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MAE SEMINAR SERIES

Dynamics and Controls Research at the Air Force Office of Scientific Research

Lt. Col. Scott Wells, PhD
Program Manager, Dynamics and Controls Portfolio

Wednesday, October 25, 2006, 1pm
Phillips Hall 7th Floor Conference Room, #736

The Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) is the sole funding agent for all basic research performed for the Air Force. The goal of AFOSR is to field the most modern, most versatile, and most effective tools possible for the American warfighter. The Dynamics and Control program at AFOSR is part of this mission. The particular focus of this program is basic research in areas of fundamental theory to control ever more complex systems, with greater autonomy. Further, it will soon be necessary to have large groups of highly complex systems operating collaboratively in hostile territory, with little to no human supervision. This will require advances in almost all areas of dynamics and control theory, and extensions in new and evolving areas.

This talk will present an overview of AFOSR and its role in the Air Force. The dynamics and control portfolio will then be discussed. Some of the areas of active interest will be presented, including such focus areas as micro-UAVs, bio-inspired systems, and complex, collaborative control. The vision of the portfolio will be explored, and resulting opportunities for funded research discussed.

About the Speaker: Lt. Col. Wells received the Bachelor's Degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Arizona, in 1987, and the Master of Science degree from the Air Force Institute of Technology in 1991. He earned the PhD in Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering at University of California, Davis, in 2002. His duties in the Air Force have included research positions at the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and seven years as a professor in the Department of Aeronautics at the US Air Force Academy. He is currently the Program Manager of the Dynamics and Controls section of the Mathematics and Information Sciences Directorate of the Air Force Office of Scientific Research.