BRACALENTE PRESENTED NASA EXCEPTIONAL ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

Emedio M. Bracalente was awarded a NASA Exceptional Engineering Achievement Medal March 27 at the Honor Awards Ceremony at NASA’s Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va.

He received the award "for significant and innovative contributions to airborne Doppler radar technology which have provided a solution to wind shear detection and avoidance."

Bracalente began his Langley career in 1956 as a research engineer in electronics in the Telemetry Applications Section of the Instrument Research Division. He subsequently served as the chief instrumentation engineer for the Scout Launch Vehicle and as a space communication system design analyst. After serving 11 years as Head, Communication Research Section, Flight Electronics Division, he served as lead analyst and designer of the SEASAT Scatterometer instrument, followed by service as Space Station communication design analyst.

He is presently a senior electronics research engineer in the Antenna and Microwave Research Branch, Guidance and Control Division, assigned as principal investigator and manager of the airborne Doppler radar wind shear detection technology program. He is responsible for defining and leading critical research tasks for the development of an airborne radar for the detection of hazardous wind shear. This work also includes developing and directing the flight testing of an experimental airborne Doppler radar, analyzing the recorded experimental data, and disseminating results to the FAA, airlines, and radar industry.

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His specialized fields of work are radar sensor system design, development, and analysis; space communications system design, development, and analysis; and radar backscatter analysis.

Prior to coming to Langley he served in an engineering cooperative program, working for the Radio Corporation of America in Camden, N.J., and before that for the Atlantic City Electric Company.

Bracalente is the author or co-author of 16 formal publications, nine referenceable oral presentations, and 30 other technical papers. He holds a patent for an ablation probe.

In addition to his present award he has received three Special Achievement Awards, two Superior Accomplishment Awards, four Group Achievement Awards and Best Paper Award, 1990.

A native of Atlantic City, N.J., he graduated from Atlantic City High School in 1949. He received a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from Drexel University in 1956 and did graduate study at the University of Virginia Extension in Hampton in 1956-1957.

He and his wife Carole have two children, and live in Williamsburg, Va.