
In the News

SPECIAL TO AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (JUNE 27, 2008) ARMY ACCELERATES DELIVERY OF FUTURE COMBAT SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGIES

Lindy Kyzer

The Army is accelerating the delivery of key Future Combat Systems technologies to the field, officials announced June 26.

Infantry brigade combat teams will receive the technologies, called "spinouts," sooner than previously planned, officials said.

The spinouts include tactical and urban unattended ground sensors; the non-line-of-sight launch system; the Class I, Block 0 unmanned air vehicle; the small, unmanned ground vehicle; and network kits for Humvees.

Lt. Gen. Michael A. Vane, director of the Army Capabilities Integration Center, discussed the accelerated fielding of cutting-edge equipment in a teleconference with bloggers and online journalists.

"This decision reflects the need to move more aggressively to support current operations across both our active and reserve component capabilities with the Future Combat Systems capabilities," he said.

Commanders and soldiers in the field, as well as members of Congress and Defense Department and Army leaders, have been asking for future combat technologies to be used for the current fight in Iraq and Afghanistan, Vane said.

Operational needs statements from infantry brigade commanders in 2007 and 2008 were double the number from heavy brigades, and accelerating the fielding of FCS spinouts addresses many of those capability gaps, Army officials said.

Vane pointed out that FCS is not being developed to provide "perfect" information.

"We recognize that soldiers will always fight for information," he said. "But the soldier on the battlefield and the commander is the best decision maker, the best sensor, the best shooter, the best communicator, the best negotiator with both allies and potential enemies.

"What we want to do is we want technology to enable that soldier and that commander to better understand the

battlefield," he continued. "Sometimes people think we're building something that's a fantasy or that technology is the answer to everything, and we absolutely are not. What we are doing is trying to leverage that technological advantage that American industry and America's allies help us bring to the battlefield."

Kyzer works for the office of the chief of public affairs, media relations division, Department of the Army.

NAVAL STATION ACTIVITY MECHANICSBURG NEWS RELEASE (JULY 1, 2008) NSA MECHANICSBURG LOGISTICIANS TOUR USS CARNEY, CONNECT WITH THEIR CUSTOMERS

Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Charley Abrams, USN PENN'S LANDING, Pa.—Seeing the positive end result of one's efforts and labor always serves as a focal and motivational point, as proved true for a group of 15 civilian and uniformed employees from the Naval Inventory Control Point (NAVICP), Mechanicsburg, Pa., during their visit aboard *USS Carney* (DDG 64) on July 1.

The destroyer, moored here in conjunction with Philadelphia's Independence Day observances, welcomed aboard the employees for a tour designed to show the operational end point for many of their efforts conducted within the Navy's supply chain.

The ship's public affairs officer Lt. j.g. Parker Carlisle brought the group aboard and conducted a tour featuring areas such as the bridge, mess decks, combat, and most important for this group, supply.

Australian Navy Lt. Cdr. John Potter, currently working for the NAVICP as part of an international officer exchange program, said the tour was a "good opportunity to see how supply works from the ship's end."

As the tour reached the highlight of seeing the ship's supply department, participants got a firsthand look at who and what they were supporting from their offices at the Central Pa., Navy depot. Storekeeper 1st Class Joseph Melton was there to greet them. He explained to the group the challenges of maintaining the shipboard budget and keeping *Carney's* combat systems up and running.

Tour participant Diana Garcia, who works as a logistics management specialist, defined her job at NSA Mechanicsburg as "taking care of provisions and procedures." This means a ship sends her an order; she finds the source, buys the item, and fills the order. Each member of the



On July 1, 2008, a group of 15 logisticians from the Naval Inventory Control Point visited the Navy destroyer *USS Carney* (DDG 64) during its port visit in Philadelphia, to witness firsthand how their work in Mechanicsburg, Pa., impacts the Navy's fleet and its warfighters. Navy Storekeeper 1st Class Joseph Melton explained to the group the challenges of maintaining the shipboard budget and keeping *USS Carney's* combat systems up and running. Photo courtesy NSA Mechanicsburg

group had a specialty, and Garcia's includes refrigerating valves and air-conditioning units, in which the *USS Carney* had "one of the best he's experienced" according to Lt. Douglas Turner, *Carney's* supply officer.

Inventory manager Delmar Madden explained the process whereby a ship contacts him for supplies, which he then orders, re-directs, or has the part repaired. If the part is unavailable and the urgency is great, the part is sought out worldwide from operational ships.

An example of Madden's work that has affected the *USS Carney* is when all the DDG class fuel nozzles were replaced. The optimized computer system today allows one person to do the work of what used to take many, which, as Madden states, makes it "one of the biggest jobs you can imagine."

The NAVICP logistician enjoys this aspect of the job because he is always learning new things, making the tour a worthwhile experience.

By the end of the tour, communication and learning experiences were gained, allowing for both ship's company

and base employees to better understand and appreciate each other.

Abrams writes for U.S. Naval Support Activity Philadelphia.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (JULY 15, 2008) **NAVY NAMES TWO VIR- GINIA CLASS SUBMARINES**

The Navy announced today that the next two Virginia-class attack submarines will be named the *USS Minnesota* and the *USS North Dakota*.

The selection of *Minnesota*, designated SSN 783, honors the state's citizens and their continued support to our nation's military. Minnesota has a long tradition of honoring its veterans of wars past and present. The state is proud to be home to 46 Medal of Honor recipients that span from the Civil War to the Vietnam War.

This will be the third ship to bear the state name. The first *USS Minnesota*, a sailing steam frigate, was commissioned in 1857 and served during the Civil War, remaining in service until her decommissioning in 1898. The second *Minnesota* was commissioned in 1907. On December 16, 1907, she departed Hampton Roads as one of the 16 battleships of the Great White Fleet sent by President Theodore Roosevelt on a voyage around the world. She continued her service through World War I, and was decommissioned in 1921.

The selection of the *North Dakota*, designated SSN 784, honors the state's citizens and veterans and their strong military support and heritage from the Frontier Wars through the Cold War and currently the Global War on Terrorism. Seventeen North Dakotans have received the Medal of Honor for actions in combat, including Master Sgt. Woodrow W. Keeble who posthumously received the Medal of Honor during a White House ceremony on March 3, 2008. This is the second ship to bear the name North Dakota. The first ship, the Delaware-class battleship *USS North Dakota*, was in service from 1910 through 1923.

These next-generation attack submarines will provide the Navy with the capabilities required to maintain the

nation's undersea supremacy well into the 21st century. They will have improved stealth, sophisticated surveillance capabilities, and special warfare enhancements that will enable them to meet the Navy's multi-mission requirements.

North Dakota and Minnesota will have the capability to attack targets ashore with highly accurate Tomahawk cruise missiles and conduct covert long-term surveillance of land areas, littoral waters, or other sea-based forces. Other missions include anti-submarine and anti-ship warfare; special forces delivery and support; and mine delivery and minefield mapping.

The Virginia-class is 7,800 tons and 377 feet in length, has a beam of 34 feet, and can operate at more than 25 knots submerged. It is designed with a reactor plant that will not require refueling during the planned life of the ship, reducing life cycle costs while increasing underway time.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (JULY 16, 2008) **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PARTNERS WITH UNIVERSITIES FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH**

The DoD has launched a university-based social science initiative to support basic research in topic areas of importance to current and future U.S. national security.

The initiative, called Minerva, will support multi- and interdisciplinary and cross-institutional efforts addressing a range of social science topic areas. It will bring together universities, research institutions, and individual scholars into a partnership to tackle topics of interest to DoD. For example, DoD could pursue topics such as foreign military and technology research, terrorism, or cultural studies. The initial funding is \$10-20 million annually.

The objectives are:

- To foster and improve the Defense Department's social science intellectual capital and ability to understand and address security challenges
- To support and develop basic research and expertise within the social sciences community in subject areas that may provide insight to current and future challenges
- To improve the Defense Department's relationship with the social science community.

To achieve the secretary of defense's vision, DoD will pilot a number of approaches for engaging the social science

community. This multi-pronged strategy will enable the department to solicit a broad range of proposals from the social science community and to leverage the expertise and infrastructures of a wide range of existing mechanisms for funding basic research.

The Minerva initiative will have several components to solicit and manage proposals. The first of these has been released through a DoD broad agency announcement. Additionally, DoD signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Science Foundation on July 2, 2008, to work together on a range of projects related to DoD's Minerva initiative, which might include a solicitation of proposals. Submission to DoD's open broad agency announcement will not preclude any offeror from submitting proposals to future solicitations.

Remarks by Secretary of Defense Gates on the Minerva initiative may be found at <www.defenselink.mil/speeches/speech.aspx?speechid=1228>. The currently open DoD BAA may be found at: <www.arl.army.mil/www/default.cfm?Action=6&Page=8>.

AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS (JULY 17, 2008) AETC FIRST TO RECEIVE NEW ACQUISITION AUTHORITY

Capt. John Severns, USAF

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas—Air Education and Training Command became the first major command authorized to pursue services acquisitions valued at up to \$500 million following the signing of an agreement between the command and Air Force acquisition officials.

The new agreement is expected to help streamline the acquisition process and speed the rate at which services are provided to warfighters.

Under the agreement, AETC received "Silver Delegation Authority" from the Air Force Program Executive Office for Combat and Mission Support, commonly called PEO Services.

Silver Delegation Authority gives Garry B. Richey, director of logistics, installations and mission support for AETC, the ability to manage and oversee acquisition contracts valued up to \$500 million while providing coordinating information to PEO Services.

"This delegation is recognition of the outstanding contracting and program management professionals we have on our headquarters staff, as well as throughout the command," Richey said. "But it also commits us to maintain

robust management and oversight of all our command services acquisition activities—from requirements definition to source selection and through contract performance.”

The contracts in question cover a wide variety of services and support, many of which have a direct impact on the warfighter, according to Colleen Phipps, a contracting official in the AETC Acquisition Support branch.

The agreement covers contractor support for major programs such as aircraft maintenance, base operations support, and trainer maintenance, as well as smaller contracts such as food service and grounds maintenance that impact the daily lives of AETC airmen.

Officials signed the agreement during a conference on services acquisition hosted by PEO Services in Oklahoma City in June. The conference allowed acquisition and contracting officers from across the Air Force and other government agencies to discuss the future of services acquisition.

Severns writes for Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs.

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (JULY 23, 2008) DEFENSE LEADERS PROMISE IMPROVED CONTRACTING OVERSIGHT

Donna Miles

WASHINGTON—The U.S. military depends heavily on the support contractors provide in Iraq and Afghanistan and is stepping up efforts to ensure dollars dedicated to their activities are spent appropriately, Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England told Congress.

England joined Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin, commander of U.S. Army Materiel Command; acting Defense Department Inspector General Gordon S. Heddell; and Shay Assad, DoD’s director for defense procurement, acquisition policy, and strategic sourcing, during a Senate Appropriations Committee hearing on contractor accountability.

The Defense Department takes its contract accountability and oversight responsibilities “very seriously,” England told the lawmakers. He noted that multiple department agencies have conducted “literally thousands of aggressive reviews, audits, and oversight.”

In doing so, “they have indeed uncovered incidences of fraud and abuse,” he said.

The Defense Department takes meaningful corrective actions and makes structural organizational changes where appropriate, England said. Meanwhile, it holds people accountable for their actions.

Heddell, who became acting DoD inspector general [in mid-July], noted that the department is completing or conducting audit oversight efforts that cover about \$158.9 billion related to Defense Department efforts in Iraq alone.

As of June 30, the Defense Criminal Investigative Service had 124 ongoing investigations related to Southwest Asia that involve 286 subjects, he told the committee. Thirty-two of these investigations have been adjudicated, resulting in 22 federal criminal indictments and 32 felony convictions, he reported. It also resulted in 32 federal “criminal informations”—essentially, cases where defendants agreed that evidence against them was so strong that they agreed to forego trial proceedings and accept sentencing, Heddell said.

The adjudications have resulted in 54 years of confinement, 44 years of probation, debarment of 10 people and four companies, and suspension of 28 people, Heddell said.

In addition, the U.S. government accepted three settlement agreements, received \$13.5 million in restitution, levied more than \$374,000 in fines and penalties, received \$1.76 million in forfeitures, and seized another \$2.65 million in assets, he reported.

With \$71 billion obligated to 98,000 contracting activities since January 2003, the department has struggled to provide full oversight for this huge volume of contracts, England conceded. Complicating the process, he said, is the fact that 98,000 expeditionary contract actions have occurred since 2003, with much of the work performed in a dangerous and difficult environment.

The department “will continue to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of our contracting across the entire enterprise,” but recognizes that it will take time, England said. He noted that the defense contracting force was cut dramatically during the 1990s, and that bringing replacements up to speed won’t happen overnight. “It will likely take a few more years before all of these critical skills are fully replenished,” he said.

Meanwhile, England pointed to the July 22 swearing-in of retired Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Arnie Fields as special inspector general for Afghanistan reconstruction as a positive step forward.

“I’m confident Arnie Fields will help to do in Afghanistan for the departments of Defense and State what [special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction] Stu Bowen has been able to accomplish over the past several years in Iraq as part of his special investigative status,” England said.

Griffin told the senators the military knows it has improvements to make in its contracting systems and oversight.

“I will state up front that we are not where we want to be today in terms of contracting,” he said. “But we have made significant progress. We are committed to improve our ability and capability to provide not only first-class expeditionary contracting but also to implement improvements across the entire contracting system.”

While vowing to improve oversight of contractor activities, England told the lawmakers the military depends on contractors who work as partners with servicemembers in harm’s way.

“I ... want to thank the people who deployed and who are deployed today who do this contracting work for America,” he said. “While the department has problems with some of its processes, we are extraordinarily grateful to the brave men and women who deploy to Iraq to accomplish this very difficult mission.”

Miles writes for American Forces Press Service.

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (AUG. 6, 2008) PENTAGON ISSUES DRAFT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR NEW TANKER CONTRACT

Jim Garamone

WASHINGTON—The Defense Department has issued a draft request for proposals to the competitors in the Air Force’s \$35 billion program to acquire new aerial refueling tanker aircraft.

The request went to Northrop-Grumman and Boeing, and addresses concerns the Government Accountability Office raised about the original award of the contract in February, said Shay Assad, the Defense Department’s director of defense procurement, acquisition policy, and strategic

sourcing. Assad spoke during a Pentagon news conference Aug. 6.

The GAO, the investigative arm of Congress, recommended that the Air Force re-bid the contract—originally won by a Northrop-Grumman/EADS/Airbus consortium in February. Boeing protested the decision, and in June the GAO agreed that there were irregularities in the contracting process. Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said DoD would address each of the GAO’s findings

“We are doing that, and we are addressing them in a very measured and serious way to ensure that we, in fact, can execute this procurement in a manner that’s fair to both parties and is in the best interests of the warfighters and the taxpayers,” Assad said.

DoD officials will take a week to discuss elements of the draft with Northrop-Grumman and Boeing. “Each offeror will be provided an equal amount of time to sit down and discuss face-to-face what their views are of the draft RFP [request for proposal],” Assad said.

By the middle of August, Assad said, he expects DoD will issue the final request for proposals amendment. Both companies will have 45 days to submit their revisions to their proposals.

This takes the process out to Oct. 1, Assad said. Through late November, DoD officials will have discussions—both oral and written—with the companies about their proposals.

“We would then hope to close discussions around the end of November [or] early December, request a best and final offer—or what we now term final proposal revisions—in the first week in December, and complete our evaluations and award right around New Year’s Eve,” Assad said.

Assad said the process is on track now, and the department needs to finish this contract so warfighters can get “what they need at a price that the taxpayers can be pleased with.”

The Northrop-Grumman contract awarded in February is under a stop-work order. If the department chooses Boeing as part of this process, then DoD will cancel the contract with Northrop-Grumman. If the new process still chooses Northrop-Grumman, then the stop-work order can be lifted and work can proceed, officials said.

Garamone writes for American Forces Press Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (AUG. 12, 2008) **INDEPENDENT PANEL TO REVIEW DEFENSE CONTRACT AUDIT AGENCY PROCEDURES**

The Department of Defense announced today that an independent advisory panel, the Defense Business Board, will review the overall performance of the Defense Contract Audit Agency.

The review follows a Government Accountability Office report released July 23 that concluded DCAA auditors were improperly hindered in some of their investigations of defense contractors.

The Defense Business Board, an independent federal advisory committee composed of senior business executives, has agreed to form an independent review panel supported by subject matter experts to review DCAA procedures and make recommendations for improvement as appropriate.

The panel expects to have its recommendations within 60 days from the start of the review, and they will be shared with the department's senior leadership as well as the defense congressional oversight committees.

ARMY NEWS SERVICE (AUG. 15, 2008) **RESET PROGRAM MAINTAINS TROOP READINESS**

Elizabeth M. Lorge

WASHINGTON—The Army reset program is essential to the readiness and combat capability of the Army, said the outgoing director of integration at the office of the deputy chief of staff for Army programs (G-8).

According to retiring Brig. Gen. Albert Bryant Jr., the Army reset program began about three years ago and is responsible for

recapitalizing or replacing more than 300,000 pieces of equipment.

“The program is an essential part of sustaining the Army's ability to conduct operations. If we don't reset these units and get the equipment into the hands of the soldiers, allow them to train with it and deploy, then obviously our ability to do our job in our deployed theaters of operation will suffer,” he said.

Reset is one of Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr.'s four imperatives, and it costs an average of \$16 billion dollars to reset 20-something brigades each year. Congress passed the latest supplemental spending bill on June 30, and included almost \$8 billion for reset in operations and maintenance funding and almost \$2 billion for reset in procurement funding.

In a typical reset process, a unit would take a piece of equipment, a Humvee, for example, and turn it over to the Army Sustainment Command in Kuwait. The vehicle would be shipped to a depot in the United States, where it would be inspected, stripped to the base frame, and inspected again. After sandblasting the vehicle, it would



Field service representatives deployed from Tobyhanna Army Depot, Pa., prep a Humvee before installing a Warlock electronic countermeasure system. Photo by Steve Grzedzinski

be put through an assembly line and rebuilt to the highest, newest standards available. An older, up-armored M1114 Humvee would come out as a heavier, safer M1151/1152 Humvee, for example.

The goal, Bryant said, is to return each piece of equipment to zero-miles, zero-hours status.

“That’s an almost-like-new vehicle,” he said. “Zero-hours and zero-miles means that it’s like getting a completely factory-rebuilt vehicle with the same warranties you had when you started.

“The wear on our vehicles [is intense]. We’re using them at many, many times the normal peacetime utilization rates. The terrain is tough on the vehicles. The weather is extreme. The combination of heat and dust is extremely wearing on any mechanical system. So the process of looking at them in detail and ensuring we are restoring them to [full-operational] capacity at whatever our requirement is, is fundamental to our reset program,” Bryant continued, noting that equipment reset will continue for at least two to three years after operations in Iraq and Afghanistan end.

If a vehicle is so damaged that it would be impossible or cost-prohibitive to repair, the Army would replace it, said Bryant.

“We always balance out the requirement between what is the cost of repairing the vehicle versus what is the cost of replacing the vehicle,” he said. “That’s obviously a function of both resources that we have available to place against the problem, and what is the best mix. If a vehicle is not cost-effective to repair, we will request replacement of it.”

The reset equipment won’t be returned to the same unit but will go into a large Army “motor pool” and be assigned to commanders and units as needed. The process usually takes eight to 10 months, but can be expedited depending on requirements.

Bryant said the Army tries to get modernized or recapitalized equipment to soldiers within six months of a unit’s return so they’ll have plenty of time to train before beginning another deployment, but added that both meeting this requirement and getting the equipment to theater where it’s needed most is a big challenge.

In order to get equipment back into the hands of warfighters, depots like Anniston Army Depot, Ala., Red River

Army Depot, Texas, and Tobyhanna Army Depot, Pa., are busier than they’ve been since Vietnam. According to Bryant, most are meeting or surpassing production requirements.

Some depot employees even deploy to the Middle East to repair equipment in theater, and the Army Sustainment Command recently began sending teams to individual units to repair smaller equipment like weapons, radios, and chemical and biological detection and sensing equipment. According to Bryant, in two or three weeks one team might repair 40,000 pieces of equipment for a brigade combat team.

“Commanders love it. They said it’s exactly the right way to do it, and we’re trying to see if we can expand it throughout the total force as much as possible. That’s over and above equipment which is so seriously damaged that it has to be evacuated to a depot facility for repair,” said Bryant.

“The reset program has been a tremendous success,” he said. “The proof is in the fact that when our units deploy, commanders have what they need to do their jobs.”

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (AUG. 18, 2008) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE RELEASES SELECTED ACQUISITION REPORTS

The Department of Defense has released details on major defense acquisition program cost, schedule, and performance changes since the December 2007 reporting period. This information is based on the Selected Acquisition Reports (SARs) submitted to the Congress for the June 2008 reporting period.

SARs summarize the latest estimates of cost, schedule, and performance status. These reports are prepared annually in conjunction with the president’s budget. Subsequent quarterly exception reports are required only for those programs experiencing unit cost increases of at least 15 percent or schedule delays of at least six months. Quarterly SARs are also submitted for initial reports, final reports, and for programs that are rebaselined at major milestone decisions.

The total program cost estimates provided in the SARs include research and development, procurement, military construction, and acquisition-related operation and maintenance (except for pre-Milestone B programs, which are limited to development costs pursuant to 10 U.S.C §2432). Total program costs reflect actual costs to date as well as

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future anticipated costs. All estimates include anticipated inflation allowances.

The current estimate of program acquisition costs for programs covered by SARs for the prior reporting period (December 2007) was \$1,642,973.5 million. After subtracting the costs for seven final reports—Advanced Deployable System (ADS), Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System (DIMHRS), Javelin, Mission Planning System (MPS), Ship Self Defense System (SSDS), Ohio Class SSGN Conversion, and T-45TS—and adding the costs for three new programs—Large Altitude Infrared Countermeasures (LAIRCM), Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP), and SBSS B10 (Space Based Space Surveillance Block 10)—from the December 2007 reporting period, the adjusted current estimate of program acquisition costs was \$1,647,118.6 million. For the June 2008 reporting period, there was a net-cost decrease of \$4,550.0 million (-0.3 percent), due primarily to a reduction of C-5 RERP (Reliability Enhancement and Reengining Program) aircraft from the recent Nunn-McCurdy certification.

For the June 2008 reporting period, there were quarterly exception SARs submitted for nine programs. The reasons for the submissions are provided below.

Army

JCA (Joint Cargo Aircraft)—This is the initial SAR for the JCA program. The USD(AT&L) approved the Milestone C decision in an Acquisition Program Baseline dated April 17, 2008.

Navy

EA-6B ICAP (Improved Capability) III—This is the initial SAR for the EA-6B ICAP III program.

ERM (Extended Range Munition)—Program costs decreased from \$1,521.4 million to \$408.2 million (-73.2 percent) due to termination of the program. Four out of five fully configured tactically guided flight failures during a series of engineering developmental tests contributed to the decision to terminate.

H-1 Upgrades (4BW/4BN)—This SAR was submitted to report schedule delays of six months or more since the prior report. Specifically, the operational evaluation Phase I Complete (AH-1Z) slipped two years from May 2008 to May 2010 due to unresolved critical operational issues related to the AH-1Z weapons employment. There were no cost changes reported.

	Current Estimate (\$ in millions)
December 2007 (93 programs)	\$ 1,642,973.5
Less final reports on seven programs (ADS, DIMHRS, Javelin, MPS, SSDS, SSGN Conversion, and T-45TS)	-19,459.8
Plus initial reports on three programs (LAIRCM, MRAP, and SBSS B10)	+ 23,604.9
December 2007 Adjusted (93 programs)	\$ 1,642,973.5
Changes Since Last Report	
Economic	\$ 0.0
Quantity	-4,376.8
Schedule	-198.4
Engineering	0.0
Estimating	+ 427.5
Other	0.0
Support	-402.3
Net Cost Change	\$ -4,550.0
June 2008 (89 programs)	\$1,642,568.6

IDECM (Integrated Defensive Electronic Countermeasures)—This is the initial SAR for the IDECM program. Recent analysis determined that continued research and development funding over the course of the IDECM Blocks 1-3 development has resulted in cumulative R&D funding that exceeds the dollar criteria for a Major Defense Acquisition Program, i.e., Acquisition Category I (ACAT I). The Navy's request to redesignate IDECM as an ACAT I program was approved in March 2008.

MH-60S—This SAR is being submitted to report schedule delays of six months or more. Specifically, Airborne Mine Countermeasures Initial Operational Capability slipped 20 months from July 2008 to March 2010 and AMCM Interim Process Review IV slipped two years from September 2008 to September 2010 as a result of testing and reliability issues. There were no cost changes reported.

Air Force

C-5 RERP (Reliability Enhancement and Reengining Program)—The SAR was submitted to rebaseline from a development to a production estimate following approval of low-rate initial production (Milestone C) and to reflect the Nunn-McCurdy-certified restructured program. Since the last report, costs decreased \$3,436.8 million (-30.9 percent) from \$11,130.9 million to \$7,694.1 million as a result primarily of a reduction in quantity of 59 aircraft from 108 to 49 (-\$3,271.0 million) and associated schedule and estimating allocations (-\$163.9 million).* In addition, there were reductions in support associated with the quantity decrease (-\$401.0 million).

GPS (Global Positioning System) IIIA—This is the initial SAR for the GPS IIIA program after approval of key decision point B on May 8, 2008.

Minuteman III GRP (Guidance Replacement Program)—This is the final submission for this program in accordance with section 2432, Title 10, U.S.C. because it is 90 percent delivered. There were no cost changes reported.

New SARs (As of June 2008)

The Department of Defense has submitted four initial SARs for the following programs for the June 2008 reporting period. These reports do not represent cost growth. The baselines established on these programs will be the point from which future changes will be measured.

Program	Current Estimate (\$ in Millions)
EA-6B ICAP Increment III	\$ 1,053.8
GPS (Global Positioning System) IIIA	4,002.3
IDECM (Integrated Defensive Electronic Countermeasures)	746.0
JCA (Joint Cargo Aircraft)	4,087.8
Total	\$9,889.9

*Note: Quantity changes are estimated based on the original SAR baseline cost-quantity relationship. Cost changes since the original baseline are separately categorized as schedule, engineering, or estimating allocations. The total

impact of a quantity change is the identified quantity change plus all associated allocations.

ARMY NEWS SERVICE (AUG. 19, 2008) "DRAGONS" TEST PROTOTYPE WEAPONS FOR FUTURE RELEASE

Pvt. Kelly Welch, USA

FORT HOOD, Texas—Soldiers of the 1st "Dragons" Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, along with Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Carey, command sergeant major for U.S. Armed Forces Command, got a firsthand look at new weapons systems with a live fire July 29.

Weapon engineers from Program Executive Office Soldier spent time talking with Dragon troopers and received feedback about the design of the weapons. The engineers started the morning with a brief review of the weapons followed by a question-and-answer session.

Some of the new systems were the XM 320 40 MM grenade launcher, the lightweight .50 caliber machine-gun, and M26 12 gauge modular accessory shotgun system.

The new XM 320 grenade launcher comes with improved features designed with lightweight material composition for improved durability and new sighting system designed to lessen interference with rifle and carbine sights. The new grenade launcher also eliminates the need to re-zero after reattaching to a weapon.

The XM 320 grenade launcher will start fielding in February 2009. Some of the weapon's multi-systems are still in the design stage and will require several years before they are used Army-wide.

One of the systems in the experimental stage is the lightweight .50 caliber machine-gun. This weapon system is a variant of the enhanced .50 caliber machine-gun. The new design system can fire all of the current .50 caliber ammunition in the inventory. It has a significant reduction in weight and recoil force. The new design reduces the recoil by at least 60 percent and also allows for a vehicle to become more lethal but still maintain the light weight.

Lt. Col. Mike Ascura, product manager for Program Executive Office Soldier, says the new .50 caliber is still in development.

"The .50 caliber we are seeing today will not be seen Army-wide until 2012," said Ascura. "We are building it for Special Forces now and in the near future for infantry schools."



Alan Kong, lead for test and evaluation on the 40M26 Modular Assault Shotgun System, demonstrates the firing technique to the soldiers of 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment July 29. Kong, employed with Program Executive Office Soldier, will take feedback from the soldiers to the testing area and incorporate the new ideas into the weapons system.

Photo by Pvt. Kelly Welch, USA

Handpicked field artillery units will continue to test the products before the weapons are released to the infantry schools.

Spc. Jared Smith, San Diego, Calif., native and gunner for Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, shot the weapons and gave his opinion on the new designs and seeing the weapons go Army-wide.

“I like the improvements, especially the range spotter,” said Smith. “This is definitely something we need.”

Carey looked over the new systems and got a feel for the weapons and their systems when he took his turn on the firing line with the new lightweight .50 caliber.

This is by far the best of what has come out of this extended war, said Carey. “These weapons are going to measure our successes in seconds, and those seconds will add up to victory in the continuing war on terror.”

Welch writes for 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs.

ARMY NEWS SERVICE (AUG. 21, 2008) ARMY RESEARCH ON INVISIBILITY NOT SCIENCE FICTION

Lindy Kyzer

WASHINGTON—Invisibility has long existed in the realm of imagination and fantasy, but for Army scientists and researchers studying ways to apply the latest technology to save soldiers’ lives, fantasy is slowly becoming a reality.

Dr. Richard Hammond, a theoretical physicist who works in optical physics and imaging science at the U.S. Army’s Research Office, participated in a blogger’s roundtable to discuss the developments in the field of negative index materials research and meta materials. Developing research in these areas is making light reflect in ways it never has before—with extraordinary effect.

“Meta materials are artificial materials with versatile properties that can be tailored to fit almost any practical need,” said Hammond. These versatile properties enable it to go beyond the capabilities of natural materials, including control of the light at an unprecedented level.

“Similar to general relativity, where time and space are curved, transformation optics shows that the space for light can also be bent in an almost arbitrary way,” said Hammond.

Army researchers have paired with Purdue University, the University of Colorado, the University of California Berkley, and Princeton University in a multi-university research initiative. Providing new capabilities to soldiers in the battlefield is the motivation behind the research, said Hammond, and benefits from meta materials have an impact in both the short and long term.

“If you’re out on the battlefield and you see a cloud coming, or you suspect there might be an aerosol chemical or biological warfare [agent] being used against you, it’s very difficult to quickly detect what the material is,” said Hammond.

With the new meta materials being developed, however, the ability exists to see things smaller than the wavelength of light—something that has never been done before, according to Hammond. Utilizing meta materials in the creation of a new lens may allow soldiers to see pathogens and viruses that are currently impossible to detect with any visual device.

“So this would be an enormous improvement, and not just on the battlefield, but it would allow us to make all kinds of materials, what we call nanomanufacturing,” said Hammond, “which could go into electronic and optical devices that you’d use—from night vision goggles to distance sensors to other kinds of sensors.”

In the longer term, the possibility for cloaking materials exists, which would provide “invisibility” by redirecting light around a cylindrical shape.

“One of the most exciting applications is an electromagnetic cloak that can bend light around itself, similar to the flow of water around a stone,” said Hammond. “Making invisible both the cloak and an object hidden inside.”

The research surrounding meta materials and creating tiny particles with unprecedented properties has met the “proof of principle” according to Hammond. What researchers and scientists will eventually accomplish has yet to be seen, however, as that principle is developed and finds new applications, he said.

“This experiment was performed in 2006 and it was almost like a chain reaction,” said Hammond. “The field of transformation optics and meta materials and negative index materials exploded with this. But, as I say, the proof of principle has a long way to go before we can see that on the battlefield.”

Kyzer works for the office of the chief of public affairs, media relations division, Department of the Army.

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (AUG. 28, 2008) **MARINES LOOK FOR BREAKTHROUGHS WHILE DEVELOPING NEW VEHICLES**

Donna Miles

WASHINGTON—The Marine Corps, like the Army, is “still waiting for that technological breakthrough” needed to build a combat vehicle that’s light and agile but also protects crewmembers inside, the Marine Corps commandant said yesterday.

“So we continue to wait,” while exploring best options available now, Marine Gen. James T. Conway told reporters during a Pentagon news briefing.

Both the Army and Marine Corps have sent mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicles, with their V-shaped hull that deflects underbelly blasts away from the crew compartment, into Iraq and Afghanistan. The 10,000th

MRAP rolled off the assembly line in early July, marking a milestone for the joint MRAP program that began as a Marine Corps initiative.

But the Marines have opted to buy fewer MRAPs than initially planned, and have dedicated them largely to specialized missions such as explosive ordnance disposal and engineering missions.

“In the past, our engineers have ridden to war in the back of a dump truck,” Conway said. “We owe them something better than that.” The small versions of the MRAPs, known as the Category 1 variants, are a good vehicle for that, the general added.

Ultimately, the Marines likely will need hundreds, not thousands, of MRAPs, he said.

Conway said the MRAP’s bulk—which he called too heavy for its suspension and axle systems—and its top-heavy design make it less-than-optimal for many Marine Corps missions. Those problems are exacerbated in Afghanistan, where sloped roads, mountain trails, and switchbacks make driving the vehicles particularly challenging. Although more MRAPs have been deployed to Iraq than Afghanistan, Conway said, the Marines have experienced more rollovers in Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, the Marine Corps is looking beyond current operations toward developing its next-generation fighting vehicles. The challenge, Conway said, is “Where do we want the Marine Corps to be in 2020 with its vehicle complement based on what we think the threat will be at that point?”

The expeditionary fighting vehicle, or EFV, “seems to be making some good progress,” Conway said, but he conceded it’s still a long way from production. The 17-passenger armored vehicle—able to run on the ground as well as in the water—hit some low points during operational testing in 2006, but is now moving forward. “We’ve got some good reports in recent weeks and months on the progress of EFV,” Conway said.

The Marines also have their sights on a new joint light tactical vehicle to replace the aging Humvee fleet. The Army, U.S. Special Operations Command, and the Marine Corps have teamed up to develop vehicles designed from the drawing board stage to operate in combat. Humvees were adapted after the fact for combat conditions.

“We certainly want to mate with the Army on any program for the joint light tactical vehicle, but I think it’s fair to say both Services are still waiting for that technological breakthrough that’s going to give us the amount of soldier and Marine protection in a vehicle that is lighter than what’s on the market right now,” Conway said.

The Marines are encountering the same problem as they attempt to develop a lighter, better productive helmet, he said.

“There is just not an apparent technological breakthrough in ceramics or in carbon fiber that’s going to give us that lightweight technology that gives equal protection,” he said.

Another program on the drawing board is the Marine personnel carrier, a medium-weight vehicle able to carry nine Marines and their gear. “We’re going to try to sort out just what that vehicle needs to look like,” Conway said.

Miles writes for American Forces Press Service.

PROGRAM EXECUTIVE OFFICE, ENTERPRISE INFORMATION SYSTEMS (AUG. 7, 2008)

PRICE NOMINATED TO BECOME FIRST ARMY ACQUISITION CORPS GENERAL OFFICER

Stephen Larsen

Col. N. Lee S. Price has been nominated by Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates for the rank of brigadier general in the U. S. Army. Her nomination for promotion has been confirmed by the Senate. She will be the first woman in the Army Acquisition Corps to be promoted to the rank of brigadier general and the first woman to become a general officer while serving in a special operations unit.

Recently assigned as the deputy program manager for the Army’s Future Combat System (Brigade Combat Team) at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md., Price is responsible for managing development of the Future Combat System’s integrated network. She previously served as the deputy acquisition executive for the U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. In that position she oversaw the procurement and acquisition of specialized equipment for the Special Forces community of Navy SEALs (Sea, Air Land), Army Rangers, the Air Force Special Operations units, and the Marine Special Operations Command.

Earlier in her career, Price served as the project manager, Defense Communications and Army Transmission Systems at Ft. Monmouth, N.J. For her work in that assignment (in which she managed multiple projects to provide commercial communications infrastructure for U.S. forces in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait), Price was honored as the Army’s Project Manager of the Year for 2004 and was selected as one of the six best program managers in the Federal Government by *Federal Computer Week* magazine in July 2004.

Price’s awards include the Defense Superior Service medal, Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, numerous meritorious and achievement medals, and a Combat Action Badge.

Larsen writes for Project Manager, Defense Communications and Army Transmission Systems (PM DCATS) at Fort Monmouth, N.J.

AIR FORCE MATERIEL COMMAND NEWS RELEASE (AUG. 8, 2008)

GENERAL PEYER ASSUMES COMMAND OF AIR LOGISTICS CENTER

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.—Maj. Gen. Polly A. Peyer took command of the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center Aug. 7 during a ceremony at the Century of Flight Hangar at the Museum of Aviation. Peyer succeeds Maj. Gen. Tom Owen, who will become the director of logistics and sustainment for Air Force Materiel Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Peyer said she was excited to be taking command of the Air Logistics Center and looked forward to what the future has in store.

“This is the job I always aspired to have,” she said. “This for me is the epitome of what I set out to do.”

Gen. Bruce Carlson, AFMC commander, presided over the ceremony. Carlson told those in attendance that the Air Logistics Center is in great hands.

“I assure you Polly Peyer comes to you with the highest credentials as both a maintenance officer and a logistician,” Carlson said.

Peyer came to Robins AFB from Headquarters U.S. Air Force, where she was director of resource integration in the office of the deputy chief of staff for logistics, installations and mission support.