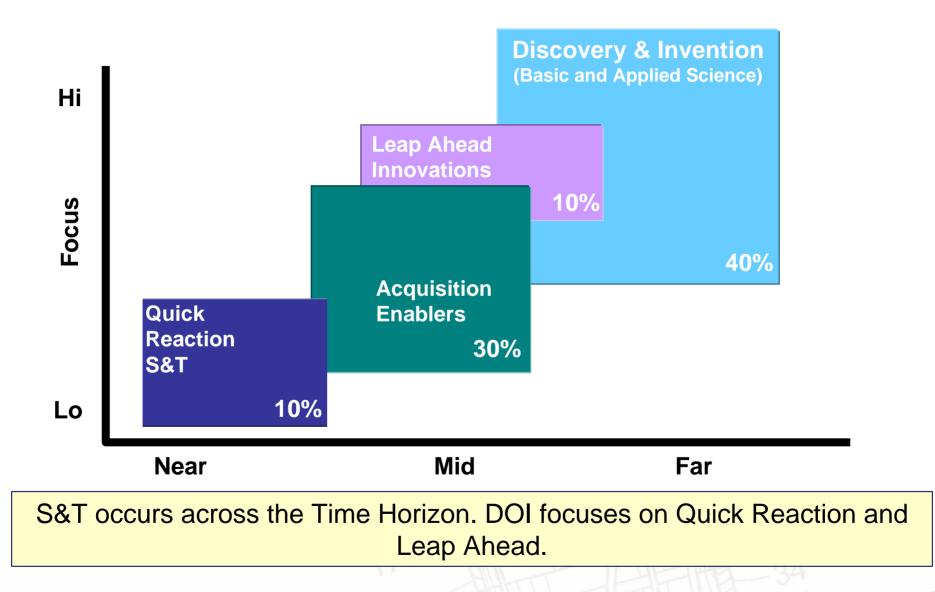
## **Innovating for the Future**

Larry Schuette Office of Naval Research <u>larry.schuette@navy.mil</u> 703.696.7118



#### **DoN Investment Portfolio**

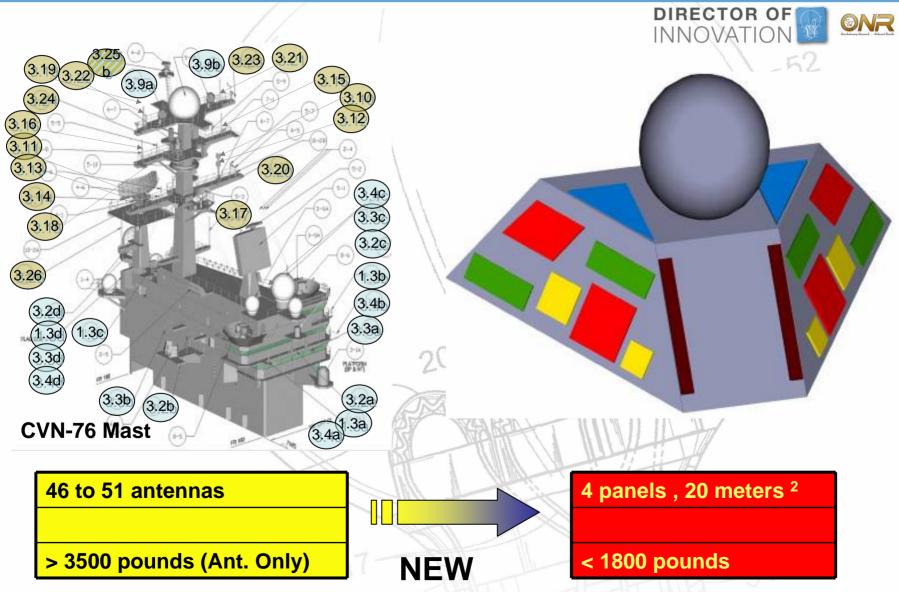


### **Current Innovative Naval Prototypes**

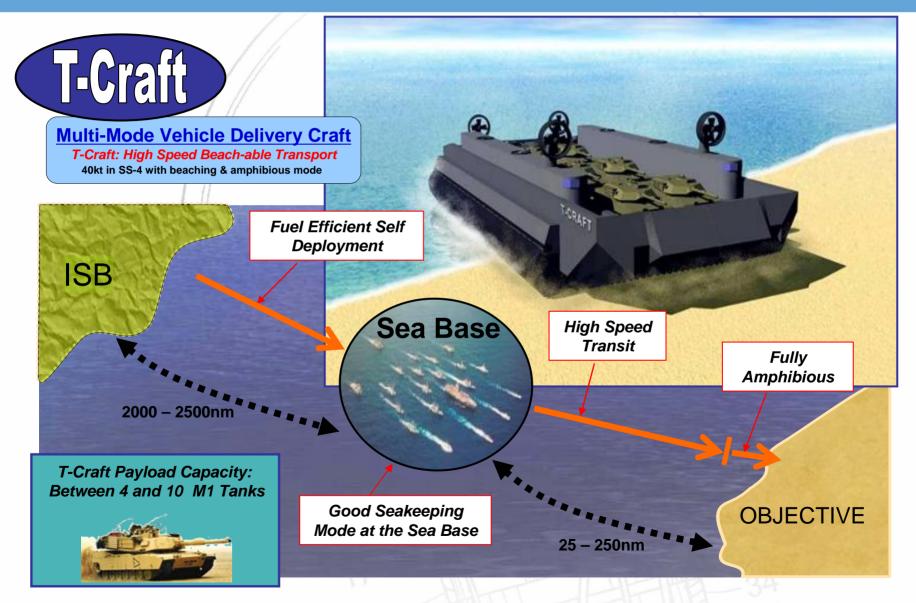


- What alternate futures can these INPs enable?
- What disruptive guidance should we adopt for future INPs?

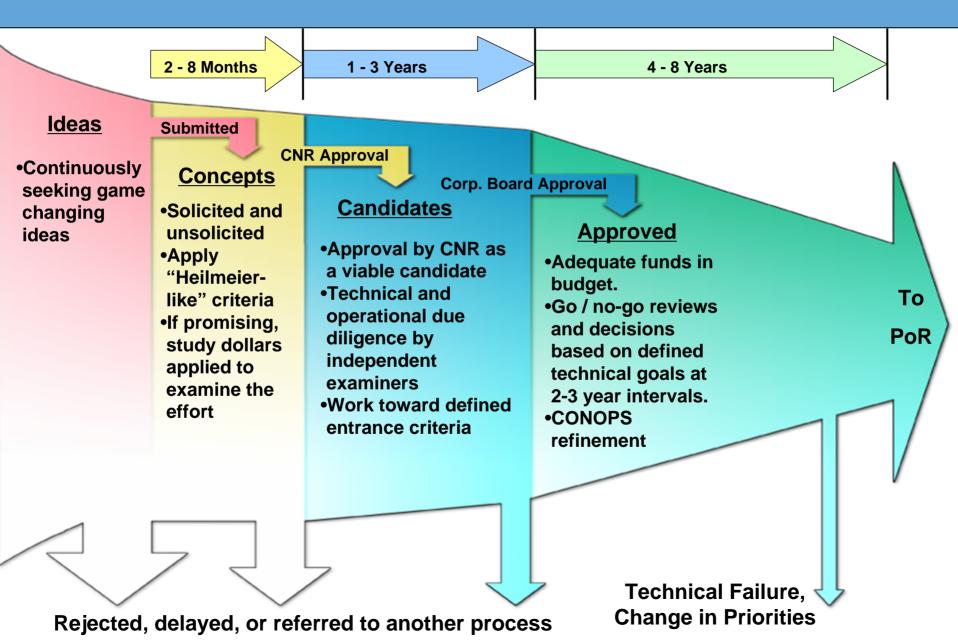
#### **Integrated Topside INP**



#### **Seabasing Enablers INP**



#### Going From Idea to INP



## What's the Next Big Bet? Potential FY-12 INP Candidates

- Autonomous & distributed electronic warfare capabilities
- Autonomous cargo/medevac UAV
- Autonomous Damage Control Technologies
- Maintenance-free ship/aircraft
- Electric ship/submarine
- High bandwidth communications with submerged submarines and UUVs
- Intense/Immersive simulation training
- Unmanned Vehicle Sentry System
- Land, air, surface and sub-surface vehicles
- UUV for ASW training
- Ship-board Autonomous Logistics Enablers

Most are Autonomous in nature, which is the most game changing? Which will change how we fight?

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ONR

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INNOVAT

### What's Holding Us Back? Limitations of Current Autonomous Systems



-Require multiple operators -Cannot easily share assets or collaborate



Forward units need dedicated operators (require protection)Data hard to disseminate



-Require human intervention to maintain performance



-Autonomy tailored for specific missions, users, and environments -Reliance on pre-programmed plans -Tough to adapt



- -Not as smart as animals
- -Limitations in challenging weather
- -Cannot exploit environmental conditions
- -Cannot navigate without GPS & reliable maps
- -Cannot collaborate in close proximity to others

#### What should we fix? In what order?

## Ultimately, where are we going?

DIRECTOR

- Distributed system relying on decentralized control that is flexible in its level of autonomy
- Hybrid force with manned systems and platforms
- Automated image/scene understanding, data gathering, purposeful sensing/seeking, information analysis and distributed information management
- Cooperation to perform a mission or task
- Automated distribution of tasks
- Autonomous determination of the best way to accomplish each task, with appropriate human guidance

ONR

### Why Autonomous Behavior is a Hard Problem

DIRECTOR O ONR Constrained by size, weight, power, money INNOVATIO **Machine Intelligence Level** Mission Complexity (MC) Ability to: Subtasks, decision Reason, Plan, Predict Organization, collaboration Learn from experience, Performance instructions, and adapt Situation awareness, knowledge Understand the battlespace requirements High-level interactions with humans Environmental Complexity (EC) Solution ratios on: Terrain variation Human Interaction (HI) Object frequency, density, intent Type of interactions Weather Type of operators/users (e.g., workload, skill Mobility constraints levels, etc.) Communication dependencies

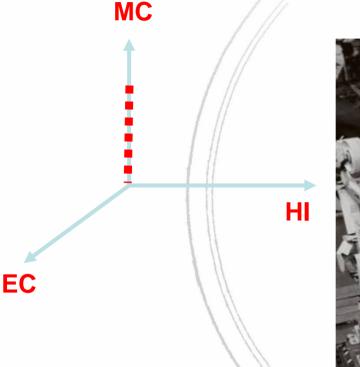
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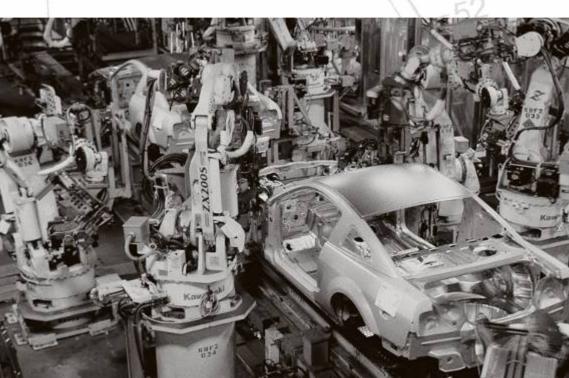
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Frequency, duration, robot initiated interactions

Autonomy Level required is driven by EC, MC, HI

# Benchmark for Autonomous Systems? Assembly Line Robotics



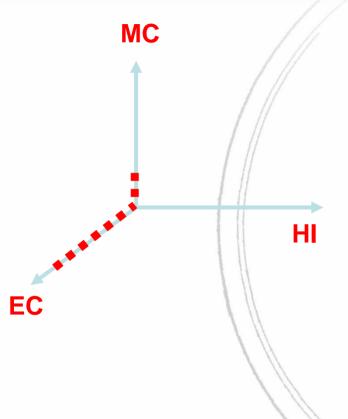


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- Complex mission
- Well known environment
- No Human interaction
- Better than a human at the task
- Thousands of iterations to get it right

ONR

### **DARPA Grand Challenge - UGV**





- Tougher Environment than underwater or air
- No Human Interaction
- Controlled Mission Complexity by reducing speed
  - About 15% as effective as a human
- In use on Mars where no man has been

### **UAV Mission: Find, observe, kill**

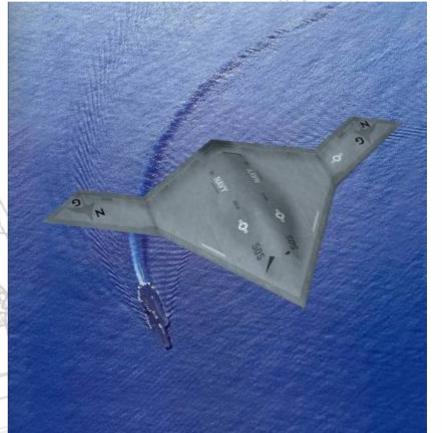


- Obvious crawl, walk, run road ahead
- Complex mission driven by high human interaction
- Lots of other missions ripe for unmanned air vehicle

### UAV Focus To Date Has Been on Large Systems

- Consider future of small UAVs (<50lb)
  - Missions these systems are uniquely qualified to address
  - Cheaper
  - Decoy cost, expendable



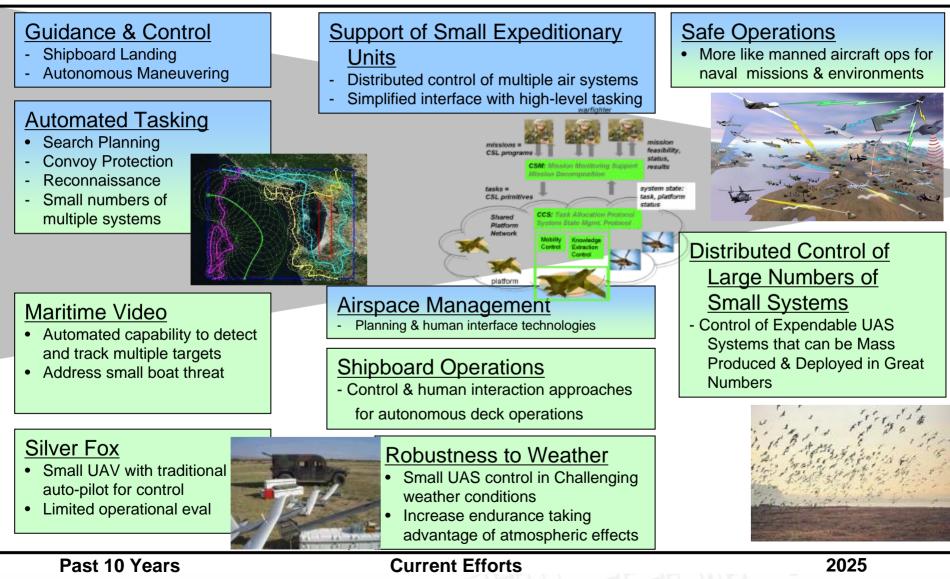


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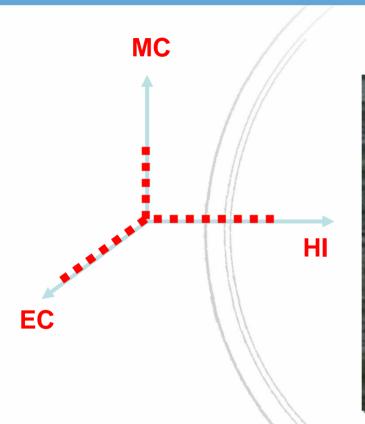
INNOVAT

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#### UAV S&T Autonomy Roadmap & Goals



### **USV** Mission



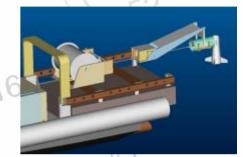


- Tough environment
  - Sea state
  - Obstacle avoidance
- Range of missions to mitigate need for human interaction

#### **Unmanned Surface Vehicle**

- Mine Warfare Mission Module
  - Mine Neutralization using Electromagnetic and Acoustic Sweep
- Antisubmarine Warfare Mission Module
  - Detection and Localization using
    - Airborne Low Frequency Sonar (ALFS)
    - Multifunctional Towed Array



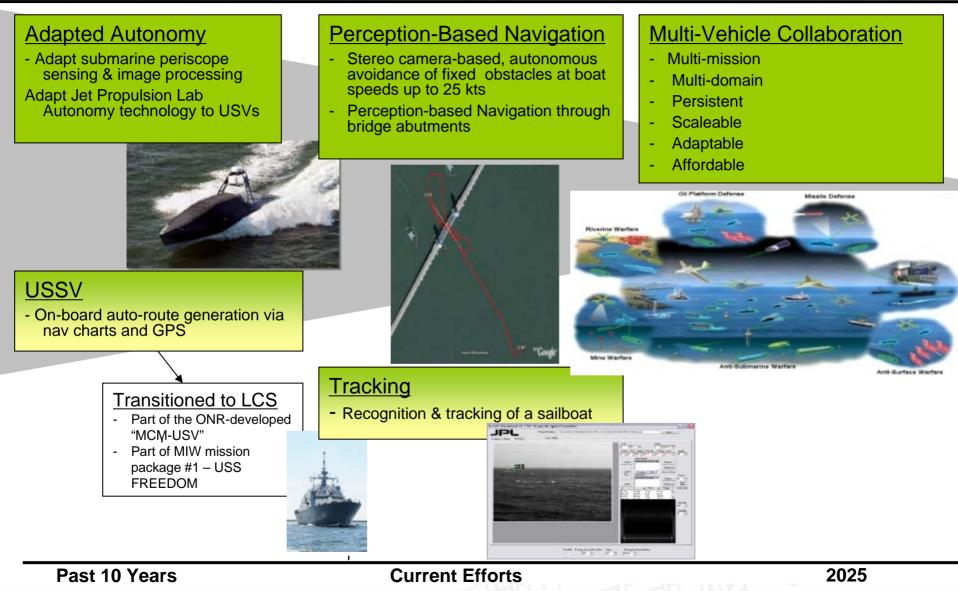


Deploy & Retrieve: Automated Handling of Influence Sweep



Acoustic Sweep: Generates Subsurface Acoustic Influence Field

### **USV** Autonomy



## **UUV Autonomy**

#### Maritime Reconnaissance

- Perform autonomous surveillance in littoral regions
- Torpedo-size underwater vehicle with ISR payload

#### Unmanned Cooperative Cueing and Intervention

- Rapid (< 5 days)</li>
- Standoff MCM target mapping

#### <u>MCM</u>

- Area search, classify & map rates for mines in littoral regions
- Cooperative autonomous underwater vehicles with high resolution sonars

#### Ocean Surveillance

Past 10 Years

 Networks of undersea gliders with oceanographic and acoustic sensors

#### Undersea Surveillance

 Large area surveillance using autonomous unmanned vehicles to achieve undersea superiority of the designated battle space

#### Littoral ASW

- Use autonomous Unmanned Undersea Vehicles to support tactical anti submarine warfare

#### Off-board Surv System Sinv System Mine Recon UUV SSN tracking SS SSN conducting Mine Recon UUV

Harbor & Port Security -Hull Inspection

#### Multi-Platform, Multi-Static, Distributed UUV

- Autonomous, self-deployable, heterogeneous, multi-platform, system capable of rapidly detecting, identifying mines, subs over wide areas
- Goal-oriented collaborative/ adaptive autonomy, multiobjective optimization & distributed control of large teams.



#### **Current Efforts**

2025

### **Takeaway Challenge**



- What are the missions that Autonomous systems will be better suited for?
  - Only extraterrestrial?
  - Only shop floor?
- What are the capabilities we would need?

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- What manned platforms could we stop using?
  - 5 year plan
  - 10 year objective
  - 30 year ambition
- I look forward to your thoughts
  - larry.schuette@navy.mil