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Chinese Threat Conference

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DFIRST was developed by SRI International for the Defense Department Advanced Research Projects Agency under the SIMITAR program. SIMITAR was initiated after the 1991 Persian Gulf War to provide more realistic operational training for Army National Guard units.

Testing by the Idaho National Guard culminated in a force-on-force training exercise where nine M1A1 tanks from Alpha Company, 2d Battalion, mounted a mock attack on a ridgeline defended by eight tanks from Charlie Company. Each Abrams tank was outfitted with DFIRST instrumentation prior to the exercise.

DFIRST instrumentation provides position location for all participants and engagement simulation of combatant offensive actions including weapon firing, target indication, real-time casualty assessment, damage indication and kill removal. DFIRST can also sow virtual minefields and simulate artillery fire in the exercise area.

During the 29 October exercise at the Idaho Guard's Orchard Training Area, all eight defenders were killed or disabled during the simulated fire fight. Only two tanks from the victorious Alpha Company were fully operational when the battle ended.

Shortly after the exercise, participants watched an instant replay of the skirmish on a large-screen monitor in an after-action review (AAR) trailer. Commanders studied the replay in slow motion and stop action, noting mistakes and planning new tactics for the next engagement.

DFIRST equipment includes a test control base station housed in a 28-foot trailer; an AAR trailer; a lunch-box size participant instrumentation package containing GPS, communications and processing equipment, which is installed in Guard vehicles, and associated cabling and antennas. As currently configured, DFIRST can track up to 60 participants. With relay antennas deployed, the base station recorded exercise data throughout the Idaho Guard's 20 by 30 kilometer training area.

Pointing angle for shooters, M1A1 tanks and M2/M3 Bradleys, is derived using GPS interferometry. The technique uses two GPS receivers mounted on special meter-long jigs-

that are mounted on gun barrels. Real-time calculation of the relative position of the two antennas provides a pointing accuracy of approximately 2 to 3 milliradians. When a shooter fires, a cone-shaped beam, instead of a round, is projected across the battlefield. Damage to an intended victim operating within the cone at the moment of trigger pull is calculated at the base station using statistical tables. Visual and digital displays on board the target indicate results that can range from a near-miss to a catastrophic kill.

SRI project leader Chris Terndrup summarized DFIRST capabilities, saying, "For the first time ever, Army Guard units can replay exercises conducted at local ranges. Also, since the GPS instrumentation does not require time-consuming calibrations like current laser systems, DFIRST frees up several additional hours of training time during compressed weekend training schedules. Finally, DFIRST can simulate near-misses, mobility kills, firepower kills or catastrophic kills. Current systems offer only the near-miss or catastrophic kill options."

SRI took 16 months and spent approximately \$4.6 million developing the system.

AH-64A Apache Longbow Program

Two US Army AH-64A Apaches, the first of more than 750 Apaches scheduled for remanufacture into the advanced AH-64D Longbow Apache configuration, have landed on the McDonnell Douglas flight line. The Apaches, which arrived 17 November 1995, will be stripped to their basic fuselage and remanufactured beginning in 1996. First deliveries are scheduled for early 1997.

Remanufacturing will give the Apache even greater capabilities as it will incorporate proven technologies that emerged after the AH-64A went into service in 1986. The Army plans to remanufacture its entire AH-64A Apache fleet over the next decade. The remanufacturing program gained momentum in October when the Department of Defense (DOD) authorized the Army to enter into full-

rate production of the Longbow Apache aircraft and the Longbow fire control radar system. The Longbow Apache enhancements will help set the standard for future combat helicopters.

The two initial Longbow Apache aircraft are veterans of Operations *Desert Shield* and *Desert Storm* and were used by the 1/82d Attack Helicopter Battalion at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, from October 1987 until April 1994. The Apaches were then transferred to the 6th Cavalry Brigade at Fort Hood, Texas. The 6th Cavalry officially delivered the two helicopters for the remanufacturing program.

Chinese Threat Conference

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"The Chinese Threat: Theory or Reality" conference was held 1 December 1995 in Los Angeles, sponsored by The Claremont Institute and The Institute of International Relations, Taiwan. Defense experts speaking at the conference included Mike Pillsbury, Atlantic Council; Senior Fellow; Ambassador James Lily, Visiting Scholar, Claremont McKenna College; Bernard Cole, National Defense University; and Mark Clark, Director, National Security Studies Program, California State University, San Bernadino. Several current diplomats from various Asian-Pacific countries also presented their views.

The conference was attended by 65 government, academic, military and industry representatives from both the United States and East Asia. Panels on "PRC [People's Republic of China] Military Capabilities and Intentions," "Responding to the Chinese Threat I: China's Immediate Neighbors" and "Responding to the Chinese Threat II: The US Response" were held. Key points and themes raised during this event were:

- Projections made by the RAND Corporation, the World Bank and others suggest that, by 2020, China's gross national product will be 8 trillion dollars—slightly greater than that of the United States.

- China currently has weak military forces that are no match for the Armed Forces of the United States. By 2020, however, China will have the economic resources to buy the advanced weaponry and systems that will emerge from the revolution in military affairs (RMA). The United States will not be able to match Chinese defense spending in this regard because of the costs incurred in maintaining older US force structures.

- Over the last year, some very advanced RMA-focused articles have appeared in Chinese military journals. Some of these journals are specifically dedicated to the study of RMA-based warfighting. RMA articles that appear in US military journals are now regularly translated for study by the Chinese military.

- The Taiwan Straits and the South China Sea are potentially the two most important flash points in East Asia because of Chinese military activity. It is suggested, however, that because of China's current military weakness, it is unlikely now to risk a war over territorial claims such as the Spratly Islands.

- By 2020, triangular nuclear equivalence will be likely between China, Russia and the United States because of the drawdowns the latter two nations are conducting as a result of strategic arms limitations treaties.

- Although a containment strategy is unnecessary now, the current policy of engagement is insufficient to moderate aggressive Chinese behavior. Two other alternatives exist in our relations with China—balancing and a strategy of linkages. Balancing represents a forward-deployed US military presence in East Asia as a counter to Chinese military forces, while linkages would represent a related strategy that would link aggressive Chinese behavior to specific US-led responses. Both of these alternatives would likely require the deployment of theater missile defenses to protect US forces and regional allies.

- For the past three years, Chinese leaders have promoted the idea that the United States is organizing a containment strategy. It was a widely shared view that China's leaders were using this idea as a diplomatic tool to forestall a US-led alliance against

them, especially as China approaches superpower status.

Reutilization: Your First Source of Supply

Department of Defense (DOD) activities are saving millions of dollars every year through the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service (DRMS) Reutilization Program. From routine requirements to specialized equipment, a wealth of excess, "ready-to-use" property is received daily by DRMS. By using the DRMS Reutilization Program, DOD components can reduce procurement costs and eliminate unnecessary repairs. Every dollar's worth of property reutilized is a supply dollar saved. The materiel is provided to DOD activities at *no cost* by DRMS, though some DOD accountable officers may impose a charge to end users.

Almost every item in the military supply system can be found at a Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO). The military services turn in excess property at DRMOs located on or near most US military facilities worldwide. As bases realign or close, property is being received at a volume that has not been seen since the end of World War II.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 1994, DOD activities reutilized over \$2 billion worth of property—a 15-percent increase over 1993. In FY 1995, \$2.3 billion of property was reutilized.

DOD customers can quickly access property information via the Interrogation Requirements Information System (IRIS), an advanced automated screener. On-site property screening at a local DRMO provides only a hint of the property now available. By using a computer and modem, DOD customers can access IRIS to review property available worldwide. Items are listed on IRIS by National Stock Number (NSN), National Item Identification Number (NIIN), or an item's three- or four-digit Routing Identification Code (RIC). Within seconds, the location and quantity of a requested item will appear on-screen. Customers without on-line terminals can request IRIS data from their supporting DRMO. If a DOD customer is uncertain which DRMO

is assigned as support, the information can be found by calling the Reutilization Help Line at 1-800-DRMS-RTD.

Property available for reutilization is listed on the DRMS Homepage via the Internet World Wide Web at: <http://131.87.1.51>. The database includes Local Stock Numbers (LSN) as well as NSNs, allowing customers to search by NIIN, Federal Supply Class (FSC), Federal Supply Group (FSG) or noun (nomenclature) name. Searches can also be conducted by specific DRMO or by geographic zone. A "clickable" site field at the bottom of the homepage allows customers to "pull down" DRMO addresses and phone numbers.

In the past, DOD activities were given first priority for issue of DRMS assets. Under revised disposal procedures, property is now issued to DOD, non-DOD federal agencies and certain state drug enforcement or treatment programs on a "first-come, first-served" basis. This means that requisitioning actions should begin immediately after screening. For more information, call Carol Simpson, DRMS Public Affairs Officer, at (616) 961-7015 or DSN 932-7015.

20th Army Science Conference

The 20th Army Science Conference, sponsored by the assistant secretary of the Army (Research, Development and Acquisition), will be held at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott and Norfolk Convention Center, 24 to 27 June 1996. Inaugurated in 1957, the Army Science Conference provides a professional forum for presentation, discussion and recognition of leading-edge achievements by Army civilian and military scientists and engineers. The 20th Army Science Conference will feature presentation of 150 papers and posters addressing the role of *Science and Technology for Force XXI*.

For information, call Catherine Kominos at (703) 697-3558.

