Asian Office of Aerospace Research and Development (AOARD) Overview

The Asian Office of Aerospace Research and Development (AOARD) is an international Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) facility for basic research in science and technology located in Tokyo, Japan. AOARD’s mission is to discover, shape, and champion science and technology that profoundly impacts the future Air Force. Our goal is to build relationships and facilitate communication and collaboration, especially with AFOSR-related researchers. The AOARD supports its mission by funding grants for world-class fundamental research. All results are published, typically in scholarly journals, and programs are in the public domain. Basic research is defined as systematic study directed toward full knowledge or understanding of the fundamental aspects and observable facts of the target phenomena, without specific application towards processes or products in mind. However, some broad applications are sometimes considered should the research warrant it. The AOARD office covers all the Asian countries by managing the basic research investment for the United States Air Force (USAF). This is accomplished by supporting research projects, conferences, and travel. The discussion will center around history, current research topics, and future research opportunities.

Dr. Tony Kim has been with the USAF for 34 years holding various jobs from Technical Advisor and Branch Chief to Program Manager. Dr. Kim is currently an International Program Officer (IPO) in AFRL/AFOSR/AOARD, Tokyo, Japan. His technical expertise is in electromagnetic (full spectrum) electronic warfare, sensor devices and components, and communication and navigation systems. He has managed programs for the Air Force and other government agencies (DAPAR, IARPA, MDA) such as Hypersonic, Space Situational Awareness (SSA), Anti-Tamper (AT), Low Observables, and OneRy Radar Range.

Dr. Kim is a nationally recognized expert in the AT communities due to his background supporting the DoD and OSD. He served as a national-level authority on formulating and performing research and development and test and evaluation of the AT technology. He is also a noted expert in the LO/CLO field as he has experience supporting all of the Tri Service LO Weapon programs and is responsible for LO/CLO design, development, and flight tests on the F-117, B-2, F/A-22, JSF, and other LO weapon systems. He serves as a national-level authority on formulating and performing research and development and test and evaluation of the LO/CLO technology concepts and demonstrations.

Dr. Kim has received many distinguished awards during his career in the Air Force, such as the Meritorious Civilian Service Award, and has published or co-authored more than 40 papers and journals. He has two patents and is a much-sought-after guest speaker.