the Aerospace and Defense market, providing platform controls, aircraft components, emergency breathing and liquid oxygen equipment. Essex provides NPD, MRO and Build-to-Print services. Learn more about Essex Industries and follow us on social media [www.essexindustries.com](http://www.essexindustries.com).



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## Essex Industries Announces New Vice President of Business Development

**Saint Louis, Missouri, July 2020** - Essex Industries is pleased to announce that Mathew Johnston has joined the company as Vice President of Business Development.

Mathew comes to Essex from Espey Manufacturing and Electronics, where he served as VP of Business Development. He previously held the same position at Leonardo/DRS. Mathew has more than 25 years of experience in highly engineered products for aerospace/defense, hybrid electric vehicles, and advanced permanent magnetics applications.

Essex Industries is a manufacturer focused on the aerospace and defense market, with product lines that include platform controls, aircraft components, liquid oxygen equipment, emergency breathing equipment, and gas regulators. Essex employs 375 people at its six locations in St. Louis, Missouri, and Huntington Beach, California.

For more information on Essex, visit [www.essexindustries.com](http://www.essexindustries.com).



*Welcome*

### NEW INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

**Kevin Coyne**

Croton-on-Hudson, NY

**Andrew Klein**

Kettering, OH

**Srinivasa Rao**

Hunuman Junction, India

**Kathleen Robinette**

Waynesville, OH

**David Rogers**

Abilene, TX

**Ricky Wagner**

Crestview, FL



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## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AWARDS GENTEX CORPORATION AIRCREW LASER EYE PROTECTION (ALEP) DAYTIME SPECTACLE CONTRACT



**Carbondale, PA, July 16, 2020** - Gentex Corporation, a global leader in personal protection and situational awareness solutions for defense forces, aircrew, emergency responders, and industrial personnel, announced today that it was awarded the United States Air Force Aircrew Laser Eye Protection (ALEP) Daytime Spectacle contract to develop and produce its laser protective eyewear for aircrew, the Block III Day Spectacle.

This order includes 10,000 Block III Day Spectacles over the next 18 months including development and full rate production. The Gentex lenses integrate the latest laser protective filter technology developed by the Air Force Research Laboratories (AFRL) for daytime applications. The lightweight, aviator-style frames fit comfortably on the face and feature contoured temple arms that integrate well with helmets and helmet components. The Gentex Block III Day spectacles joins our unique product line of other LEP spectacles developed for F-35, U.S. Navy EDU series and laser dazzle spectacles.

“With over 40 years of experience creating the highest quality vision protection for aircrew, this contract recognizes our continued innovation and evolution in the eyewear and visor market,” said Robert McCay, vice president at Gentex Corporation, “We’re proud to have won our second consecutive Delivery Order under Block III to develop products and technology that meet the challenges of ever-advancing technologies.”

Gentex’s portfolio of air products includes helmets, optical protection, respiratory, and situational awareness solutions. For more information visit, <https://www.gentexcorp.com/industry-solutions/defense/air/>.

### 2020 VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM SPONSORSHIPS

**SAFE would like to thank the following members of industry for their participating in the 2020 Symposium Sponsorship Program**

Collins Aerospace  
(Diamond Level Sponsorship)

Massif  
(Opal Level Sponsorship)

East/West Industries, Inc.  
(Sapphire Level Sponsorship)

Cobham Mission Systems  
(Opal Level Sponsorship)

### UP-COMING MEETING

#### MEETING

SAFE Association 58th Annual Symposium is going Virtual

#### DATE

Nov. 30 - Dec. 4 2020

# GENTEX CORPORATION ACQUIRES LONG-TERM DISTRIBUTION PARTNER (APA) AERO PARTS AUSTRALIA

***Gentex expands international growth, product offering, support, and services in Australia and New Zealand***

**Carbondale, PA, July 2, 2020** - Gentex Corporation, a global leader in personal protection and situational awareness solutions for defense forces, emergency responders, and industrial personnel, announced today that it has acquired Aero Parts Australia Ltd. (APA), leading distributor for commercial air, military and life support equipment within Australia and New Zealand. Gentex is a global leader in providing integrated headborne systems in 140 countries and a key innovation partner in many aircraft platforms including the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.



For over 50 years, Gentex has been a supplier of headborne solutions that optimize the performance and safety of the region's defense and non-defense aviation customers. For more than a decade, Gentex has worked closely with APA as a distributor and local repair resource, supporting the needs of military, state, and civilian customers. This acquisition builds on the strengths of both companies and continues to reinforce a commitment to offering enhanced aftermarket service and broad distribution and service capabilities. The physical presence of Gentex in Australia and New Zealand ensures that customer service and support needs are effectively met.

“With this acquisition, we are able to serve our Australian and New Zealand customers in a more local and direct capacity, bringing the OEM to them,” said Richard Dellar, Chief Commercial Officer of Gentex Corporation, “We're thrilled to be able to continue to grow the current distribution business, while developing broad aftercare engineering support services, maintenance, and local product customization capabilities. It builds on the existing international footprint, bringing Gentex capabilities to key customers.”

Gentex's portfolio of air products includes helmets, optical protection, respiratory, and situational awareness solutions. For more information visit, <https://www.gentexcorp.com/industry-solutions/defense/air/>.

## **About Gentex Corporation**

Leveraging a history that spans over 125 years, Gentex Corporation is a leading provider of innovative solutions that enhance personal protection and situational awareness for global defense forces, emergency responders, and industrial personnel operating in high performance environments. The company's product portfolio includes helmet system platforms and capability upgrades for defense and security forces, sold under the Gentex, Ops-Core, ALPHA, Cromwell, and Argus brands; Aegisound hearing protection and communications products for military and industrial personnel; PureFlo industrial respiratory protection systems; Dual Mirror OEM aluminized fabrics; and Filtron OEM light management technology. Privately held, Gentex is headquartered in Carbondale, Pennsylvania, and supports its global customers through a worldwide distributor network and five other facilities in the U.S. and the U.K. Learn more at [www.gentexcorp.com](http://www.gentexcorp.com).

## **Media Contact**

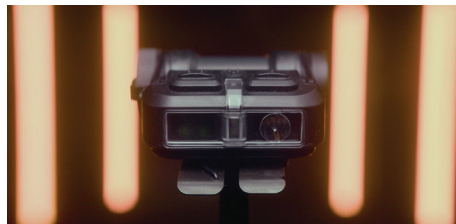
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## First-Light USA Launches New Illumination Platform for the United States Air Force

**Seymour, IL USA** - First-Light USA, manufacturer of portable, tactical lighting solutions, is excited to announce the launch of GLIDR, a multi-functional, tactical illumination device for Aircrew. GLIDR represents a revolutionary shift in Air Force portable lighting across the entire airframe spectrum. Designed & developed under an AFWERX SBIR (Small Business Innovation Research) contract, GLIDR thoughtfully and elegantly meshes the functionality of multiple existing lights into a single compact device created specifically for Aircrew.



In 2018, First-Light USA participated in an AFWERX Open Topic Competition calling for innovative solutions that could positively impact Air Force flight equipment, ultimately enhancing the ability of Airmen to successfully perform their missions. In early 2019, First-Light USA was awarded a contract to create a completely new, hands-enabling illumination device that could be used by all aircrew regardless of job. GLIDR replaces the need for multiple single-purpose lights by providing adjustable white light, Infrared capability, Night Vision-compatible light (NVIS MIL Spec 3009), and beacon functions in an incredibly rugged and lightweight form. Featuring a 360-degree rotating steel clip and a pivoting lamp housing, GLIDR delivers 2-AXIS adjustability of the light from numerous mounting locations including the flight vest, flight suit, and helmet. An accompanying nylon strap with detachable hook-and-loop patch allows GLIDR to be worn as a headlamp or attached to any opposing hook-and-loop surface.

In response to the opportunity to develop a new product with AFWERX, Jeremy Ross, CEO and Founder of First-Light USA stated, "Teaming with AFWERX gave us invaluable insight and access into what Airmen truly need to help accomplish their missions on a daily basis. During the development process, we were able to speak directly to Aircrew, from pilots to loadmasters, to learn what their pain points were and of any potential gaps in the lighting currently available to the Air Force. This type of opportunity for discovery and the feedback it generates is imperative in delivering a successful end product."

GLIDR will be in full production in late 4th Quarter of 2020 and available Sole Source to the Air Force and all other branches of the US Military. A modified version will be released in the near future that is tailored to ground forces and combat medics, keeping in line with First-Light's history of delivering

critical illumination at the point-of-injury.

AFWERX is the Air Force's team of innovators who encourage and facilitate connections across industry, academia, and the military to create transformative opportunities and foster a culture of innovation. Their mission is to solve problems and enhance the effectiveness of the service by enabling thoughtful, deliberate, ground-up innovation. Encompassing a number of programs supported with relatively small amounts of funding, the initiative is intended to circumvent bureaucracy and engage new entrepreneurs in Air Force programs.

First-Light USA is the developer and manufacturer of battle-tested, portable lighting solutions for Military and Law Enforcement Officers. Our lights have earned Standard Issue positions with Combat Lifesavers, Combat Medics, Abrams Tank crews and are trusted by Warfighters across all branches of the military. LEO's, EMS personnel, and countless other First Responders also rely on First-Light products every day. First-Light USA products are proudly built in the USA. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @firstlightusa.

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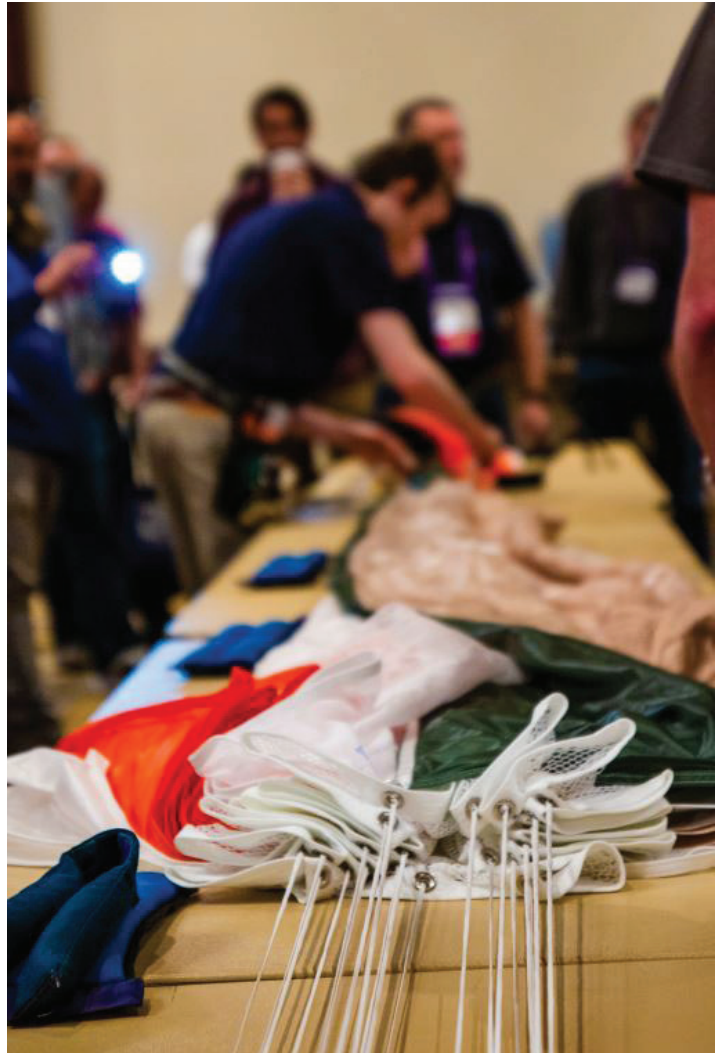
## Parachute Industry Association (PIA) postpones 2021 Symposium to August 2021

The Parachute Industry Association holds a Symposium and tradeshow every two years at different locations across the country. The PIA Symposium consists of 4 and ½ days packed with seminars, training events, and a tradeshow that showcases the latest technology related to parachute equipment. The event is attended by sport and military skydivers worldwide, as well as all the industry leaders in parachute equipment.

The PIA Symposium will take place between Sunday, August 29 and Friday, September 3 at the Cincinnati Duke Energy Convention Center, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

We encourage all members of the SAFE community with an interest in parachute equipment to attend the event and consider exhibiting at the trade show. As we revamp business activities in the coming year, it will be more important than ever to foster our existing relationships and generate new ones.

For more information visit <https://www.pia.com/event/2021-pia-symposium/>



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