



News Release

Joint Program Executive Office, Joint Tactical Radio System

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JPEO JTRS and FCS Team with U.K. Defense Agencies to Participate in Multinational Experiment 3.0

Demonstration features several first-time achievements in support of common interoperability mission

Fort Monmouth, NJ - The Joint Program Executive Office, Joint Tactical Radio System (JPEO JTRS) International Programs Directorate and the Future Combat Systems (FCS) Joint Interagency Multi-National Interoperability (JIMI) team recently completed a demonstration of communications interoperability that will greatly enhance and benefit coalition warfighting capabilities. JPEO JTRS and FCS JIMI partnered with the U.K. Defence Science and Technology Laboratory and Defence Equipment and Support agency to participate in the Multinational Experiment (MNE) 3.0 at Fort Monmouth, N.J. April 29. MNE 3.0 successfully demonstrated interoperability between the U.S. ITT-developed Soldier Radio and the U.K. Advanced Digital Radio+ using the JTRS Bowman Waveform (JBW).

MNE 3.0 included many first-time achievements that offer tremendous opportunity for improved battlefield interoperability with coalition partners – porting and demonstrated operation of JBW in a handheld software defined radio; successful interoperability through exchange of secure voice and data between the two nations' communications systems; and use of a foreign nations' cryptographic keying material in a U.S. secure network. The demonstration was performed in a closed (non-radiating) laboratory environment where the team successfully exchanged data using 'voice' messaging, and demonstrated the ability to pass crucial situational awareness and fire control data on a shared U.S. and U.K. communications network.

Working closely with the National Security Agency and its U.K. counterpart, Communications Electronics Security Group, the U.S. imported and used U.K. non-U.S. mission data and keying material for the experiment. This unprecedented use of foreign crypto was critical to the successful interoperability between the two nations' radios, and will support development of processes for future exchange of tactical keying material for coalition usage.

Future plans include expanding the success of this experiment by conducting live (radiating) demonstrations where mission data will be transmitted in a real-time battlefield environment. These objectives and demonstrations are being pursued under the Memorandum of Understanding and Project Arrangements concerning interoperability of tactical communications systems between the two governments.

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About JPEO JTRS

The Joint Tactical Radio System, headquartered in San Diego, Calif., was initiated in early 1997 to improve and consolidate the Services' pursuit of separate solutions to replace existing legacy

radios in the Department of Defense inventory. The JTRS program has evolved from separate radio replacement programs to an integrated effort to network multiple weapon system platforms and forward combat units where it matters most – the last tactical mile. JTRS will link the power of the Global Information Grid to the warfighter in applying fire effects and achieving overall battlefield superiority.

JTRS is developing an open architecture of cutting edge radio waveform technology that allows multiple radio types (e.g., handheld, aircraft, maritime) to communicate with each other. The goal is to produce a family of interoperable, modular software-defined radios which operate as nodes in a network to ensure secure wireless communication and networking services for mobile and fixed forces. These goals extend to U.S. allies, coalition partners and, in time, disaster response personnel.