**1st TECHLAV Annual Meeting**

TECHLAV’s first annual meeting will be held from July 24 thru 25, 2016 in Greensboro, NC. The meeting will bring together researchers from academia, military, and industry. The purpose of the visit is to provide updates on various tasks; modeling, control, testing, and evaluation of autonomous vehicles, as well as demos and poster presentations on most recent TECHLAV research outcomes. In addition, there will be a technical panel and two keynote speakers who will be giving a talk that is deeply embedded in the current world of autonomy. The agenda for this meeting is available ***here***. To register for this event or for any other related questions, please contact Shar Seyedin, the TECHLAV Program Manager at [336-285-3271](tel:3362853271), [sseyedin@ncat.edu](mailto:sseyedin@ncat.edu).

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| Keynote speakers |
| Ms. Kris Kearns,  AFRL Portfolio Manager for Autonomous Systems  Topic: *“Autonomy: Challenges to Realize the Promise”*  Monday, July 25, 9:00 – 9:30 AM  Bio: Kristen Kearns is the Air Force Research Laboratory's (AFRL) Autonomy Portfolio Lead, and as such she is responsible for defining the AFRL S&T Strategy for Autonomy. She leads a large team of scientists and engineers across AFRL to develop program plans and implement AFRL's autonomy vision. She coordinates AFRL's approximate $80M+/year autonomy investment and leads planning for future integrated experiments and demonstrations. In her 25  years with the AF, Kris has held many positions across AFRL; a chief of branches and a division in the Materials and Manufacturing Directorate; Plans Engineer in AFRL's Plans and Programs; and now in the Human Effectiveness Directorate. Most of Kearns career has focused on maturing and transitioning technologies for AF application. As the AFRL Autonomy Portfolio Lead, she continues that work and is striving to demonstrate the utility of autonomous technologies that cut across the AFRL technology areas. |
| Dr. Willard Curtis,  AFRL Munitions Directorate, Technical Advisor,  Weapon Dynamics and Control Sciences Branch  Topic:*“Flexible Information Fusion and Battle-space Perception in Contested Environments”*  Monday, July 25, 10:45 – 11:15 AM  Bio: Dr. Curtis studied engineering physics at Cornell University in 1993, then received his Masters and PhD degrees in electrical and computer engineering from Brigham Young University in 2001. Since then, he has worked at the Munitions Directorate of the Air Force Research Laboratory in the guidance, navigation and control group. Dr. Curtis has served as a team leader, assistant chief scientist, and is currently the guidance and controls branch technical advisor and weapons autonomy technical lead. He leads a research group exploring autonomous robotics, human-machine interaction, and non-Gaussian estimation theory applied to target tracking in complex environments. |