



PRESS release

**City of Akron 166 S. High Street Akron, Ohio 44308
(330)-375-2345 Fax:(330)- 375-2335
Web: www.akronohio.gov**

Date: 7/26/2011

Contact: Stephanie York, Director of Communications, syork@akronohio.gov

Mayor Attends the Launch of Lockheed-Martin's High Altitude Airship

Mayor Plusquellic attended the launch of Lockheed-Martin's High Altitude Airship today, with his stepfather Mel Channel who worked at the former Goodyear Aircraft/Aerospace company for over 37 years until retiring.

The High Altitude Airship is an unmanned aerostat-type lighter-than-air-craft that may eventually provide the U.S Army with a communications and surveillance platform at 60,000 feet. The "demonstrator" launched at Akron Municipal Airport very early this morning, was assembled inside the historic airdock, and will be aloft for a number of days to test the concept of the solar-powered vehicle.

Mayor Plusquellic and County Executive Russ Pry have worked together, along with the Summit County Port Authority to provide funding for the project infrastructure,

which has brought high-paying technical jobs to the facility with the possibility of many more such jobs in the future.