

HORIZONTAL TECHNOLOGY INSERTION

Ammunition provides unique opportunities for Horizontal Technology Insertion because it continues to be reprocedured throughout its life cycle, long past its initial deployment. PM Mortars, which has the advantage of managing an extensive ammunition family, leverages its high-volume repro- curement program to accomplish evolutionary product improvements to mortar ammunition.

One recent ammunition upgrade, which significantly applied S&T to Full-Scale Production, was the 60mm High Explosive (HE) Insensitive Munitions Program. This program qualified a new, developmental, insensitive explosive (named PAX-21 after the Picatinny Arsenal site where it was developed), to replace highly sensitive Composition B, resulting in significant improvements in performance on DoD Insensitive Munitions standards. The new M720A1 60mm HE round, which also incorporated a more lethal high-fragmentation shell body and an updated version of the electronic multi-option fuze M734A1, was type-classified in November 2001, and entered production immediately.

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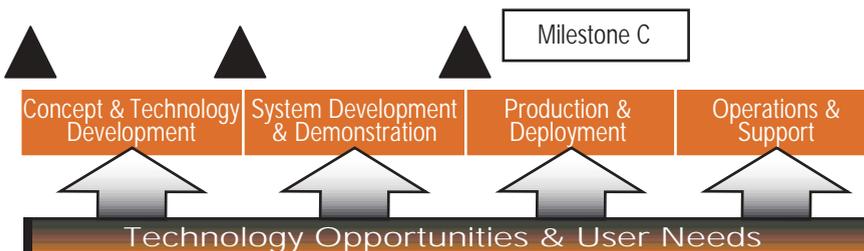
performance gains at the subsystem or component level. Laboratory demonstrations and user/field demonstrations outside the formal ATD/ACTD structure often become inflection points, spawning product improvement programs and system upgrades.

Logisticians and life cycle support contractors often grasp technology improvements out of sheer necessity in maintaining deployed systems where system or product components/materials are no longer available for resupply. Interaction with users and logisticians provides invaluable insight to potential technology gaps and corresponding technology transition points for deployed weapon systems.

Realizing the Benefits of S&T Exploiting S&T beyond full-rate production and deployment has consistently proven invaluable to providing our military forces superior defense materiel. Project managers may realize the total benefits of S&T beyond full-scale production and deployment by planning for S&T throughout the system's life cycle and embracing management techniques centered on evolutionary acquisition, block upgrades, open systems designs, P3I and Modification Programs, coupled with formal and informal technology transition methods.

Editor's Note: The author welcomes questions or comments on this article. Contact him at gmannix@pica.army.mil.

FIGURE 2. S&T Activities Beyond Milestone C



GAO REPORT RELEASED

Acquisition Workforce: Department of Defense's Plans to Address Workforce Size and Structure Challenges

The General Accounting Office (GAO), the investigative arm of Congress, has reported to Armed Services Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives that DoD has made progress laying a foundation for reshaping its acquisition workforce.

The report (GAO-02-630), dated April 2002, specifically examines the reported status of DoD's efforts to respond to recommendations made by the Acquisition 2005 Task Force. The Task Force made a series of recommendations to DoD in October 2000, and on March 1, 2002, in response to a mandate in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002, DoD reported on its plans to implement recommendations made by the Task Force.

According to the GAO Report, DoD views implementation of many of the recommendations as long-term efforts with specific outcomes taking years to achieve.

Read the entire GAO report from the GAO Web site at <http://www.gao.gov>. To view the Acquisition 2005 Task Force Report, go to <http://www.acq.osd.mil/yourfuture/story.htm#reports>.