



Take-off and Landing, It Is Important

Mr. P. Frank Quinto

December 8, 2020 This lecture will be live streamed only
7:30 p.m. See web page below for link

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In the 1950s and 1960s, traveling was a big “thing”. Jet travel was even a bigger “thing”. Getting to the airport was sometimes a big issue. Airports could be far away and car traffic can cause delays getting to the airport. An answer to this issue is Short Takeoff and Landing (STOL), Vertical Takeoff and Landing (VTOL), or a combination called V/STOL. Helicopters could do that, but not fast enough. Jet aircraft with STOL, VTOL, or V/STOL could get us there quicker. Testing these kinds of aircraft needed a unique wind tunnel. The V/STOL Transition Tunnel would fill this need. The presentation will cover the description of the facility, reasons why it was built, its unique design, construction, and major events & tests from 1970 to 2020 and the future.

P. Frank Quinto’s first day at Langley Research Center was July 14, 1980, reporting to the Low-Speed Aerodynamics Branch and the V/STOL Transition Tunnel. As a graduate of Virginia Tech, with a B.S. in Aerospace and Ocean Engineering, he began a career spanning research, operations, and facility manager. He has authored or co-authored over 30 technical reports on low speed aerodynamics of military aircraft and 14x22 operations. He served as a volunteer tour guide at Langley’s Visitors Center (1982-1990) and a docent at the Virginia Air Space Center (1991-2020). He received numerous Center, Team and Group Achievement Awards, the Silver Snoopy Award (2016), and Outstanding Leadership Medal (2015).

February 2020 was the most significant historical moment of Frank’s career when Vice-President Pence visited Langley and toured the 14x22 wind tunnel facility. Surprisingly, the Vice-President extended his appreciation to Frank by giving him the Vice-Presidential coin and acknowledging his 40-year career service.

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