MSIAC M&S Newsletter

Welcome to the November/December edition of the Modeling and Simulation Information Analysis Center (MSIAC) M&S Newsletter. In this issue you will find a variety of M&S articles and events from communities enabled by M&S within the Department of Defense and beyond. We hope you enjoy the November/ December edition and look forward to your comments.

The MSIAC notes that the wordings in the excerpts do not always correspond to official DoD usage, but that the full articles available through the links provide valuable insight into the applications of M&S technologies throughout the community.

ISSUE SPOTLIGHTS

DoD M&S Corporate and Crosscutting Business Plan Provides Focus Looking Towards 2015 Strategic Outcomes

Dr. Henninger Named as an Associate Director of DOD M&S Coordination Office

WarCap Gains Visibility and Opens Doors in the Pentagon

An Architectural Warning for the DoD

Training Site in Germany Prepares Soldiers for Combat

Joint Fires Team and Army's BCTP Team Prepare Corps Headquarters for Deployment

Myth Busted: Scientists Unveil High-Tech Army

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The following article about DoD's M&S Business Plan, was authored by COL Michael Sanders, Deputy Director, Modeling and Simulation Coordination Office (M&S CO).

DOD M&S CORPORATE AND CROSSCUTTING BUSINESS PLAN PROVIDES FOCUS LOOKING TOWARDS 2015 STRATEGIC OUTCOMES

For the past several months, the Department of Defense (DoD) Modeling and Simulation (M&S) community has continued improving the way the Department funds and develops corporate and crosscutting M&S technology at the enterprise level. Among its top priorities is an evolving enterprise M&S approach to investment, development and deployment that meets the needs of its customers, while adapting to new and emerging technology developments. The DoD has also published the "Strategic Vision for Modeling and Simulation" that includes five enterprise-level goals for M&S. The vision and goals are currently incorporated into a draft enterprise-wide business plan called the Corporate and Crosscutting Business Plan (C&CC BP).

The draft C&CC BP is both a top down and bottom up derived business plan using input from management and community business plans to provide an enterprise voice and direction for M&S across all of DoD. The C&CC BP provides a two-year focus looking towards FY 2015 outcomes. The plan also identifies four strategic challenges that are aligned with the QDR 2006 strategic challenges, plus three strategic objectives. The objectives answer: "What are the three areas which we can focus on over the next 24 months that will most improve M&S capabilities within DoD?"

The strategic objectives selected involve standards, interoperability, and visibility. These meet the three decision criteria:

1. Truly "corporate and crosscutting" – recognizing a need across multiple services and communities enabled by M&S.

2. Providing potential to drive significant improvement in DOD M&S – if well executed, they will result in real value.

3. Offering a foundation for future M&S-enabled community M&S business plans.

The DoD M&S management expects that projects supporting the strategic objective of standards will achieve a set of standards for the development,

integration, and conduct of DoD modeling and simulation activities. Results from projects for improved interoperability should drive the Department towards integrated modeling and simulation (tools, data, and services) across the spectrum of DoD activities. Finally the outcome from projects supporting visibility will increase the management's capability to discover and reuse modeling and simulation (tools, data, and services) across the Department.

The DoD M&S management has identified and approved nine critical high level tasks and their associated implementation plans. These high level tasks include four supporting the standards objective, three supporting the interoperability objective, and two supporting the visibility objective. The completion of the task implementation plans will provide a basis for the further identification and vetting necessary to allocate resources against the most critical gaps permitting crosscutting M&S capabilities. Completion of these steps will also support development of updated M&S Community Business Plans in FY 2009 and an updated Corporate and Crosscutting Business Plan in FY 2010.

The FY 2009/2010 Corporate and Crosscutting Business Plan, through its use of the M&S Strategic Vision, Goals, and Objectives, serves as an important step in furthering a focused, collaborative and adaptive approach to M&S within the Department of Defense. The plan has identified the most pressing modeling and simulation requirements of the Department at this time and indicates the path ahead to meet them through standardized, interoperable, and transparent tools, data and services wherever possible. The results will help balance investments, reduce costs, increase capability, and promote re-use while ensuring an environment focused on commonality of purpose and commitment to the warfighter.

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The following article announcing a new Associate Director, is from the Modeling and Simulation Coordination Office (MS&CO).

HENNINGER NAMED ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF DOD M&S COORDINATION OFFICE

The DoD Modeling and Simulation Coordination Office (M&S CO) has named Dr. Amy Henninger as an Associate Director.

In this capacity, Henninger will provide technical expertise to support the analysis, review, and evaluation of current and proposed modeling and simulation (M&S) policies, processes, education, infrastructure, and resources.

Henninger comes to M&S CO from the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA) where she provided technical guidance and analytic support to a variety of M&S programs across the analysis, acquisition, experimentation, testing and training communities. Most recently, she served as Study Lead to the Live Virtual Constructive Architecture Roadmap (LVCAR) Study, managed by the U.S. Joint Forces Command (JFCOM) on behalf of the DoD M&S Steering Committee (M&S SC).

With over 40 publications, Henninger has been actively engaged in a number of defense community activities to include Military Operations Research Society (MORS); Simulation Interoperability Standards Organization (SISO); Behavioral Research in Modeling and Simulation (BRIMS); and the Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference (I/ITSEC); where she served as the Conference Chair in 2007. She has also served as a guest editor to the Journal of Defense Modeling and Simulation, invited reviewer to the Autonomous Agents and Multi-agent Systems Conference, and an invited panelist to the Serious Games Conference.

Henninger is a former Adjunct Faculty Member for the M&S Graduate Program at the University of Central Florida and holds six degrees culminating in a Ph.D. in Computer Engineering.

The M&S CO, a part of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics and located in Alexandria, Va., performs those key corporate-level coordination functions necessary to encourage cooperation, synergism, and cost-effectiveness among the M&S activities of the DoD Components. The M&S CO is the Executive Secretariat for DoD M&S Management in fostering the interoperability, reuse, and affordability of crosscutting M&S to provide improved capabilities for DoD operations.

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The following article about WarCap is submitted by the Exercise Planning Lead, Warfighter Capability Demonstration Center.

WARCAP OPENS DOORS IN THE PENTAGON

In these resource constrained times, training events, experiments, wargames, and technology development can't take place in a vacuum. Unless leadership recognizes the work's value, they may not support it tomorrow. Where can you get the high-level visibility you need?

Located in the Pentagon, the Warfighter Capability Demonstration Center (WarCap) has a dual mission: to improve leadership access to real-world operations, exercises and technological developments, and to help Warfighters, planners and technology developers gain visibility with senior DoD decision makers.

While leaders may lack time or budget to travel to every exercise under their command, they often find time to observe events if the opportunity is just steps away from their office. Increased visibility can lead to increased participation, orders, cooperation and/or funding.

Under the direction of the Secretary of the Air Force Office of Warfighting Integration and Chief Information Officer, the WarCap provides a virtual portal into USAF and Joint events and a unique showcase for emerging technologies.

It's important to note that these presentations are more than PowerPoint-deep. The WarCap's full-service team of IT, audiovisual and graphics specialists and exercise planners bring an engaging and memorable "field experience" to the Pentagon. They integrate a wide array of networks, modeling and simulation tools, and high-end graphics production into a single venue.

The WarCap includes a conference-style briefing room with a data wall and seating for up to 35, and a flexible lab space where networks, simulators and workstations can be configured to spec. There is currently no cost to use the WarCap, but reimbursement is requested for special equipment or TDY support. The facility is available to US government agencies, military and civilian; contractors with a DoD or Federal sponsor may also demonstrate technologies here.

To find out more, please contact WarCap@pentagon.af.mil or 703-693-0410 (DSN 223).

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The following article about mixed architecture environments originally appeared in the Training Simulation Journal (TSJ), October/November 2008 issue.

AN ARCHITECTURAL WARNING

If the U.S. Defense Department truly wants to stop the proliferation of architectures used in the modeling and simulation community, it must start imposing penalties on the companies and military offices that insist on going their own way.

A Defense Department-sponsored final report on the road ahead for architectures used in live, virtual and constructive training is expected to go to the senior-level Modeling & Simulation Steering Committee in October and recommend that the department find ways to improve LVC interoperability in mixed architecture environments while assuming existing architectures stay in use, and/or develop policies and incentives to encourage existing architectures to converge either into one or into a

smaller set of interoperable architectures.

While the conclusions stated the obvious in giving a thumbs down to keeping the status quo, the first recommendation is a weak approach that will do little to curtail the number of architectures, especially since the M&S committee lacks funding authority.

The second proposal has merit, but only goes halfway. "Encouraging" convergence with incentives as a carrot also requires the big stick the Pentagon needs to make training systems more effective. That means an outright ban on the acquisition of any "one-off" simulation architectures.
Members compiling the year-long LVC study say they were surprised at the growth of stovepipe systems working outside the realm of existing simulation architecture standards such as High Level Architecture, or HLA. M&S is still an emergent, pioneering technology and an "anything goes" attitude runs in some circles.

However, interoperability is the non-negotiable mantra of all joint and coalition training. And standardized architectures are the backbone of interoperable, plug-and-play simulations.

So the M&S Steering Committee, which makes policy, should offer incentives to steer design engineers toward LVC architectures. But it should also close the door to architecture bloat.

For original article from Training Simulation Journal (TSJ), click here.

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The following article about a U.S. Army training base located in Germany, originally appeared in the Department of Defense's DefenseLink.

TRAINING SITE IN GERMANY PREPARES SOLDIERS FOR COMBAT

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany, Oct. 10, 2008 – The distinct cackle of machine-gun fire and the ear-piercing detonation of a simulated car-bomb are not the sounds associated with a U.S. Army base in Germany that hosts a two-star, theater-level command headquarters. But now that a forward operating base training site has been built at Panzer Kaserne, these sounds are much more common.

Soldiers of the 92nd Military Police Company tested the new facility when they conducted a field training exercise Sept. 29 to Oct. 2.

The realistic setting at Panzer provides a great backdrop for training, Army Sgt. 1st Class Robert Brenckle, 92nd MP Company operations sergeant, said. The training site resembles an Iraqi village and has multi-story structures for soldiers to practice entering and securing a building. It is also large enough to train them in establishing and defending perimeters.

But the best part for Brenckle was seeing the soldiers in action.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Tony Rosado, the companies 1st Platoon sergeant, also praised the facility for adding an element of realism and flexibility that increases the caliber of training and provides soldiers with different scenarios they likely may encounter when they deploy.

Being out here is a great opportunity and offers quite a few challenges for the soldiers. Training is crucial, Rosado said. Being here, training here, really fosters teamwork -- good teamwork within the platoons.

Army 2nd Lt. Michael Barnhart, platoon leader, agreed. The best training value probably comes from the interactions the soldiers have with one another, he said. Being out in field for a week is great. We can focus solely on the training. There are no distractions.

The layout is one of the advantages associated with training at the 10-square-acre site. The village features nine buildings, including a mosque, a farm house, two store fronts and an auto repair shop, as well as a marketplace.

The facility can bed about 120 soldiers, and it has a field dining facility, an aid station and a tactical

operations center. A 50-by-75-foot combatives pit is filled with 24 inches of Rhine River sand. Guard towers mark the four corners. A close-quarters marksmanship training facility provides for teaching the fundamentals of room clearing.

We train and learn fundamentals here that can easily be incorporated into larger settings, Barnhart said. Being here even instills a certain cultural awareness. For complete article from DefenseLink News, click here.

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The following article about the Army's BCTP team, originally appeared on the USJFCOM website.

JOINT FIRES TEAM, ARMY'S BCTP TEAM PREPARE CORPS HEADQUARTERS FOR DEPLOYMENT

FT. LEWIS, Wash. - Oct. 28, 2008 - U.S. Joint Forces Command (USJFCOM)'s Joint Fires Integration and Interoperability Team (JFIIT) and the Army's Battle Command Training Program (BCTP) joined forces here for Unified Endeavor (UE) 09-01 to prepare I Corps Headquarters to enhance its joint fires knowledge for its upcoming mission as Multinational Corps-Iraq headquarters early next year.

This mission rehearsal exercise, or MRX, running through Friday, prepares I Corps Headquarters and its subordinate staffs for operations in the complex political, military, and cultural environment as a future combined joint task force (CJTF) in Iraq.

The BCTP task force, from Ft. Leavenworth, Kan., joins USJFCOM's Joint Warfighting Center (JWFC) and JFIIT as the lead trainers for this event.

"The UE MRX is designed to help I Corps build a cohesive team that understands and is prepared for the operational and strategic environments in and around Iraq," said Army Lt. Col. Scott Wild, deputy commander for Operations Group Delta at BCTP.

"We provide subject matter experts across all warfighting functions and retired general officer senior mentors who have commanded at the highest levels within the military, said Wild. "Factor in our joint partners from USJFCOM, and we form a team that will collectively help the I Corps staff be prepared to respond to the key issues and challenges that they will face once they assume their mission in Iraq."

UE 09-01 MRX includes participants from all services and coalition partners from the United Kingdom and South Korea. This distributed, networked exercise occurs at multiple locations including Ft. Lewis, Wash., Ft. Hood, Tex., Camp Lejeune, N.C., Hurlburt Field, Fla., the JWFC, Suffolk, Va., and the United Kingdom.

According to Navy Lt. Cmdr. Chris Olson, JFIIT's UE 09-01 MRX lead, "The JFIIT team enhances the CJTF staff's ability to synchronize their joint fires capabilities in Iraq and better understand their integration and interoperability requirements."

"Our goal here is to help the I Corps staff identify their seams within the joint fires mission area so they can improve the staff planning and targeting process to fully leverage the resources and capabilities of their entire team," said Olson. "We want to help them learn how better to plan and integrate joint intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance and fires assets to increase their combat effectiveness and help them save lives."

Part of the JWFC's mission during this exercise is providing subject matter experts from their Deployable Training Team (DTT) and work with BCTP to enhance I Corps staff's training in a variety of warfighting functions.

"We work closely with BCTP and have a mutually beneficial relationship where we support these exercises to improve the realism, rigor, and experience of the training audience," said Air Force Maj. Gavin Marks, fires observer trainer, JWFC DTT. "We help units prepare for their upcoming deployments by reinforcing joint doctrine, key insights, and best practices that are currently used in

theater." For complete article from USJFCOM, click here.

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The following article about advancements in Army technology, originally appeared in the National Center for Simulation's website.

MYTH BUSTED: SCIENTISTS UNVEIL HIGH-TECH ARMY

WASHINGTON (October 9, 2008, Army News Service**) -** Advancements in science and technology that support full-spectrum operations, like exoskeletons, were discussed Wednesday at the annual meeting and exposition of the Association of the United States Army.

The forum "Busting the Low-Tech Myth: Army S&T Support to Full Spectrum Operations" provided presentations on how experimental and applied technologies show the Army has advanced across the board, from recruiting to technology in theater.

Lt. Gen. Ross Thompson, military deputy to the assistant secretary of the Army for Acquisitions, Logistics and Technology opened the panel with a report on how to grow the AL&T workforce in order to aid research and development.

"We're going to be 'in-sourcing' more things than we've been outsourcing lately," Thompson said.

Other presenters went on to discuss the importance of recruiting future generations to research and operate technologies, and how technology itself plays an important part in the recruiting; how technology helps facilitate the ability to track business, the significance of internal research and external commercial partnerships, and the technological advancements themselves, both in the experimental and applied phases. For original article from The National Center for Simulation, click here.

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For upcoming M&S events please visit the MSIAC Calendar Online.

MSIAC M&S NEWSLETTER

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