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I/ITSEC 2004: The View from DoD



Dr. Paul W. Mayberry

First, congratulations to the Service leads, and the National Training Systems Association and its industry-government partners, for conducting another outstanding I/ITSEC. RADM Fred Lewis, USN (Ret.), NTSA President; Buck Leahy, I/ITSEC Conference Chair; Steve Detro, I/ITSEC Program Chair; Col. Mike Chapin, Director, Training Systems Product Group, Wright-Patterson AFB; and the Air Force, this year's lead Service; and countless others, ensured that the Conference focused our attention on transforming the Defense Department's training and education programs.

I was struck from day one by the substance, tone and commonality of language on the urgent need to transform the force to better enable Joint operations. Throughout the Service and Industry keynotes, and the General and Flag Officer Panel, we all heard honest and critical self-assessments on our Joint training gaps and seams. All leaders recognized the need to transform Joint training and that we have the potential to provide common solutions to our common Joint problems. With your assistance, we will meet our evolving Joint requirements more quickly and more cost-effectively.

Next, I would like to share some observations from my walkabouts on the exhibition floor. We are making important progress in many areas, including implementing standards and making training an integral part of a weapons platform's life cycle. A quick glance at many booths and their products revealed that DoD, industry and academia are moving quickly to standardize e-learning through Shared Content Object Reference Model (SCORM)-conformant courseware. The Advanced Distributed Learning initiative, with its industry and academic partners, has made SCORM a reality.

We also had an opportunity to observe US Joint Forces Command, Joint National Training Capability (JNTC) Joint Management Office's successful efforts to coordinate and execute the Joint Virtual Training Special Event—using a joint fires scenario to demonstrate the future of Live, Virtual and Constructive (LVC) Joint training. Thirty-five different LVC systems were integrated on the exhibit floor, including fixed and rotary-wing flight simulators, constructive simulations, after-action systems and other capabilities. I was encouraged by your ideas to help the Defense Department build a persistent, global, LVC training environment. The LVC construct will support the JNTC goal to provide training anytime, anywhere, with "forces" in all three domains. We look forward to receiving your good ideas on how to achieve this end state.

While the industry-government team has logged many successes, it also has urgent work ahead—to support the soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and coast guardsmen engaged in the Global War on Terrorism, and Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

At the top of our list is the requirement to better enable our Joint warfighters to support Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT). Some early progress can be reported. I applaud the Army's Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation's efforts to cut through the procurement red tape to rapidly field a more capable convoy training system. The industry teams of Lockheed Martin and Firearms Training Systems, and Raydon and FAAC, and Link Simulation and Training, and the Department's DARWARS organization, are among those that have done great work in supporting the immediate needs of our men and women in the field—but much more needs to be done to enable our Joint warfighters to be prepared to win in this complex environment. Two of several challenges that come to mind include more fully incorporating aviation units into MOUT training, and enabling command and staff level exercises in this environment.

We need to continue Government-Industry, Industry-Industry, and Industry-Academia partnerships in order to realize the training environment we all know is possible. I was awed and impressed by the technologies evident on the trade show floor and am anticipating their integration into the products being developed for training. We welcome your good ideas and recommendations to help us move forward.

—Dr. Paul W. Mayberry, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense Readiness,