



# ENGINEER UPDATE

Commercial numbers are (573) 563-xxxx and Defense System Network (DSN) numbers are 676-xxxx unless otherwise noted.

## TRADOC Systems Manager-Engineer Combat Systems

**Wolverine.** These systems were fielded to the 299th Engineer Battalion, Fort Hood, Texas, late last year. A third battalion set is scheduled for the 4th Engineer Battalion, Fort Carson, Colorado, in FY04. The last of the Wolverines will be fielded to the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Carson no later than FY05. Many of the vehicles will come from 4th Infantry Division when they go from 12 to 9 Wolverines per battalion. The Project Manager, Abrams Tank Systems manages the Wolverine program.

**Airborne Standoff Mine-Detection System (ASTAMIDS).** In May, the Project Manager, Close Combat Systems (PM-CCS) awarded a development contract for ASTAMIDS to Northrup Grumman. The ASTAMIDS sensor will also be developed to fill the Army's need for an advanced reconnaissance, surveillance, and target acquisition (RSTA) sensor, capable of target designation. The goal is for this to be the embedded sensor on all larger unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

**Ground Standoff Mine-Detection System (GSTAMIDS).** Development on the Block 0 (Improved Interim Vehicle-Mounted Mine Detector) program is being terminated. An FCS-based GSTAMIDS program will begin in October.

**Handheld Standoff Mine-Detection System (HSTAMIDS).** An interim fielding of 200 HSTAMIDSs was

completed in February to support Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Commanders taking over some of the 200 units in either area of operation need to plan for operator training time. The radar-based HSTAMIDS, which is fundamentally different from metal detectors, requires from 32 to 40 hours of training. Operational testing for HSTAMIDS was conducted in May at Yuma Proving Grounds. Minor design improvements have been identified for incorporation in the full-rate HSTAMIDS production to begin later this year.

**Mongoose.** This C-130-transportable countermine system is optimized for the Stryker Brigade Combat Team. Its explosive net defeats all mines regardless of fuzing. Flight testing is underway this summer at Yuma Proving Grounds, and fielding is scheduled for FY05.

**Intelligent Munition System (IMS).** The PM-CCS awarded two contracts for the initial phase of IMS development to General Dynamics and Textron Defense Systems.

POC is Mr. Eric McGrath at <[mcgrathe@wood.army.mil](mailto:mcgrathe@wood.army.mil)> or (573) 563-4081/4085. Pictures and briefings are available at the TSM-ECS home page at <<http://www.wood.army.mil/TSM/>>.



## News and Notes

**Deployment Teambuilding at the Army Management Staff College.** Fifteen soldiers from the 1st Information Operations Command at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, attended a first-ever Deployment Teambuilding session at the Army Management Staff College (AMSC) on 24 July 2003. These soldiers will soon deploy for six months to multiple locations in Iraq.

Why teambuilding? An Information Operations planner at 1st Information Operations Command, who was previously deployed to Kosovo and knew the inherent problems that could develop when integrating a small group of subject matter experts into an already existing staff, searched for a resource that could provide actionable skills on group dynamics. He wanted tools to assist the team members in coordinating, synchronizing, and integrating actions in the information environment of a very diverse group, a multinational coalition, in order to accomplish a common goal.

After finding that there was neither an in-house capability for such training nor a comprehensive Army course catalog,

the planner contacted AMSC at <<http://www.amsc.belvoir.army.mil>>. The chairman of the Department of Leadership and Management at AMSC worked with the staff to develop a course that met 1st Information Operations Command requirements. The chairman saw a great opportunity to support soldiers on the battlefield, a goal he says is part of the charter of the sustaining base program.

According to the chief of the 1st Information Operations Command Field Support Division, it is quite unusual for a large Army educational institutional to be flexible enough to react so quickly since the time lapse was only ten days from the initial call to the scheduled class. If all goes well, 1st Information Command will look into the possibility of adding the AMSC course as a regular part of predeployment training for field support teams deploying from Fort Belvoir to support land component commanders worldwide.

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