REPORT

Report on the 24th International Symposium on Military Aspects of Blast and Shock

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Published online: 18 October 2016
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The 24th International Symposium on Military Aspects of Blast and Shock (MABS) was held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on the week of 18–23 September, 2016. It was the largest MABS with 208 participants and 33 accompanying persons from 21 countries. The emphasis of the symposium has changed from the original subjects of nuclear blast and thermal simulators, to blast and thermal simulation, including numerical simulations, to the current subjects of military interest in conventional munitions.

Papers and posters were divided into seven categories:

- (1) Blast and shock
- (2) Modeling and scaling
- (3) Explosive event scaling
- (4) Target response
- (5) Experimental validation
- (6) Protective measures
- (7) Personnel vulnerability, with a special session on Blast Induced Traumatic Brain Injury.

There were 126 oral and 21 poster presentations. Because of the large number of presentations, it was necessary to hold parallel sessions on four of the five days. Professor Gabi Ben Dor from Ben Gurion University of the Negev presented the Julius Meszaros lecture to open the symposium. Julius was one of the founders of MABS and an advocate for international military cooperation in the understanding of nuclear blast and thermal phenomena.

A special session was held on Wednesday morning dedicated to the memory of Arnfinn Jenssen. A brief memorial presentation was given by Professor John Dewey and Charles Needham. Arnfinn was most recently the head of Test and Development for the Norwegian Defense Construction Service. He sponsored international collaboration between Canada, USA, Australia and Norway and participated in many of the large-scale blast simulation tests held at White Sands, New Mexico. He foresaw the development of terrorist activities and argued for the continuation of international collaboration in the changing environment of high explosives and suicide bombers. Five papers were presented on subjects of special interest to Arnfinn.

The traditional excursion for attendees and accompanying persons was organized on Wednesday afternoon. The excursion allows and encourages the development of personal relationships between the participants and their families. The large attendance required five buses as we were transported to the lighthouse at Peggy's Cove and the small town of Lunenburg. A lobster dinner was provided at the Shore Club in Hubbard, NS.

The symposium banquet was held at the Citadel in central Halifax on Thursday evening. It was announced that the next MABS will be held in the Netherlands in 2018. The MABS bell and the terms of reference for MABS, handwritten and framed, were passed to Jaap Weerheijm, the head of the Netherlands delegation.

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