

# ITEC 2005 Visits Amsterdam

Europe's only conference and exhibition dedicated to defense training, education and simulation, returns to the Netherlands.

## By Jordan N. Fuhr

For the seventh time in the conference's 16-year history, ITEC returned to the Netherlands. ITEC 2005, held in Amsterdam April 26-28 at the RAI International Exhibition and Congress Centre, featured a keynote address by the U.S. Air Force's top training commander.

U.S. Air Force General Donald Cook, the commander of the Air Education and Training Command, kicked-off the event by highlighting a critical mission rehearsal and training capability.

"In the first three days of the global war on terror, six B-2 stealth bombers launched from the middle of America to embark on the longest combat sortie ever flown," Cook told an audience of almost 400. "The longest mission totalled over 44 hours of continuous flight with six air-to-air refuellings. But more importantly, the air crews had successfully destroyed their targets and returned home unseen and unscathed."

Cook explained that although this was the longest sortie ever flown, similar missions had been simulated. "In fact, only six months prior to the Afghan mission a two-man crew flew a historic 50-hour mission in the B2 simulator," he said. "From take-off to landing they never left the confines of the 10-by-10-foot cockpit. It was this transformational mission rehearsal that enabled our mission success in Afghanistan."

After Cook, Royal Netherlands Army Staff Major General Peter van Uhm, the director of policy and plans, chaired a general and flag officers' panel. U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Ann E. Rondeau, the commander of Naval Personnel Development Command, and Royal Air Force Air Vice Marshal John M. M. Ponsonby, AOC Training Group and chief executive TGDA discussed their services' commitment to training.

Rondeau spoke specifically about the Navy's 5 Vector Model to assist sailors in their training requirements and certification. The Rear Admiral explained this will enable life-long learning and help to develop more capable sailors.

Ponsonby discussed the evolution of fast jets to single seat configurations and the associated training requirements and challenges. He told the audience the RAF of the future would have to be highly involved and invested in industry solutions in order to make sure the cognitive skills of its pilots are at the level of the easier to fly but more sophisticated aircraft.

The speaker sessions continued throughout the week, with about 30 sessions on topics ranging from contracted learning to virtual-reality games to training in the live environment to NATO's First Wave.

In addition to the speakers, more than 100 companies-40 of which were new to ITEC-announced and exhibited new products and solutions. Many of the companies presented individual product briefings during the three day event.

Highlights included Saab Training Systems' WISE collaborative training environment. The suite of software packages is designed to enable systems to be connected without the need for any upgrades. It creates a common after-action review for the entire collaborative training environment. The open architecture provides plug-and-play interoperability for live, virtual and constructive training without the need for expensive and time consuming software integration work.

MAK displayed its VR-Link, VR-Forces and Stealth technologies. However, the interesting announcement concerned the company's first non-U.S. sale of a tactical trainer. Alion Science and Technology awarded a contract to MAK to provide its Battle Command trainer for training in Uzbekistan and the Ukraine. Based on the U.S. Army version, the desktop training solution allows commanders to plan, fight and review a battle. The trainer is reconfigurable for any language and can accommodate unique symbology as well as tactic, doctrine, force structure or scenario.

Diamond Visionics showcased its new Genesis RT worldwide database. The global environment was created under a small business innovation research grant for NLX's bid to upgrade two U.S. Navy P-3C flight simulators. Although the contract was awarded to CAE, the Navy requested Genesis RT be used. Users can fly anywhere in the world and see real data imported from existing sources. Some areas offer more detail than others, such as the 11,000 airfields in the database, but users can import their own imagery or data to update and enhance any area.

Barco demonstrated its SIM 5plus, an upgrade for existing simulator projectors. The SIM 5plus can be installed in the current location of former CRT and older, off-the-shelf non-simulation dedicated projectors. It provides a fast Ethernet connection to facilitate central management of several simulators over LAN-either on PC or Barco's xRACU remote alignment and control unit.

C.O.E.L. showed its new IED simulator COPAS 1R. The small, multifunction, radio-operated pyrotechnic simulator supports military training needs for the threat. COPAS 1R is technically based on the proven and fielded fire marker unit design. The prevalence of these roadside-bombs has increased the demand for realistic trainers to recognize and neutralize these threats.

*Next year, ITEC returns to the ExCeL in London. ITEC 2006 will take place May 16-18. For more information, visit the ITEC Web site at [www.itec.co.uk](http://www.itec.co.uk) <<http://www.itec.co.uk>>.*

## **Conference Attendees Receive Upbeat Training Transformation Update**

By Marty Kauchak

## MT2 Editor at Large

At a special session, Dan Gardner, the director of readiness and training for policy and programs within the Office of the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Readiness, provided a broad overview on the status of the DoD's Training Transformation (T2) program.

The Joint Knowledge Development and Distribution Capability (JKDDC) is preparing individuals for joint assignments through distributed joint content, based upon stated combatant command requirements. Gardner reported that JKDDC is supplying joint training to individuals who fill vacant staff positions, and who are being deployed to joint commands around the world.

The Joint National Training Capability (JNTC) is improving the ability of U.S. forces to fight effectively as a joint and combined team, under the leadership of Admiral Edmund P. Giambastiani, the commander of U.S. Joint Forces Command. Gardner noted that his recent visits to JNTC events "encourage me to suggest that we are fundamentally altering joint training." He said JNTC's future attributes must be able to support individual, staff and unit training "through a globally distributed JNTC live, virtual and constructive environment-a Joint Global Training Capability."

The Joint Assessment and Enabling Capability (JAEC) provides the means to assess and report whether the DoD senior leadership's commitment, direction and resourcing to transform training is actually happening. The JAEC Joint Management Office has started its initial block assessment.

Representing the collaborative nature of transforming together, Gardner invited Latvian Army Brigadier General Gundars Abols, the deputy assistant chief of staff for joint education and training at NATO Allied Command Transformation, to join him for a follow-on question and answer session.

Gardner told the conference delegates and exhibitors that transformation is definitely not unique to the United States. "Any transformation discussion we undertake as individual nations, or collectively, must be conducted in a NATO or multinational context with national and cultural considerations taken into account."