

VPOR TS: Virtual Planning, Operations, Rehearsal, Training and Simulation

The Challenge: Sustaining the Objective Force

A strategically responsive force operating in a high-tech, jointly integrated environment requires more than merely modernizing equipment and information systems. It calls for rethinking the fundamentals of preparing, deploying and supporting military operations, transforming not only the products but also the actual processes used for developing, updating and delivering doctrine, training and materiel to the field. Emphasis must be placed on establishing processes and procedures that are as effective, adaptive and responsive as the warfighting units they are designed to support.



VPOR TS: Maneuver Sustainment “Fusion” Platform

Successful employment of 21st century technology cannot be realized using 20th century practices. The pace of transformation is too fast, the traditional “stovepipe” processes too slow, the complexities of a multicomponent, joint force structure too demanding, and the cost in terms of dollars and readiness too high. VPOR TS addresses this challenge, using technology to

integrate, leverage and transform the processes of combat, materiel, training and simulation development.

Using a virtual platform powered by a suite of local and remotely linked digital systems, VPOR TS provides a collaborative environment to plan and assess doctrinal concepts, conduct mission analysis, perform digital rehearsals, develop simulation-based training and support schoolhouses and Army/joint units during exercises, deployments and actual operations—an integrated approach to supporting an integrated force.

Leveraging Knowledge to Sustain the Force

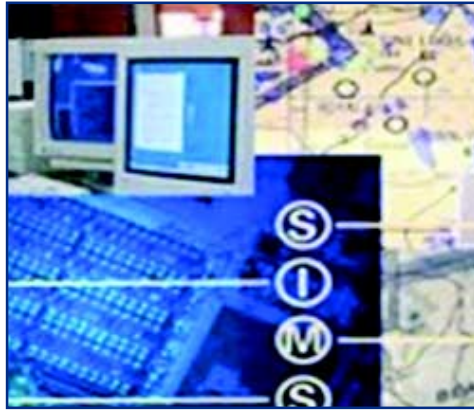
The cornerstone of maneuver sustainment is effective knowledge management. Information must be accurate, timely and responsive to the needs of the warfighter. Achieving this requires knowledge to be actionable, reused and repackaged—shared across the doctrine, organization, training, leaders, materiel, personnel and facilities (DOTLMPF) domains and efficiently updated and



repurposed within the array of information systems, publications and products delivered to the field. VPOR TS is answering this challenge, using tools such as the Joint Computer-aided Acquisition and Logistics Support (JCALS) system to collaboratively develop, share and repurpose Stryker technical data establishing a real-time, global interface between the vehicle manufacturer, training developer and Stryker Brigade Combat Teams.



VPORTS (continued)



This capability improves combat readiness by providing operators and maintenance personnel with rapid access to authoritative source data, the means to quickly identify and report discrepancies in electronic technical/training publications and use of a logistics knowledge “reachback” capability linked directly to the vehicle engineers, materiel developers and training proponents. The result—a fast and efficient means to update, train and sustain commanders, soldiers and their Stryker fleets, and a model for the development of the Future Combat Systems (FCS) and other emerging platforms.

Transforming the Training Support System

Training Transformation involves moving toward an environment where individual soldiers, units and schoolhouses can access effective training whenever and wherever needed. Getting there will require a transformation of both the products and the processes by which they are developed, updated and delivered. Several VPORTS initiatives are underway.

As part of the Army’s digital training strategy, VPORTS is testing the use of digital training support packages linking



training publications, online interactive multimedia instruction, scenario-based simulations and learning management systems using Army Knowledge Online and supporting information architectures.



The goal is to achieve an efficient and cost-effective means for establishing, integrating and maintaining “living” training products and globally distributing simulation-driven packages that can be adapted, modified and reused by individual soldiers, unit commanders and school commandants to satisfy the unique training needs.

Cost-effective Training, Modeling and Simulation

In an effort to expedite delivery of digital training—while at the same time reducing costs—VPORTS is being used to assess the ability to develop “digital training simulators,” allowing standard computers to emulate the functionality of actual battlefield operating systems. This initiative will significantly reduce the costs of implementing institutional digital training, and will allow soldiers to access digital training from wherever they are, without the need for the actual hardware/software systems.

VPORTS is also being used to experiment with various modeling and simulation programs, attempting to achieve a virtual, digital rehearsal capability that allows commanders, staffs and school commandants to collaboratively model, plan and assess military operations—a virtual “sand table” supporting training, exercises and warfighters deployed on actual missions.

VPORTS propels Transformation with 21st century technology, changing the way the Army and joint forces will prepare to fight and win on the battlefield.