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# General/Flag Officer Panel Highlights

## Continuing Training Challenges

### Reflecting on this year's theme of "Learn. Train. Win!"

the General/Flag Officer Panel again challenged the audience to think about how to deliver effective training and simulation to the US military.

The panelists all represented agencies that have a direct and dramatic influence on the training systems and the training conditions of the services as they prepare for current and future operations. The panel was moderated by the president of the National Training and Simulation Association, Rear Admiral Fred L. Lewis USN (Ret) who stated that it was, "a real highlight special event."

The panel session was kicked off by Dr. Samuel D. Kleinman, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Readiness). Kleinman told the audience that it "shouldn't be thinking of training as that phase before deployment .... training is that thing that units do all the time." He added that deployed operations were just another learning environment for the military.

Kleinman also made some interesting observations about how training is delivered and the potential distortion of learning when timelines are condensed in order to cram more into short exercises. He concluded by saying that outside the I/ITSEC community more had to be done to inform people of the value of some types of training, such as distributed learning.

Next up to the stage was Lieutenant General Rick Lynch, Commanding General, III Corps and Fort Hood. Gen Lynch has a vast amount of operational experience and echoed Kleinman's comments on deployed operations being another learning experience, but he also went further to say that the nature of operations has changed and more must be done to prepare Soldiers for this change.

Both he and another panelist, Major General Jason K. Kamiya, Commander, Joint Warfighting Center, US Joint Forces Command, said that US training was not yet geared to training personnel for the kind of operations that are now the norm. In particular, more must be done to prepare those deploying on operations for the non-kinetic, non-lethal capacity building missions that are part and parcel of deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq.

A US Navy perspective was given by Rear Admiral Gary Jones, Commander, Naval Education and Training Command, who highlighted some of the major challenges for his service as the systems it uses become ever more complex. He also added that the unique operating environment of the Navy presents challenges when it came to utilising some training capabilities such as distributed training emphasising, that for the Navy it's "basically all about bandwidth."

Expanding on his comments to the *Show Daily*, Major General



The panel discussed today's and tomorrow's training needs.

Erwin F. Lessel, Director of Plans, Programs, Requirements, and Assessments, Air Education and Training Command, set the scene for his briefing today. He also officially announced the 'go live' of the initial MyBase presence in Second Life. (*see day 2 cover*)

He was particularly keen to emphasize the potential of virtual environments for training and learning. He added that, as well as looking at the potential of the internet, the US Air Force was also looking at the potential of developing such environments in the .mil and SiproNet realms.

Wrapping up the panel was Major (Ret) Jeffery W. Bearor, Executive Deputy of the US Marine Corps Training and Education Command. Bearor re-emphasised many of the points made by the other speakers.

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## Cubic Sponsors User Forum Again During I/ITSEC

On Monday morning Cubic sponsored a Combat Training Center User Forum for the ABCA Nations (America, Britain, Canada and Australia) for the second consecutive year. The event, which took place at the Cubic Simulation Systems facility in Orlando, allows discussion of the latest trends in live, virtual, constructive, multinational and joint training at combat training centers globally.

The Canadians and British have Cubic-provided fixed site systems – Canadian Weapons Effects Simulator and Area Weapons Effects Simulator – for training at the battle group

and brigade level. The Australian Land 134 System, also called Combat Training Center Land Instrumentation System (CTCLIS), is a transportable system designed for use at company level. The Alaska Training Range Evolution Program is also deployable and, as the name suggests, encourages the implementation of updated technology.

About 40 people attended the event, including staff officers and trainers from National Ministries of Defence, Force and Training Headquarters and CTCs. A central theme was training for the contemporary

operating environment, including deployable training systems and training in urban and other complex terrain. It was organised in three sessions involving presentations followed by lively interactive discussion and finished with demonstrations of the latest instrumentation for dismounted soldiers including a man-portable exercise control (EXCON) system. The various national representatives once again acknowledged the benefit of coming together to discuss training challenges common to them all, notably ways to achieve greater interoperability.