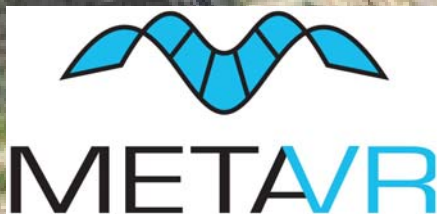


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**2nd Nov – Pre Conference Study Day
Joint Fires Target Acquisition & Call For Fire**

**3rd & 4th November – Main Conference
Close Air Support Conference**



9th ANNUAL CLOSE AIR SUPPORT CONFERENCE 2011

The 9th annual CAS conference will be held at the Royal Aeronautical Society, No 4 Hamilton Place, London W1J 7BQ on the 3rd & 4th November 2011. The conference will be preceded on 2nd Nov by a study day looking specifically at Joint Fires Target Acquisition and Call For Fire systems and processes.

The CAS conference is the leading unclassified forum of its type in Europe. The conference is attended by all the leading Forward Air Control/Joint Fires/Close Air Support organisations in Europe & North America.

Graphics courtesy of MetaVR

The Conference

The **Close Air Support Conference** will be held on the 2nd, 3rd & 4th November 2011 at the Royal Aeronautical Society in London. The aim of the **Close Air Support Conference** is to provide an opportunity for military, government and industry personnel involved with Close Air Support and Close Air Support programmes to share programme updates, future requirements, new technologies and Lessons Identified relating to Close Air Support and contemporary operations.

The **Close Air Support Conference** will be attended by requirements and acquisition officials from the Land and Air Systems divisions on national procurement bodies, as well as senior military Officers from nations across the world. Also present will be the senior management of the leading industry contractors providing relevant technologies.

The Event

The conference will be held at The Royal Aeronautical Society, London. The Society is conveniently located in central London and is easily reached from London airports and rail stations. The conference will follow the format of previous conferences namely 2 days of presentations interspersed with generous breaks to allow private discussion and viewing of the exhibition area. A lunch will be provided each day as well as refreshments during breaks.

2nd November – Study Day – Joint Target Acquisition & Call for Fire Systems

3rd & 4th November – Main Close Air Support Conference

2011 Conference Overview

With military operations in Iraq winding up the focus of operations is now in Afghanistan. CAS 2011 will feature presentations from various nations that focus on the preparation, training, equipment and joint fires support provided to the JTAC/JFO/TACP for the dismounted fight. Topics to be covered include:

- Air Land Integration
- Digital Interoperability
- Doctrinal Updates
- Air Platform Capabilities
- National Equipment & Training Programmes
- Synthetic Training



Conference Lead Sponsors:

Omega Conferences are pleased to work with **MetaVR, Inc.** as lead sponsors of this event.

MetaVR develops commercial PC-based software for the military simulation and training markets, featuring high-speed visualization of 3D content and rapid creation of networked virtual worlds using real-world data. MetaVR's goal is to provide geospecific real-time visual simulation systems with the fidelity of game quality graphics.

MetaVR's image generator

MetaVR's real-time 3D visualization software, Virtual Reality Scene Generator™ (VRSG)™, is a Microsoft DirectX-based render engine that enables users to visualize geographically expansive and detailed virtual worlds on Windows PCs with the latest commercial 3D graphics accelerators. VRSG provides high-performance real-time, single- or multiple-channel visualization of virtual environments, dynamic moving models, and special effects.

VRSG can be used as a:

- Dedicated computer IG coupled to an external simulation host in single or synchronized multi-channel mode. As an IG, VRSG supports the features that are typically required for flight training, driving simulations, and many other applications.
- Standalone DIS or HLA stealth visualization tool, providing real-time or after-action analysis of distributed simulation exercises.
- Self-contained First Person Shooter or UAV camera payload operator. to simulate individual combatants, JTACs, or forward air controllers.
- Self-contained UAV camera payload operator to render simulated UAV payload video and to stimulate video players such as a ROVER.

Use of MetaVR VRSG in CAS simulation training

The U.S. Air Combat Command (ACC) at Langley, VA, has approved MetaVR Virtual Reality Scenario Generator™ (VRSG™) version 5.5 or higher and the Air Force Research Lab Joint Terminal Attack Controller Training Rehearsal System (JTAC TRS) as systems that can be used by trainees to complete JTAC simulator-based terminal attack control requirements. The ACC issued this approval as a result of MetaVR software capabilities demonstrated during a series of JTAC simulated scenarios orchestrated by networked Air National Guard sites during a simulation summit in June 2009. With this approval, the training hours JTACs spend using MetaVR software now contribute to approved simulator training credits for terminal attack control requirements.

MetaVR VRSG is used in JTAC simulation training at U.S. Air National Guard sites through the Distributed Training Operations Center (DTOC) for Distributed Mission Operations, at U.S. Air Force Distributed Mission Operations Center (DMOC) at Kirtland Air Force Base, and at approximately 30 Air Support Operations Squadron (ASOS) sites in the U.S. and overseas. For more information, see MetaVR's website at www.metavr.com

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Rockwell Collins is a world leader in the design, manufacture and integration of advanced avionics, communications, data links and navigation systems for Armed Forces world wide. Rockwell Collins is also supplier of precision military navigation and targeting systems including the USAF TACP-CASS system, providing USAF with over 1,000 fielded TACP systems. Most recently Rockwell was awarded the UK MoD ITGA targeting system contract based upon the Rockwell Collins FireStorm system. The FireStorm Joint Fires targeting system for both Forward-Air-Controllers and Forward Observation Officers is a turnkey targeting system, enabling digital transmissions of CAS 9-line messages and Artillery Calls for Fire and a unique accuracy augmentation capability able to correct inherent system targeting errors. This system is also sold internationally to coalition partners seeking to employ market leading CAS and Joint Fires solutions. **Telephone:** +44 (0) 118 926 111 or www.rockwellcollins.com



Top Aces, a subsidiary of Discovery Air, is the sole provider of Airborne Training services for the Canadian Forces. We deliver cost effective, leading edge, tactical aviation solutions, directly contributing to the readiness of Canada's men and women in uniform. Our services include high quality Close Air Support that directly contributes to the training of NATO qualified Joint Terminal Attack Controllers. Top Aces is dedicated to the delivery of the highest quality Airborne Training services available. We are proud to support the Canadian Forces and would be honored to support the Force Generation requirements of other NATO militaries, as well. Website addresses: www.DiscoveryAir.com & www.TopAces.ca



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STUDY DAY AGENDA – WEDS 2nd NOV:**09:00 Chairmans introduction & Welcome****Session 1 – Dismounted Target Acquisition**

The morning session of the Study day will look at requirements for dismounted target acquisition sensors. The session will seek to utilise the collective international military experience and industry technological expertise present in the room to try and establish a consensus for accuracy and range requirements in handheld/tripod mounted sensors used by dismounted operators. The questions to be addressed include:

- What are the tactical & technical pros & cons of active laser designation of targets versus target grid mensuration?
- What are realistic measurement/targeting/designation ranges for the dismounted forward observer?
- What are the implications of this distance for system accuracy, size, weight & power consumption?
- Do the minimum safety distances of certain munitions impact the accuracy requirement?
- Impact of Rules of Engagement (ROE) and Collateral Damage considerations on accuracy and image quality required for target ID.
- Do accuracy requirements differ in Urban & Rural environments and Day & Night operations?
- What digital outputs are required from targeting sensors and in what form?

09:10 Dismounted Target Acquisition Systems: The Error Budget in Tactical Scenarios

Digby Williams, Omega Conferences

Digby Williams is a former British Army Officer with experience in Battlefield Surveillance & Target Acquisition (STA). After leaving the Army he worked for Instro Precision for 8 years selling STA Systems internationally. He has extensive experience of integrated electro optic STA systems and some of the technical problems associated with obtaining accurate target coordinates in the tactical environment.

The presentation will examine the error budget inherent in these systems with regard to:

- Common error sources
- Relationship between accuracy and system size & weight
- Implications of target range for system initialisation times
- Power consumption

The presentation will serve to provoke debate between the assembled military users and industry technical experts.

09:55 USAF & US Army Dismounted Targeting

Lt Col Eric Tyson, Chief, Joint & Combined Integration Directorate, Fires Center of Excellence, Fort Sill, US Army

Main effort for US JFO's is the current fight in Afghanistan. Operations are largely dismounted and are characterised by engagements with an enemy that uses close rural terrain, urban areas and proximity to civilian populations for cover. The JFO must provide effective precision fires for the supported commander in these challenging circumstances whilst observing the Rules of Engagement, avoiding Collateral Damage and ensuring that target grid mensuration is matched to the accuracy of the weapon employed. The presentation will describe these challenges and how they are addressed:

10:40 Coffee**11:10 Increased combat effectiveness, lethality and confidence through reliable target accuracy**

Mark Luker, Vice President Business Development & Chuck Fulk, Director Programs, Vectronix Inc.

Reliable Target grid, the HRG (Hemispheric Resonator Gyro) solution. Providing precise engagement of targets at distance from a reliable, nonmagnetic source is desperately needed. The concern is that the effectiveness of the weapons system or the caliber has been developed over the past several years whereas the ability to precisely find the target has not changed.

12:00 to 12:30 Discussion on accurate target acquisition in the dismounted environment.**12:30 Lunch****Session 2 – Call for Fire - Sensor to Shooter Data Transfer**

The afternoon session will examine the use of digital targeting systems in the dismounted environment. It is now common for Forward Observers (FOO's, JFO's & JTAC's) to carry a rugged PC running targeting software. The most basic function of these systems is to pass digital targeting messages to joint fires platforms. However, they are increasingly used for additional tasks including: improved situational awareness, video imagery, target coordinate refinement, blue force tracking and airspace management.

- What is the ideal form factor for a rugged PC in the dismounted environment
- What is the optimum method of integrating peripheral sensors particularly radios and targeting devices
- Is it possible to adopt a common call for fire message for all indirect fires or must Artillery, Mortars & CAS have different messages?
- IDM, AFATDS, Link 16, VMF – Can we move to a common standard and still achieve interoperability?

13:30 Sensor to Shooter Integration – Australian Joint Fires

Colonel Brian Bailey, Col Joint Fires, ISTAR Brigade, Forces Command, Australian Defence Force

The Australian Defence Force is currently making great efforts to enhance its indirect and joint fires capabilities. These efforts include acquisitions of new 155mm Howitzers, a new digital Artillery Fire Control System, the introduction of precision munitions and the establishment of Joint Fires Teams to support the manoeuvre commander. To enable the effective operation of the Joint Fires Teams a new BMS – Fires or Digital Terminal Control System will be introduced. The presentation will describe the requirements for this system including:

- Required digital interfaces
- Sensor Integration
- Coalition interoperability
- Likely employment scenarios

14:15 Integrating Aerial Platforms into the Dismounted Battlespace. Current Capabilities & Future Requirements

Col Tom Webster, Joint Integration Division, Air Combat Command, USAF

USAF JTAC's currently use the TACP CASS system for Digital Close Air Support missions in support of Ground Manoeuvre. This system digitally integrates USAF combat aircraft into the land battlespace and is also capable of passing target messages to Army indirect fire platforms. The system is combat proven and has been continuously updated since its introduction into service in 2002. Originally a laptop and manpack radio it has evolved into a wearable solution for the dismounted combat airman. The presentation will describe the system capabilities, digital interfaces and mission specific improvements made on behalf of the dismounted user in the current fight including: Integration of lighter radios made possible by the introduction of the ASOC Gateway, Continuous efforts to field lighter, smaller rugged computers, Human Machine Interface enhancements Incorporation of blue force tracking, Improved peripheral sensors – LRF, GPS

15:00 Tea/Coffee**15:30 Dismounted Digital Integration in the MAGTF**

Major Brian Newbold, Program Manager Digital Fires Situational Awareness, Product Group 11, USMC Systems Command.

The US Marine Corps uses the StrikeLink™ system to integrate dismounted FOO's & JTAC's to its ground and airborne indirect fire assets. StrikeLink™ provides a single fires architecture for the Corps with an ability to perform Naval Fires, Digital Call For Fire, Digital Close Air Support and Command & Control on one system. The presentation will describe the system and some of the advantages of such an approach.

16:15 Digital Joint Fires Integration in the Norwegian Armed Forces.

LtCol Bjorn Kenneth Nilssen, Team Leader, Norwegian Battlelab & Experimentation NOBLE.

The Norwegian Army are currently in the process of upgrading and improving their Joint Indirect Fire capabilities. One such project is to establish a common equipment set, including Target Acquisition Sensors and Fire Control Systems, for all forward observers including Artillery & Mortar Forward Observation Officers and Forward Air Controllers. Forward Air Controllers have used the FACNAV digital fire control system for some time, including use on operations, whilst Artillery & Mortar forward observers have used an older legacy system. Adoption of the more capable FACNAV system has a number of advantages, not least training & logistics, whilst greatly improving the Joint Fires capabilities of Norwegian Forces. The presentation will describe the changes being made, the system capabilities and the improvements to capability that it will deliver.

MAIN CONFERENCE AGENDA DAY ONE – THURS 3rd NOV:**08:50 Chairmans introduction & Welcome**

Col (Retd) John Goodsir CBE, Conference Chairman

09:10 UK Air Land Integration – The Resource Challenge

Group Captain Graham Thwaites, Chief of Staff, Joint Air Land Organisation.

- Increasing FAC requirement/capabilities versus reducing resources.
- Mitigation Strategies.
- STANAG/MOA - unpalatable realities.

09:50 Integration and Synchronization of Joint Lethal and Non Lethal Fires in the Targeting Process

Col Tom Webster, Commander, Joint Integration Division, Air Combat Command, USAF

- Key factors influencing recent procedural and structural change
- Language and communication challenges on coalition operations and finding a working solution around inherent multinational issues
- Ongoing challenges, lessons learned and recommendations for Commanders

10:30 Coffee**11:00 Marine Air Ground Task Force Fires Integration**

Lt Col Andrew Tate, Artillery/JTAC OccField Sponsor, Ground Indirect Fires Officer, GCE Branch, PP&O, HQ United States Marine Corps.

The presentation will update attendees on developments in Marine Air Ground Fires Integration. The topics to be discussed include:

- JTAC/JFO organization, equipment and training
- Integration of JTAC/JFO in the Fire Support Team
- Role of the Air Officer in the GCE
- MAGTF Fires continuum of training
- Integration of ground and air precision fires
- Marine Aviation support to the MAGTF

11:40 Next Generation CAS - Disruptive Technologies

Philip Yanni, GS Architect, Rockwell Collins, C4I Poway CA

The Next Generation of Close Air Support and Call for Fires will be dramatically changed by disruptive technologies coming to the battlefield. With the concept of persistent UAS coverage, ISR Networks, GPS guided shells, and radically improved datalinks coming to fruition the opportunity arises to change how we digitally integrate CAS and CFF. Internet protocol networks now reach to the edge and will soon be part of the dismounted soldiers kit. Tactical Portals have become ubiquitous on the battlefield enabling access to legacy aircraft via handheld radios. Disruptive technologies are changing the way we access and combine designators, spotters, and Laser Range Finders. Using Augmented reality the next generation of JTACs will be able to select between CAS and CFF missions, identify unique effects, and render BDA through their heads up display. New programs such as PCAS are pushing these technologies into the fore-front.

12:20 Lunch**13:30 Contracted Close Air Support**

Jason Nelder, Pilot, Top Aces, Discovery Air

The presentation will highlight the advantages in using contracted air assets in the training of JTAC's. This type of service can be used for basic JTAC training all the way up to complex joint and combined exercises for army command, control and integration training. It is particularly relevant now as the armed services are constantly looking at ways to minimize training costs, yet have effective, realistic exercises in preparation for deployment. The importance of transparency of air assets will also be addressed. Ideally, the contracted air service should be equivalent to a modern fighter as far as the army is concerned, but cost less. To conclude, the briefing will identify key steps that government and the armed services need to take to have a successful contracted close air support service.

> Next column

14:10 NATO Forward Air Controller (FAC) and CAS Initiatives

LCdr Steven Djunaedi, USA Navy, Fratricide Prevention Integrated Project Team Leader, Cdr Peter Hagge, USA Navy, Combat ID and Friendly Force Tracker (FFT) Project Lead, Major Steve Behmer, USA Air Force, FAC Capability Officer, NATO Air North HQ, Ramstein.

The presentation will describe current NATO initiatives to improve NATO FAC standardisation and training, Combat ID / FFT, and DTE. Projects to be discussed will include:

- Harmonisation of NATO FAC doctrine and TTPs, including Pre-Deployment Training.
- National FAC schoolhouse and programme accreditation.
- Updates on ISAF Combat ID Server and FFT initiatives for the Alliance.
- Multi-National Approach to Distributed Training & Exercises for FAC and CAS training using Live, Virtual and Constructive simulation.

14:50 The Status of Joint Close Air Support Training

Colonel Mike Reed, J3 Officer, Joint Deployable Analysis Team (JDAT), US Joint Staff.

The Joint Deployable Analysis Team (JDAT) conducted an analysis of Joint Forces Close Air Support Training on behalf of the Joint Fires Executive Steering Committee. The presentation will update attendees on the methods used for data collection, the observed population and the results. The presentation will conclude by providing some lessons learned from the analysis of the data and recommendations for future improvement.

15:30 Tea/Coffee**16:00 The role of the Warrior Preparation Center (WPC) in Live Virtual Constructive JTAC training in USAF Theater**

Andy Rhude, Civilian, DMO/LVC Exercise Planner, Warrior Preparation Center, USAF.

The presentation describes how the WPC ties in virtual and constructive simulators to live US Army, JTAC, NATO and coalition partner pre-deployment training. Using UAV and fighter sims to send full motion streaming video tied in to live instrumented ranges to ROVERs in the field and ASTi/DIS radio to communicate with remote participants, the WPC is on the leading edge of LVC JTAC training. Also WPC's partnering with Air Battlespace Training Centre (ABTC) for Joint Fires Training.

16:40 USAF JTAC Training Rehearsal System

MSgt Darrell K. DeMotta, TACP NCOIC, 705 Combat Training Squadron (CTS)

Presentation will discuss the overall concept of the 705 CTS and Distributed Mission Operations Center (DMOC) and how training is received through Virtual Flag (VF) and smaller scale exercise. It will discuss how the integration of armed over watch and ISR aircraft is accomplished with live full motion video to find, fix, track, target, engage, and assess fixed and moving targets, employ integrated Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) and Joint Forward Observer (JFO) teams in support participant objectives to execute TTPs in Close Air Support (CAS), Call for Fire (CFF), and Joint Air Attack Teams (JAAT) in urban and linear operations. The presentation will conclude by describing ongoing efforts to improve equipment, software and training.

17:20 JTAC Immersive Systems: Commercial Products For Simulating CAS Scenarios (MetaVR)

W. Garth Smith, President and CEO, MetaVR, Richard Rybacki, CTO, MetaVR, George Forbes, President, Immersive Display Solutions, Gary DeYoung, President, Battlespace Simulations

There are several ways that you can simulate the functionality needed for Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) warfighter training in close air support (CAS) exercises. This presentation describes multiple JTAC simulation options that use MetaVR's visualization software. The hierarchy of options described increase in functionality and fidelity ranging from desktop systems to immersive dome systems such as the JTAC immersive dome.

18:00 – 20:00 Reception in Argyll Room with drinks & canapés.

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MAIN CONFERENCE AGENDA DAY TWO – FRI 4th NOV**09:00 Chairmans Opening Remarks****09:10 Distributed Air Land Training in the UK**

Wg Cdr Jon Smith, Officer Commanding, Air Battlespace Training Centre, RAF Waddington

The Distributed Synthetic Air Land Training (DSALT) system is installed at the Air Battlespace Training Centre at RAF Waddington. The system allows pilots, headquarters level fire planning cells and fire support teams to conduct joint pre-deployment training in a highly realistic, synthetic environment. The presentation will describe the system as follows:

- What DSALT provides & how.
- Training programme overview.
- Results.
- Issues - technical & resource.
- The future?

09:50 DOTC(AIR) – The Missing Link in its effective and efficient provision

Jon Chitty OBE, Consultant, Plexsys IPI & Clive Disdel, E-3D MTS Site Manager, RAF Waddington, Plexsys IPI

Training for Distributed Mission Operations means:

- the ability to conduct Distributed Mission training across all team, collective, joint, and combined environments in timeframes from the immediate ad hoc, through to the more measured scheduled annual training and certification programmes, using existing technologies and equipments; whilst minimizing the cost of that training.
- Provision purely by live training is simply not possible because of cost, time and asset availability.
- So mix of Live, Virtual and Constructive training a necessity.

This requires real-time generation and control of a joint virtual battlespace, within which individual sites at command, main base or squadron level can train and rehearse.

Battlespace Emulation; Scenario Creation and Editing, Entity Creation and Management, Voice Communication, Exercise C2, and Mission Recording and Review are all elements that must be cohesive, timely and efficient to ensure effective role play and immersion of directing staff and players alike.

This presentation will explain how all these essential characteristics can be provided under a product called ASCOT - Advanced Simulation Combat Operations Trainer - developed by Plexsys IPI.

10:30 Tea/Coffee**11:00 Operating in a Multinational Environment – From NATO Training to ISAF, The French Air Force Experience**

LCL Christophe Aube, Second in Command, FRA – DEU Air to Ground Operations School, French Air Force

LCL Aube has served as the Senior JTAC Program Manager with ISAF in Afghanistan. The presentation will provide a French perspective on the following:

- French CAS / JTAC feedback on ISAF operations
- Lessons learnt for training
- What does the French Air Force see as necessary training for JTACs and why
- Explaining next steps for higher Air Land Integration
- Future development of French Air Force CAS capabilities

11:40 Training & Integrating Joint Fires Observers

Lt Col Eric Tyson, Chief, Joint & Combined Integration Directorate, Fires Center of Excellence, Fort Sill, US Army.

The presentation will update the audience on JFO developments concerning doctrine to better integrate the JFO and JTAC team, new versions of the JFO MOA and JFO ATTP and the evolving equipment program. It will provide examples of JFO sustainment efforts and management programs world-wide, a schools viewpoint on training, and discuss properly equipping the JFO for OP and dismounted operations. The presentation will also cover JFO CAS ops directly with aircraft and with a JTAC or FAC in the loop.

12:20 Lunch**14:00 The USAF TACP-M Program**

James Forney, Dismounted Communications Package (DCP) Program Manager, Electronics Systems Center Hanscom AFB, USAF

- Overview of the TACP-M Office
- Program highlights for 2011 and 2012
- Status of Acquisition efforts for TACP-M programs
- Dismounted Hardware (Procurement status)
- DCP (Purpose, Description, and Status)
- Stryker (Equipment and Installation status in vehicles)
- ASOC Gateway (Status)
- Close Air Support System (CASS) Software (Information on fielded software version 1.4.2, on software being developed v1.4.4, planned software acquisition v1.4.5)
- TACP-M Requirements status

14:20 CANDROID – CAS on Android

Tara K Maurer, Product Manager, Harris Corporation

How the use of Android applications will transform tomorrow's CAS missions.

15:00 Tea/Coffee**15:30 The Variable Message Format (VMF) Initialisation & Planning Application (VIPA)**

Sqn Ldr John Reid, Lead Requirements Manager, Tactical Datalink Delivery Team, Defence Equipment & Support Organisation, UK MoD

The Variable Message Format (VMF) K-Series Tactical Data Link message standard is progressively being adopted as the de-facto solution for digital communications in the Air/Land environment, particularly in Close Air Support (CAS) missions. The resulting expansion in users has created a need for automated design and production of VMF Network Designs.

UK MOD's Variable Message Format (VMF) Initialisation & Planning Application (VIPA) is a software application that directly addresses this need by allowing military communications network planners to create VMF Network Designs and Initialisation Loads to support military operations.

16:10 Close Air Support Developments in the Norwegian Armed Forces

Lt Col BK Nilssen, Section Leader, Norwegian Battlelab & Experimentation (NOBLE)

- Overview of Norwegian CAS/Joint Fires structure and organisation - current & future - including equipment
- NORAGOS training including use of simulation
- Lessons learnt from operations in Afghanistan
- Future developments

16:50 Chairmans Closing remarks**17:00 Finish**

