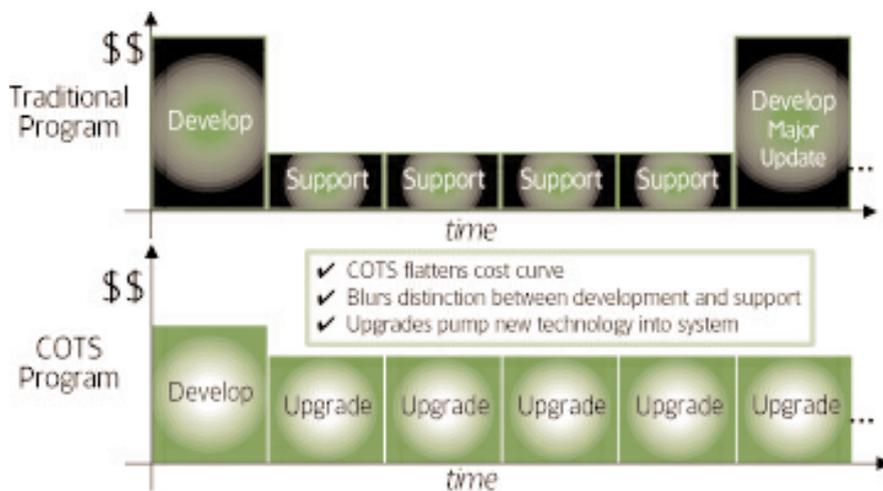


Impact of COTS



joyed by the games community at the local electronics superstore, there are software capabilities such as Air Task Order and fusion algorithms which have been developed by other organizations. This software requires some amount of integration, but its insertion time is considerably less than a start-from-scratch development – with commensurately smaller cost.

The third technology-insertion cause is future upgrades. A major radar upgrade for the E-2C looms on the near horizon. This will require considerably greater

computer performance than we have now installed. The thought for many years is that we would take advantage of the COTS performance increases through time and install new computers commensurate with the production of new radar systems.

The point of using COTS is to avoid the large development costs historically associated with new upgrades. The cost of this large avoidance will be a continuum of smaller costs between development and upgrade (opposite chart).

Benediction

Actual data, and therefore, concrete answers for the full life cycle are not yet available, and in a rapidly changing organization, they may not be of value for long. It's hoped that the experiences outlined here may best help by stimulating thinking for additional solutions and discussion.

To date, we have saved money and provided the fleet with capability through COTS – and we're not done.

One point is clear, we need understanding and flexibility regarding the total life cycle of COTS, and we don't have years to achieve this end-game. We need changes in acquisition to save more money to continue program success.

If understanding and flexibility are not achieved, COTS will become just another [X]. We have too many of these now.

Editor's Note: The author welcomes questions or comments on this article. Contact him at CampbellLO@navair.navy.mil.

FOREIGN STUDENTS, DIGNITARIES FROM JAPAN TOUR DSMC MAIN CAMPUS

Students and staff from the Graduate School of Security Studies, National Defense Academy (NDA), Japan, tour the DSMC main campus, Fort Belvoir, Va., March 6 to improve their understanding of U.S. armed forces and their acquisition organizations. This is their third year to visit, and DSMC has continued to promote and encourage this constructive engagement and interchange with our allies. Pictured from left: Maj. Akio Tomita, Japanese Ground Self Defense Force, Research Associate of the Research Committee; Lt. Cmdr. Yasufumi Miyahara, Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force, NDA student; Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Naruhiko Ueda, Senior Executive Director, Defense Research Center; Air Force Brig. Gen. Frank J. Anderson Jr., DSMC Commandant; Lt. Minako Hayashi, Japanese Ground Self Defense Force, NDA student; Capt. Takeshi Yanagitani, Japanese Air Self Defense Force, NDA student; Huniichi Tanida, NDA student; Tony Kausal, DSMC Air Force Chair.

