

to help provide the guidance, expertise and support required by the RAAF for its successful participation in Coalition Virtual Flag 15."

CATT RENEWAL FROM LMCO

The UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) is investing USD 16 million in additional support for the virtual training system used to prepare British soldiers for battle. Lockheed Martin has been awarded a contract extension to continue its support for the Combined Arms Tactical Trainer (CATT), which is based at the Land Warfare Centre in Warminster, UK. BAE Systems will also provide support services for the contract.

CATT, which uses an immersive, computer generated environment to train up to 450 military personnel on a virtual battlefield, has been used by the Army since 2001. It was a key element of pre-deployment training for soldiers preparing to serve in Afghanistan. Lockheed Martin will provide new training scenarios and content for CATT to help train Army personnel until 2018.

"Since the inception of the UK CATT programme in 2001, we've helped the British Army prepare more than 100,000 service members to accomplish their operations," said Jim Weitzel, Vice President of Training Solutions for Lockheed Martin. "Extending these capabilities into the CATT programme will boost complexity and realism, making it the most demanding and intensive ground training system personnel can use to ensure they are mission-ready."

The world's largest virtual training system, CATT is run jointly by the Lockheed Martin team and the MoD. This contract extension sustains more than forty jobs in Warminster and Sennelager in Germany where staff are involved in operating and maintaining the training system.

MASA CEMENTS FRENCH SUCCESS

MASA Group's long-term military customer, the French Army has acquired a global license for the company's SWORD constructive training system. Initially selecting SWORD in 2002, this recent agreement follows many years of collaboration between MASA, the French procurement agency (DGA) and the French Land Forces. SWORD provides training for SOULT (the simulation program for Combined Forces and Ground Logistics Units' Operations), for the operational training of Combined Forces at divisional, brigade, and battle group command post levels.

SWORD is an automated constructive simulation that is powered by artificial intelligence-driven technologies and algorithms, enabling simulated units to act according to the French Army's doctrine. This capability means large-scale exercises are conducted in the most realistic and cost-effective ways possible.

Squadron Commander Thierry Cadot, the Programme Manager of SOULT, welcomed the move, saying, "the deployment of SWORD by the Army is the culmination of a process that responds optimally to the needs expressed by the Armed Forces. The requirement for training supported by simulation has never been more evident than at the start of Operation Sentinelle. The fragmentation of the armed forces has made it necessary to have flexible training tools that let us work effectively with reduced staff numbers and simulate a large variety of situations. Thanks to SWORD, all of these objectives are attainable. The Army now possesses an extraordinary training tool for its command posts".

Colonel Philippe Dutroncy, SDOR EMAT (Network Operations Development Service, Land Forces Command), added, "SOULT will allow the French Army to achieve the following objectives: to systematize simulation training as a way to prepare for a wide number of operational engagements; to streamline simulation tools deployed in the forces and at training centers; and to continue expanding the use of simulation for capability preparation or for support on operations."

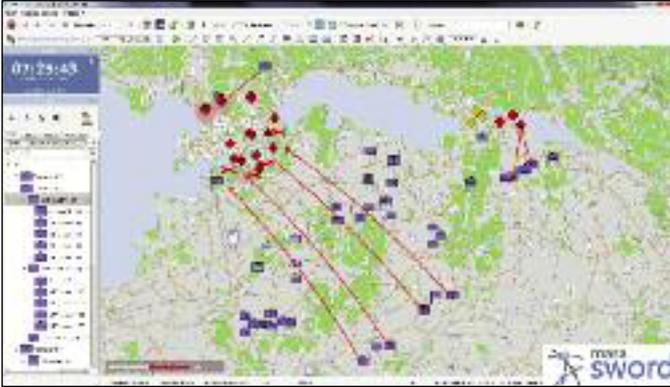
Colonel Dutroncy continued to say that, "the flexibility of employment and evolution of SWORD effectively allows us to foresee its use in all types of operational preparation for command posts, but also in training specialist areas such as engineering, intelligence, logistics, or CBRN as well as the testing of any future military doctrines, the preparation of operations, and for post-operation analysis and conclusions".

The Centre of Expertise for Information validation and SIMulation (CEISIM) oversees simulation and digitization within the French Armed Forces. CEISIM leads simulation programmes along with the DGA and manufacturers. They also manage simulation programs such as JANUS and ROMULUS, as well as ensuring the integration of the software components that are used in these simulations.

The Centre will now be tasked to manage the deployment of SOULT and its assimilation by the Army. SOULT's aim is to allow the Army to lead centralized, autonomous, distributed, multi-site and even mobile exercises.

The SOULT program will be rolled out gradually, beginning with the Training Centre for Command Posts (CEPC), to ensure the

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MASA's SWORD constructive training system is in-service throughout the world.

(Source: MASA)

continued service of the current SCIPIO system, which already operates with previous versions of SWORD and has been deployed and used operationally by the CEPC since 2006. Training centres, brigades and regiments will gradually be equipped from 2016, giving them their first decentralized capability for self-training and allowing them to make the best use of their training sessions in force readiness centres.

Taking advantage of SWORD's internationally acknowledged adaptability, SOULT will also progressively replace the JANUS

software -which is currently used in across several training centres for French and foreign command units, as it comes to the end of its lifecycle. The CEISIM has already tested SWORD's capacity to engage in the exercise 'General Bertrand', traditionally undertaken by JANUS software, at the Armed Forces Engineering School in Angers.

Colonel Claude Chary, Commander of CEISIM said that, "with SWORD at the heart of SOULT, CEISIM will further streamline its simulations, focusing on developing a bridge between SWORD and other information systems. The testing of SWORD, led in conjunction with the military engineering school, allowed us to consider the move from JANUS to SOULT."

"The acquisition and deployment of SWORD's global license is the first stage in the SOULT program, which will eventually equip both JANUS centres and a selection of Collective Training Centres. This conforms perfectly with our policy of deploying simulation solutions whose purpose is to support the decentralized operational preparation of Land Forces.

Compatible with the interoperability framework of the French Land Forces, SOULT connects seamlessly with current and future operational information and communication systems".

