Improving Requirements & Testing Process for Rapidly Fielded Unmanned Aerial Systems

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Outline

• Unmanned Aircraft Systems
  – ATEC Mission Statement
  – Test & Evaluation challenges
  – Recommendations
  – Conclusions
Provide the warfighter adequately tested systems with robust evaluations in a timely manner to support Rapid fielding
ATEC Mission Statement

• Facilitate equipment procurement/fielding decisions through testing and analysis to ensure our Army’s Warfighters have the right capabilities for success across the entire spectrum of operations.

• Conduct rapid testing in direct support of the GWOT warfighter, providing capabilities and limitations analyses of weapon systems to enable employment decisions for rapid fielding to the Combat Soldier.
T&E Challenges – Rapid Fielding

- ONS lack extensive operational requirements
  - Mission not defined until system is deployed
  - Many times, difficult to quantify
- Limited test schedule and scope:
  - Use prior test data when possible
  - Leverage existing training/exercises
- Warfighters want systems because they are ‘better than nothing’
  - Must still be tested to determine capabilities and limitations of the system
- No key denominator for UAS
T&E Challenges – Capabilities & Limitations

• Include aviation and infantry based requirements and operations

• Must develop a robust list of capabilities and limitations of the system for the Warfighter:
  – Provides the warfighter with the intended operating envelope/environment of the system

• Rapid systems provide users with added capability
  – Do not replace/improve existing equipment

• Minimal analysis has not provided the Army a clear picture of how best to employ UAS
Recommendations

- Simplified Rapid Acquisition Process
- Must have early TRADOC involvement with users/units, PM, and ATEC for rapid equipping

*TCM – TRADOC Capabilities Manager
Conclusions

• UAS is a rapidly growing field within the Army
• OIF and OEF require systems to be fielded as quick as possible to support the warfighter
• Need for improved rapid acquisition process
• T&E Community will be able to support user with a system that will better meet mission needs
• Difficult to Quantify
  – Force Multiplier
  – Situational Awareness
• Does the Warfighter need all of these systems?
• What is the key denominator?
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