

NTSA's Training Industry *news*

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Current *news*

Soldiers Test iPod-based Tool

Reprinted from *Defense News*

The gift Carol Wideman delivered to her ailing mother may wind up saving the lives of American soldiers. Wideman's company, Orlando-based VCom3D, has converted an off-the-shelf Apple iPod into a wrist-worn language translator. Dubbed the Vcommunicator Mobile, it is being tested by the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division in Iraq as a way to bridge the language gap faced by soldiers in their communication with Iraqis.

The story began 10 years ago, when Wideman's mother suffered a stroke. While Wideman spent a year caring for her, the U.S. Department of Education put out a proposal for virtual reality systems that could assist people with disabilities. "I thought of developing a virtual human that could communicate in American Sign Language," recalled Wideman, chief executive officer of Vcom3D.

Fueled by about \$12 million in small-business innovation research grants from civilian and military sources, the company created SigningAvatar, in which users can select messages that are then displayed in sign language by an avatar. The next step was to adapt the technology for military use, which was not a huge leap.

"Sign language has its own culture," Wideman said. "So do Iraqi Arabic, Dari and Pashto."

The Vcommunicator Mobile is a mission-based translator. Users select from 20 missions or vocabularies loaded onto the device and then scroll through a list until they find the appropriate phrase, such as "Peace be upon you." When the user selects the phrase, he is given the option to select the animation or script, as well as the English of the phrase and the phonetic "all in one screen," said Ernie Bright, Vcom3D operations manager.

"If the user selects animation, our 3-D character will appear and speak the phrase and demonstrate the correct culturally appropriate gesture," Bright said. "Also, the user will see the phonetic while viewing the animation. If the user selects script, then the Arabic, Kurdish, or whatever language is on the device, is shown along with a voice saying the phrase."

Mission phrases also can be linked to the vocabulary section. "For example, if you choose a medical mission and the phrase 'what supplies do you need,' there will be an option to select the supplies section of the vocabulary," Bright said.

Available languages include Iraqi Arabic, Dari and Pashto, and Wideman anticipates adding additional tongues. The Vcommunicator Mobile typically comes with two languages installed, which consume about four gigabytes on the eight-gigabyte hard drive. Larger-capacity iPods with 80- or 160-gigabyte drives are available, but "so far, the new, smaller Nano is the preferred device," Bright said.

RAND: Build Society to Fight Insurgencies

Reprinted from *Defense News*

Sending more troops and weapons to Iraq and Afghanistan is not the way to win the wars against Islamic insurgents. Building functioning local governments, improving security and creating jobs is, say two defense scholars from the RAND Corporation think tank.

Unfortunately, "when it comes to building these and other civil capabilities abroad, the United States is alarmingly weak," David Gompert said. Along with John Gordon, Gompert conducted a two-year study of Islamist insurgencies for the Pentagon, and U.S. capabilities to defeat them "are seriously deficient and out of balance," the duo said February 11.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates told the Senate Armed Services Committee February 6 that some of the problems the U.S. military faces in Iraq stem from a lack of experts in building effective civil institutions. He blamed drastic cutbacks at the Agency for International Development (AID). A 15,000-member agency during the Cold War, AID has shrunk to 3,000 today, Gates said.

"AID, in its heyday, was an expeditionary agency" that sent experts in agriculture, legal systems and civic institutions to work abroad, Gates said. "They wanted to serve overseas. They knew what their role was, and they were very good at it."

Their job was to establish stable, democratic

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President's *notes*

Rear Adm. Fred Lewis, USN (Ret.)

For NTSA Members:

The Modeling and Simulation Leadership Summit, an annual event that brings together key members of the M&S community of practice, was held this year on February 11 in Virginia Beach, VA. Dr. Linda Brent, coordinator for strategic planning at the National Training and Simulation Association, gave remarks at the opening of this event which I feel important enough to form the body of this month's President's Letter. With Dr. Brent's gracious permission, I quote them here.

"Consistent with our action plan arising from these summits, we anticipate this to be the inaugural event for the creation of a national framework for modeling and simulation. This watershed event brings together the diversity of thought and practice, with experts in their disciplines, all sharing in their use of modeling and simulation as a tool to improve human performance, technical achievement and our national education objectives.

With the start of the Congressional Modeling and Simulation Caucus several years ago, Congressman Forbes (R-VA) and the Caucus initiated a leadership summit to bring together senior leaders across government, industry, and academia to discuss national agenda issues related to modeling and simulation. The National Training and Simulation Association (NTSA) formed a standing committee to provide the interface to the Caucus for the planning of this event and others throughout the year in support of the Caucus. Members of this committee have committed significant time and effort to ensure that these events accomplish the agendas both of the Caucus and of the community of practice.

This is the third annual Leadership Summit. The out-brief of each of these events has summarized for the community and for the Caucus the next phase objectives and resulting action plan to further the use of modeling and simulation across all aspects of our workforce and our society. The action plan is then coordinated by NTSA and the Standing Committee to further the national agenda of the Caucus, and the growth of the industry across government, commercial and educational sectors. We then take opportunities such as this meeting to brief the community of practice on progress related to the actions established. I would like to take a few minutes now to highlight the progress we have made toward these objectives.

Our action plan to date has been based on four primary elements of the furtherance of modeling and simulation: industrial development, business practice, professional workforce development, and technology. Looking across these four areas, the following recommendations emerged over the past two years for which an action plan was developed and executed. I will briefly describe the progress achieved for each of these recommendations.

The primary recommendations that were formulated by many of the leaders sitting in this room today are as follows:

- Create a national focus for modeling and simulation.
- Create an M&S focus within government departments, outside of DOD and encourage its use on a broad scale.
- Increase the educational opportunities for professional and academic education in modeling and simulation; emphasize K-12 and university programs highlighting science and technology, and encourage our next generation of leaders to consider these fields of study; increase opportunities for professional certification in this field.
- Conduct a national market sector analysis to better understand the scope and significance of the M&S community of practice.
- Take action in the area of intellectual property rights for M&S technologies and encourage the use of commercial, non-developmental items.
- Support a body of knowledge for this community; establish standards across the community of practice that begin to address common requirements and outcomes.
- Establish a national framework for the community of practice, reaching beyond the bounds of the DOD (from where this originated).

To this end, our broad community of practice, working collaboratively, has achieved the following:

- House Resolution 487, with which you are by now, most familiar, initiated by the M&S Caucus, brought national attention and focus to modeling and simulation. As such, it is the foundation for a national framework that can support future initiatives and funding through this common thread;
- Today, government agencies are tapping the potential of modeling and simulation as a critical tool to support their business objectives. For example, the Department of Homeland Security has established a department-wide focus for integrating M&S technologies across their components. Many other departments and agencies of the government have been and are continuing to exploit these technologies in the achievement of their goals and mission. Understanding the synergies in their use across domains will be the next focus for us all.
- The Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Initiative—committed to raising the standards and numbers of our young people choosing and achieving success in math and science education. There are a significant number of initiatives, nationwide, that are underway to increase the math and science capabilities of our young people. Congressman Bobby Scott, as many of you know, has also sponsored language into the higher

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The Global marketplace

India Approves Purchase of Six C-130Js

Reprinted from *Jane's Defense Weekly*

The Indian government has approved the acquisition of six Lockheed Martin C-130J Super Hercules military transport aircraft for INR40 billion (\$1.02 billion) in support of special forces operations.

Official sources said the Cabinet Committee on Security headed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, had cleared the purchase—one of the largest defense deals that India has ever signed with the United States—on January 24. The deal will be carried out under the U.S. Foreign Military Sales program following months of negotiations. It will be inked soon, the sources said.

Typhoon: Deal of the Decade

Reprinted from *Jane's Defense Weekly*

Saudi Arabia's decision to purchase 72 Eurofighter Typhoon combat aircraft has signaled the start of an enhanced strategic alliance between the UK and the oil-rich Middle East country.

The formal launch of "Project Salam" on September 17 marks a major evolution of UK-Saudi defense cooperation and opens the way for the building of the facilities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to assemble the country's fleet of new fourth-generation combat aircraft. Not surprisingly, the close defense industrial relations between the UK and the Saudi government have become the envy of other Western defense companies trying to do business in the Middle East.

The clinching of the GB4.43 billion (\$8.9 billion) deal comes after a year of controversy involving allegations of bribery in previous UK arms deals with Saudi Arabia and, at one point, it seemed as if the Saudis would walk away from the project.

The UK's defense relationship with Saudi Arabia goes back more than 40 years to 1966 when BAE Systems' predecessor, the British Aircraft Corporation, sold Lightning fighters and Strikemaster ground attack aircraft to the kingdom. The UK's relationship with Saudi Arabia moved to a new level in 1985 when the

"oil for arms" Al Yamamah Agreement was concluded by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to sell the kingdom Panavia Tornado aircraft.

NATO Planners Demand Interoperability

Reprinted from *Jane's Defense Weekly*

NATO military and technical planners have called upon industry to cast aside its fixation on selling closed, proprietary equipment and weapons to NATO nations and start delivering systems based on open interoperable standards.

"We've got to shift from proprietary-based acquisition across allied nations to more interoperable and open systems," U.S. General Lance Smith, supreme commander for Allied Command and supreme commander for Allied Command Transformation, told allied military and industry representatives on September 27 during NATO's fourth annual Industry Day in Warsaw on future capability goals for the alliance.

"There must be standards and capabilities where all can plug-and-play and by that I mean built-in interoperable components and systems," he said. "The appetite of our field commanders for unmanned aerial vehicles is unlimited, for example. But we cannot have a Dutch unmanned aerial vehicle flying over southern Afghanistan (with the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force) that is unable to send data to a UK or Canadian commander. We want to see industry respond to this as fast as possible."

As command-and-control incompatibilities increase between the 39 International Security Assistance Force nations, Gen. Smith and other NATO officials said they wanted interoperability solutions delivered to the field soon—within a year—with the first priority being joint intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capability. Joint intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance is necessary to produce a common operational picture across a theater of activity.

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institutions abroad. "It was an important component of America's arsenal in the Cold War, which was as much a war of ideas as it was of military power," he said.

"We've really hampered ourselves" by cutting the number of State Department foreign service officers through the 1990s, Gates said.

Gompert said the United States needs 2,500 to 5,000 additional personnel working for agencies such as AID, the State Department, the Justice Department and other federal agencies. They must be willing to serve overseas in potentially dangerous assignments to help establish working governments, train local security forces, create jobs for local workers, establish schools and the like.

He said an "adequate U.S. counterinsurgency capability" will cost \$20 billion to \$30 billion a year. Current funding is about \$250 million a year.

"An insurgency is fundamentally a political contest" in which the prize is the population," Gompert said during a Capitol Hill briefing on the RAND study report, titled "War by Other Means."

In Iraq and Afghanistan, the United States "should discard 'pro-American' themes in favor of strengthening local government," Gompert and Gordon said.

Analysis of about 90 insurgencies since World War II reveals that almost all fail "against governments that are representative,

competent and honest in the eyes of their citizens," the pair said. On average, insurgencies last 12 years, the pair said.

PackBot Order

Reprinted from *Aerospace Daily & Defense Report*

The U.S. Army Program Executive Officer for Simulation, Training, and Instrumentation (PEO STRI), on behalf of the Robotic Systems Joint Project Office at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, has placed an \$8.8 million order with iRobot Corporation for 40 PackBot robots, plus spare parts and equipment, the company announced. The award brings total PackBot orders to date from PEO STRI to \$45 million, under a contract with a potential value ceiling of \$64.3 million. iRobot expects to complete delivery by the end of June 2008. The order includes several varieties of PackBot, including those equipped with the ICx Fido explosive detection kit as well as the Army's first PackBot 510s. The order also includes more than 300 new radios to be installed on existing PackBots. More than 1,000 PackBots have been delivered worldwide.

U.S. May Armor Most Vehicles

Reprinted from *Defense News*

The U.S. Army intends to equip its entire fleet of trucks, Humvees and other tactical vehicles with racks for removable armor and

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other troop-protection gear, while the Marine Corps plans a near-total upgrade of its own fleet, according to draft versions of the services tactical wheeled vehicles strategies.

The services are responding to a November 19 memo from Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England, who asked them to update their multibillion-dollar vehicle plans in light of wartime operations and fast-moving new programs such as the mine resistant ambush protected and joint light tactical vehicle.

Army and Marine Corps officials declined to say how much adding the armor would cost, calling the plans “strategic and preliminary.”

USAF Reveals Its Basing Plans for Newest Aircraft

Reprinted from *Jane's Defense Weekly*

The U.S. Air Force has released a new roadmap highlighting prospective basing locations for some of its newest aircraft, including the KC-X tanker, combat search-and-rescue (CSAR-X) helicopter and the next-generation bomber. The roadmap proposes basing the Air Force's next-generation bomber, planned for initial operational capability in 2018, at Dyess AFB, Texas; Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota; Barksdale AFB, Louisiana; and Minot AFB, North Dakota, which is the home of the Air Force's current generation of Northrop Grumman B-2A Spirit stealth bombers.

The Air Force's new CSAR helicopter, expected to reach initial operational capability in 2014, would find a home at eight different domestic bases, including Davis-Monthan in Arizona, the home of U.S. Southern Command, the combatant command responsible for Latin America.

The KC-X tanker will be based at 27 domestic bases, including MacDill AFB, Florida, the home of U.S. Central Command, with an area of responsibility stretching across the Middle East.

Also under the roadmap, the Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter would be based at a minimum of 33 bases in the domestic United States, including Nellis AFB, the home of a major Air Force test range.

Boeing/Lockheed Martin Team on Long-Range Bomber

Reprinted from *Jane's Defense Weekly*

Boeing and Lockheed Martin have announced that they will form a team to compete for an ambitious U.S. Air Force contract to build a new long-range bomber by 2018. In a statement on January 25, the companies said they would collaborate on a series of research and development programs that will help the U.S. Air Force develop “capabilities-based” roadmaps for the bomber. The roadmaps will lay out specific timelines and technology development plans.

“Boeing and Lockheed Martin are working closely at all levels to capture the best of industry to develop and provide an effective and affordable solution to the warfighter,” said Darryl Davis, president of Boeing's Advanced Systems division.

The industry team's collaboration on the Air Force's long-range bomber program will include work on advanced sensors and future electronic warfare solutions. The announcement said that the team specifically intends to pursue the potential for improved network-enabled battle management, command and control, and virtual warfare simulation and experimentation.

Mind Reader

Reprinted from *aviationweek.com*

Honeywell is developing a system that will enable analysts to process satellite, ground and airborne surveillance images six times faster than computer-based systems, with sensors that monitor brain signals. The Honeywell image triage system (HITS) is part of a program called neurotechnology for intelligence analysts, funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

The concept is based on the premise that the brain identifies significant information in an image faster than an analyst's body responds to the cue. The military will try to tap into an analyst's brain to pick up target-recognition signals before the analyst figures out what's happening. HITS presents 10-20 images per second to analysts while head-mounted electroencephalogram sensors detect neural signals associated with target recognition. The analyst then reviews high-priority threats or targets tagged by the system.

U.S. Army Tests Robotic Autopilot to Guide Supply Convoys

Reprinted from *Defense Technology International*

In October and November 2007, 35 teams comprising hundreds of engineers, computer programmers and roboticists gathered in Victorville, California, for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's \$3.5 million Urban Challenge robot race, whose goal was advancing the technology that might one day remove human drivers from military convoys in war zones. The event, which saw robotic trucks and SUVs dodge human-driven cars and each other on a 60-mile course, drew thousands of spectators and hundreds of reporters.

At Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia, during the same period, a couple dozen people from Denver-based PercepTek and the U.S. Army's Tank-Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center in Warren, Michigan, were quietly working on a project that, if successful, could see partially unmanned convoys in just a couple of years. The so-called convoy active safety technologies program, or CAST, aims to install robotic autopilots in military supply trucks at a cost of just \$20,000 apiece.

Beginning in October, 12 human test subjects sharing two robotic trucks did eight test runs on a winding roadway at Fort A.P. Hill, for a grand total of 1,000 kilometers (621 miles) worth of data on vehicle performance and the effects on human drivers of working alongside robots.

The two-year-old program is nowhere nearly as ambitious as Urban Challenge. CAST settles for modest advancements based on proven technology to craft a system that is affordable, easily

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Who's where

■ **Walter S. (Woody) Hogle, Jr.**, has become senior vice president, international business and Washington operations for Rockwell Collins, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He was vice president and general manager of integrated systems for Rockwell Collins Government Systems.

■ **Lt. Gen. Douglas M. Fraser**, USAF, has been named deputy commander of U.S. Pacific Command, Camp Smith, Hawaii. He was commander of the Alaskan Command of U.S. Pacific Command, commander of the 11th Air Force of Pacific Air Forces, and commander of Alaskan North American Defense Region, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.

■ **Gen. Peter Pace**, USMC (Ret.), former chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, has been hired to lead management consulting firm SM&A Strategic advisors. Pace, who was the first Marine to become Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, will be chief executive and sit on SM&A's board of directors. SM&A has worked on more than 1,200 proposals and 150 programs in its 26 years, claiming an 85 percent win rate.

■ **Maj. Gen. William Lord**, USAF, has been appointed as the first commander of the Air Force's provisional cyber command. Gen. Lord's first order of business will be wrestling with basic questions about the size and location of the new major command, which will be temporarily established at Barksdale AFB,

Louisiana, until a permanent location is chosen, U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff General Michael Moseley said.

Gen. Lord has served as director for cyberspace transformation and strategy in the Secretary of the Air Force Office of Warfighting Integration, where he has been responsible for establishing Air Force doctrine, strategy and policy for cyberspace.

■ **Rear Adm. Victor C. See, Jr.**, USN, and **Rear Adm. Walter M. Skinner** have been nominated for promotion to rear admiral (upper half). See is program executive officer for space systems, commander of Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command space field activity and director of the communications directorate, all at the National Reconnaissance Office, Chantilly, Virginia. Skinner is program executive officer for tactical aircraft programs at NAS Patuxent River, Maryland.

■ **Rear Adm. Raymond P. English**, USNR, has been nominated for promotion to rear admiral (upper half). He is deputy director of operations at U.S. Transportation Command, Scott AFB, Illinois.

■ **Rear Adm. David J. Mercer**, USN, has been named commander of Navy Region Europe and commander of Maritime Air Force Mediterranean, Naples, Italy. He has been serving as director of Deep Blue in the Office of Chief of Naval Operation in Washington.

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education act to attract and provide support for students choosing to enter these fields.

- The area of intellectual property rights is one which is being addressed by various industries involved in this field, but one which our committee sees continuing targeting to move forward.
- We are currently working with government offices and organizations to raise awareness about the need for a national framework, for which an initial national study will be an element. This Summit can be the spark to continue this dialog over the next couple of months, in a structured way, to create a national framework for our industry.

To that end, we have structured today to provide all of us as participants a venue to learn, dialogue and respond. To learn

about the breath of our community of practice across domains and organizations. While this only scratches the surface in the use of modeling and simulation across disciplines, it can serve as an educational starting point by which to frame our reference in considering the broader context of modeling and simulation. To dialog, as we consider our own perspectives on this community of practice, and identify ways in which our perspectives fit into a larger, national interdisciplinary perspective. To respond, providing our thoughts on a national agenda, a national framework—its scope, its perspective, and its outcomes.

We each play a role in furthering this agenda.”

Fred Lewis, RADM (Ret.)

President, National Training and Simulation Association

Training & Simulation *report*

Finding the Right Words

Reprinted from *Defense News*

For the defense attachés and analysts of the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency, the world is a Babel of thousands of languages that often border on the obscure and unintelligible. The agency has embarked on an aggressive program to strengthen its foreign language training, including a new language lab and more training opportunities for Defense Intelligence Agency personnel.

The Defense Intelligence Agency faces special challenges in language training, said Eric Hammersen, a former defense attaché who is now the Defense Intelligence Agency's senior language authority. For one, it lacks an in-house language school such as the Defense Language Institute's Foreign Language Center or the State Department's Foreign Service Institute. That forces the agency to rely on contractors, universities and other government agencies such as the Defense Language Institute for training. For another, the Defense Intelligence Agency's approximately 11,000 personnel are scattered among 180 nations, making classroom instruction more difficult.

Disorientation Demonstrator

Reprinted from *Aviation Week & Space Technology*

TNO Defense, Security and Safety of the Netherlands, expects to make significant inroads into handling pilot disorientation via its newly opened six-degrees-of-freedom moving base flight simulator at its Soesterberg facility. Known as Desdemona, the simulator was developed by Austrian-based AMST in collaboration with TNO.

The cabin is suspended in a freely rotating gimbaled system (offering three degrees-of-freedom through more than 360 degrees) which, as a whole, can move three feet up and three feet down vertically along a heavy axis (the fourth degree-of-freedom) and horizontally over a distance of 24 feet along a linear arm (the fifth degree-of-freedom). To provide sustained centripetal acceleration (the sixth degree-of-freedom, between 0-3g), the linear arm can spin around a central yaw axis.

Deployable System Hones Combat Skills

Reprinted from *Defense News*

Infantry Marines soon will be playing video games like their lives depended on it. In fact, their lives just might. By the end of the year, all infantry battalions will have portable simulation gear, said Jack Sparks, an adviser for the Infantry Skill Simulation Working Group at the U.S. Marine Corps Warfighting Lab in Quantico, Virginia.

The initiative is a joint venture involving the lab, Marine Corps Training and Education Command, the Office of Naval

Research and the Program Manager for Training Systems, as well as input from operating forces, he said.

"Technology is getting to the point that we can start to use it better for the ground forces," Sparks said. "We can put ground combat element Marines into an environment that is close to what they're going to face and allow them to virtually rehearse the missions that they might be going on, regardless of where they are."

Virtual rehearsals help shape split-second decisions on the battlefield, lab officials contend.

High-Tech Shoot House Prepares USMC for Urban Combat

Reprinted from *Defense News*

The wail of an imam's call to prayer hangs in the air as four infantrymen enter into a room, where a gunman holds an AK-47 to a woman's abdomen. Instantly, the crackle of gunfire rings out as U.S. Marines strike the gunman. The woman steps back, and the Marines scream out: "It's clear! Door's clear!" Within seconds, all is quiet, and Cpl. Eric Mansker gathers his fire team for a debrief.

Multicolored chalk splatters the walls of the mock Iraqi home, and a spot of bright red shows their fire struck the woman. Perhaps their trigger fingers were little too itchy this time. Such scenes play out daily in Baghdad and throughout Iraq's urban centers. And increasingly, they are playing out in new high-tech trainers designed to hone Marines' instincts and teach them to deal with the intense stresses of urban combat.

The most advanced of these is the Infantry Immersion Trainer, a \$2.5 million high-tech shoot house built inside a vacant warehouse. Projected video images, called FlatWorld—a product developed by the Institute of Creative Technologies at the University of Southern California—create what one Marine Corps official called "a rifle range for the Marine's brain."

At the same time the Corps is moving out on a plan to outfit every infantry battalion with its new deployable virtual training environment, a suite of laptop computers and high-end head-mounted displays that run Virtual Battlespace 2, an interactive, three-dimensional tactical training program.

"The infantry has kind of had a disdainful view of simulation," said Vince Goulding, experimentation plans director at the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab in Quantico, Virginia. "That's changed." The new simulation needs to be about "the Marine's mind," he said. "We want him to think through combat situations before he's doing it for real."

Contracts

USAF Tanker Decision Likely to Withstand Scrutiny

Reprinted from *Aerospace Daily & Defense Report*

The U.S. Air Force decision to award its initial \$40 billion tanker replacement contract to the team of Northrop Grumman and EADS should stand up well to the legislative scrutiny being demanded by lawmakers, analysts say.

With up to \$200 billion at stake over the long haul, according to some estimates, the contract is one of the biggest Pentagon prizes of the decade.

Air Force officials found the Northrop/EADS proposal to be superior to Boeing's in just about every major metric in scoring the contract, the Lexington Institute's Loren Thompson said in an issue brief.

Now the contract award is facing opposition on Capitol Hill and the possibility of a bid protest by Boeing. Nonetheless, "Northrop Grumman has to proceed immediately without any thought of a protest," said James McAleese of MacAleese and Associates. "They can't afford to lose any of that time."

U.S. Narrows Field for MRAP II

Reprinted from *Jane's Defense Weekly*

The U.S. military has selected two companies to develop Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) Vehicle II prototypes: enhanced versions of the blast-resistant trucks currently in service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In late December 2007, the U.S. Navy awarded contracts to BAE Systems Land and Armaments Ground Systems of Santa Clara, California, and Ideal Innovations of Arlington, Virginia, for MRAP II test vehicles. The award followed a competitive solicitation for the additional procurement of MRAP vehicles announced in July 2007.

MRAP II vehicles will provide an enhanced level of protection over current variants. In particular, MRAP II is supposed to offer greater protection against explosively formed penetrators—especially lethal off-route mines—as well as direct fire and underbelly blasts.

U.S. Navy Orders First DDG Destroyers

Reprinted from *Defense News*

Construction of the first two DDG 1000 Zumwalt-class advanced

destroyers is set to begin after the U.S. Navy awarded its two primary shipbuilders \$2.8 billion in contracts February 14.

General Dynamics will build the Zumwalt—DDG 1000—at Bath Iron Works in Bath, Maine, while Northrop Grumman will build the yet-to-be-named DDG 1001 at its Ingalls Shipyard in Pascagoula, Mississippi.

The Zumwalt is to be delivered by Bath in June 2013, while Northrop's DDG 1001 is to follow in July 2014. Northrop, the program's original lead contractor, will build the DDG 1001 and the superstructure and hangar for the Bath-built DDG 1000. Bath will build the mid-forebody hull section of the DDG 1001.

Northrop and General Dynamics are cooperating in completing the design of the destroyers. Work on the final, detail design is 55 percent complete, Allison Stiller, the Navy's top shipbuilding official, told reporters February 15, and is expected to be 85 percent by the time construction of the first ship begins in August.

A \$3.3 billion price tag is attached to each of the new ships, although the Navy hopes the cost will drop as more ships are ordered. Independent government analysts, however, routinely forecast a much higher cost, with some estimates topping \$5 billion and more. But service officials insisted at a February 15 Pentagon press briefing that the \$3.3 billion figure still holds for the first two ships.

That confidence stems from the extensive development work already completed on the new ships, said Rear Adm. Chuck Goddard, program executive officer for ships.

Aegis Wins Major U.S. Security Contract in Iraq

Reprinted from *Jane's Defense Weekly*

UK security firm Aegis Defense Services has won a major U.S. contract to provide protective services and coordinate road movement in Iraq.

The reconstruction security support services contract—worth an estimated \$475 million—is the largest single security contract to be awarded by the U.S. Defense Department in Iraq. It also marks a victory for the incumbent, as Aegis won the original contract to establish and operate a system of command posts that serve as an interface between coalition forces and private security firms in 2004.

2008 NTSA M&S awards

For Outstanding Achievement in Modeling & Simulation

Each year, NTSA awards are presented to non-DoD individuals or teams for outstanding achievements in the development or application of models and simulations. (Awards to DoD employees are given by the DoD M&S Coordination Office). Awards may be given for outstanding achievement in the specific M&S functional areas of Training, Analysis, and Acquisition, and for outstanding achievement in support of the overall M&S effort (Cross-Function).

NTSA is pleased to announce the following winners of the 2008 NTSA Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Modeling & Simulation:

Training

The Project Alpine Team, The Boeing Company

The Project Alpine Team is recognized for their outstanding accomplishments on their year long independent R&D project that culminated in the successful demonstration of truly integrated live, virtual, and constructive assets in a proof-of-concept training scenario.

The demonstration, an industry first, used existing technologies to network an F-15E aircraft (live) with an F-15E simulator (virtual) while integrating computer-generated threats (constructive) into both environments.



Mr. Rob Lechner, Boeing; RADM Fred Lewis, USN (Ret), NTSA; Ms. Carolynne Huether, Boeing; Ms. Kelly Hicks, Boeing



RADM Fred Lewis, USN (Ret), NTSA; Mr. Daniel Kelly, L-3 Communications Link Simulation & Training

The Predator Mission Aircrew Training System (PMATS) Team, L-3 Communications Link Simulation & Training

The Predator Mission Aircrew Training System is the first high fidelity simulation device used to train any U.S. military unmanned aircraft crew. The L-3 Link Simulation & Training PMATS team broke

new ground in developing high fidelity simulation of all aspects of the MQ-1 Predator platform, including sensors and weapons. Use of L-3 Link's Common Training System Architecture design was instrumental in PMATS' development and has helped ensure timely fielding of concurrency modifications and upgrades.



RADM Fred Lewis, USN (Ret), NTSA; Mr. Don Johnson (accepting on behalf of Mr. Ron McDaniel), Engineering Systems Solutions, Inc.

Mr. Ronald McDaniel, Engineering Systems Solutions, Inc.

Mr. Ron McDaniel, as a contractor supporting the Air Force Combat Command and the Air Force Agency for Modeling and Simulation, has significantly improved Air Force training through his innovative approach for integrating and implementing Live, Virtual and Constructive capabilities. His vision and development of technical architectures were instrumental in rapidly providing enhanced combat capability to the Warfighter in combat.

Analysis

The Center on Social and Economic Dynamics, The Brookings Institution

The Brookings Institution's Center on Social and Economic Dynamics team built the Large Scale Agent Model (LSAM):

a spatial agent-based epidemic model capable of simulating several billion agents. The model is adaptable to shared-memory and distributed-memory architectures and is capable of distributed simulation. The LSAM represents a major advance in simulation for public health risk assessment and design of interventions. The model was developed under the DHS University Center of Excellence on Preparedness and Catastrophic Event Response (PACER) at The Johns Hopkins University.



RADM Fred Lewis, USN (Ret), NTSA; Mr. Jon Parker, The Brookings Institution



RADM Fred Lewis, USN (Ret), NTSA; Mr. Jason T. Brown, Analysis & Decision Support Division, Northrop Grumman

Mr. Jason T. Brown, Analysis & Decision Support Division, Northrop Grumman

Mr. Jason Brown was the Architect/Analyst for the development and deployment of the Manpower and Unit Deployment Execution Model (MUDEM). MUDEM is a discrete event simulation designed for analysis of a wide variety of

force structure options serving routine demands as well as scripted

M&S Awards cont. on page 10

Current News from page 5

installed, tough enough to work in the harshest deserts and simple enough that a 19-year-old private can learn to operate it in 10 minutes. The CAST team's design choices say a lot about the state of robotics for the grittiest, ground-combat missions.

U.S. Army to Shop for 40,000 Replacement Trucks

Reprinted from *Defense News*

Over the next five years, the U.S. Army plans to buy roughly 40,000 light, medium and heavy trucks to replace its aging and war-damaged fleet, the service's largest truck procurement in decades, Army officials said. By the end of 2012, the Army intends to add roughly 18,000 to the family of medium tactical vehicles, 6,000 heavy expanded mobility tactical trucks, 3,000 palletized load systems, 3,000 medium mine protected vehicles, 1,000 armored security vehicles and up to 8,000 mine resistant ambush protected vehicles, Army and Pentagon officials said.

The need for new trucks has been exacerbated by the demands of war in Iraq and Afghanistan, but thousands of Vietnam-era vehicles have long been badly in need of replacement. "The Army has had an urgent need for almost 25 years," said Dean Lockwood, an analyst with Forecast International. "In 1995, the Pentagon did a study on tactical trucks, which found that at that time the average age of an Army 2.5-ton truck was 25.7 years, and the age of a 5-ton truck was 15.6 years."

The Army has roughly 70,000 tactical wheeled vehicles, not counting its most ubiquitous vehicle, the Humvee, of which it has about 80,000. The Army is buying about 3,000 to 4,000 Humvees annually through 2012, and will eventually replace them with joint light tactical vehicles.

M&S Awards from page 9

contingency deployments to the combatant commands. This model was developed for and is used by the United States Marine Corps Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources for resource and acquisition planning.

Cross-Function



RADM Fred Lewis, USN (Ret), NTSA; Mr. Robert "Scooter" Johnson, The AEGIS Technologies Group, Inc., and Mr. Lance Cooper, The AEGIS Technologies Group, Inc.

The Florida Wildfire Project Team, The AEGIS Technologies Group, Inc.

The ResponderNet Command Management System (RCMS) is the culmination of the efforts of the AEGIS Technologies Group, Inc. and the Florida Division of Forestry. This system provides the capability to predict, detect, and react to forest hot spots

where a wildfire might break out and provide the capability to provide personnel and asset visibility for tracking and management.

Upcoming events

Registration is open for these two upcoming NTSA events. For complete details, including lodging and registration, please visit www.trainingsystems.org/events.

2008 USAF APBI

MAY 13, 2008

HOPE HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER
DAYTON, OH

The USAF Training Systems Product Group (TSPG) and several Air Force MAJCOMS will give presentations on upcoming Air Force training system procurement actions, as well as projections of future training system needs. This event is sponsored by the NTSA Ohio Chapter.

2008 TRAINING & SIMULATION
INDUSTRY SYMPOSIUM (TSIS)

JUNE 18-19, 2008

*(***)These dates are slightly different than those posted online earlier in the year)*

ROSEN CENTRE HOTEL
ORLANDO, FL

The 2008 TSIS will offer attendees the opportunity to hear the latest requirements and learn about procurement opportunities from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force. Presentations will identify near-term and mid-term requirements and acquisition strategies. There will be numerous opportunities to network with key Government and other Industry Partners in the Training and Simulation industry. June 18 will feature Army presentations; June 19 will feature presentations from the Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and other groups. The full agenda will be posted soon.

Please visit www.trainingsystems.org/events for complete details or contact Patrick Rowe at **(703) 247-9471** or prowe@ndia.org for more information.

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Admiral Luciano Zappata, Italian Navy, NATO, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (SACT)



Major General John Cooper, Director General Training Support, UK



Major General Agner Rokos, Danish Army, Director, Joint Force Training Centre (JFTC), Poland



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