

REGIONAL REPORT – ARLINGTON/FT WORTH, TEXAS, USA



Project Management Update from North Texas

By Tom Sheives, PhD

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January Fort Worth PMI Chapter Meeting Features F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program

The PMI chapter in Fort Worth on January 21, 2010 had a speaker with a very interesting topic. The project background for his talk was the Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter program, one of the largest development and production programs in aviation history. This program that is being executed to a large extent in Fort Worth, Texas, involves multiple services (i.e. not just the Air Force) and multiple countries!.



Ed Brown, Deputy Program Manager for BAE Systems, a major contractor to Lockheed, stated that successful execution of this complex global development, global production and global sustainment program is possible only through best-of-class business partners, technologies and management practices.

Ed, who is a PMP, showed during his talk how BAE's own program management practices leverage principles from the Project Management Institute's (PMI's) PMBOK Guide. He

took example program management practices and compared them with the PMBOK Guide, 4th Edition.

He also showed some interesting videos of the aircraft as it is being prepared for a key milestone coming up on an East Coast airbase to demonstrate the vertical take off and landing. This milestone is expected to be accomplished within the next 90 days.

He mentioned the \$30 billion program development cost. Yikes!! That's a big ticket project. Ed also mentioned the continued desire to remove cost, both product cost and maintenance cost, from the aircraft. The presentation was an adaptation and application of recognized project management principles within the F-35 program.



Upcoming PMI Ft. Worth Chapter Events

Feb 6, 2010 – How To Work With Microsoft Project - Workshop

MSProject® is a powerful scheduling tool and there are several things that you need to know in order to make it work for you. Join us to learn some tips from the school of hard knocks and what NOT to do in *Project*. This is considered to be at least an intermediate level course and it is assumed that participants already have a working knowledge of *Project's* functionality.

The workshop instructor will be Nikki Choyce, president of Infotech Management, a Fort Worth based company providing project management services including consulting, training, coaching and assessments. She has been working with *Project* for almost ten years and has practical as well as teaching experience with the tool. Nikki received her PMP certification from the Project Management Institute (PMI), and currently holds the position of VP Programs in the Fort Worth PMI chapter.

Information at

<http://www.fwpmi.org/cfcalendar/viewEventDetails.cfm?apptid=148>

Feb 18, 2010 – The 10th Knowledge Area – Dinner Meeting

We all know about Time, Cost, Quality, Scope, Risk, Integration, Communication, Human Resources and Procurement. But in the day-to-day planning and managing of projects, it becomes necessary to improve your skills in the little

known tenth knowledge area... Humor. Come join us for an enjoyable evening of how important humor can be to build team spirit and relationships, and to motivate stakeholders through the challenges and risks presented to us in our projects.

John Baley, PMP is the regional mentor for region 6 (our region) and past president of the PMI Dallas chapter. John has been a project manager for over eleven year working at JC Penney, Alliance Data and most recently as a program manager at EDS. John earned his MBA from UTD in 2007. Information at <http://www.fwpmi.org/cfcalendar/viewEventDetails.cfm?apptid=146>



Photo of downtown Ft. Worth, Texas

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Tom Sheives, PhD, PMP, is Executive Director with True Solutions, Inc., www.truesolutions.com

a full service project management company and is also on the faculty of the University of Texas at Dallas in the School of Management.. His mission is "Making Project Teams and Management Teams Successful". Tom has helped organizations worldwide achieve better project results, working with companies such as Microsoft, the Panama Canal Authority, Texas Instruments, Lockheed Martin and others. He has written and delivered training programs for High Performing Teams, Leadership, Project Management Professional (PMP) certification, Fundamentals and Advanced Topics in Project Management, and has delivered a widely acclaimed project management simulation program. . As a graduate of Coach University, he is also trained to deliver High Performing Project Team Workshops, Project Team Assessments, Leadership Practices Inventory – 360°, the Winslow Dynamics Profile (Behavioral) Assessment, and the Personal Coaching Styles Inventory. Tom is a graduate of the University of New Mexico, Texas A&M University, Baylor University and Coach U, all in the USA. He is on the board of the Fort Worth Chapter of PMI and is a member of the IEEE. Tom is the author of OPPORTUNITYunstuck!, available through the website, www.OPPORTUNITYunstuck.com. He also heads up a network site for project managers, www.OPPORTUNITYunstuck.net. The site is designed as a forum for PMs to share best practices and make professional connections. He is a frequent speaker at PMI chapters around the United States and abroad. Tom is also an International Correspondent for PMForum and ***PM World Today***.