AUSA 2018
IN REVIEW
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ARMY’S BIGGEST SHOW
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Thanks to the more than 31,000 people who attended, this year’s Association of the United States Army Annual Meeting and Exposition was extraordinarily successful, one of the best in many years.

Higher attendance, more exhibits, over 80 participating nations, more major weapons on display and more professional development forums aimed at the widest of audiences contributed to noticeable levels of energy and enthusiasm on the exhibit floor and throughout the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C.

There was a palpable buzz about the future of America’s Army.

We were glad to be the hosts of this and many other events supporting the most powerful land force in the world.

We talked about operations, modernization, future concepts and doctrine, focusing on challenges for soldiers of every component and their families.

We conducted professional forums for Army civilian workers.

We talked a lot about the partnership between the Army and industry, and hosted a hiring fair for veterans and transitioning soldiers.

One of the most important messages we heard was the robust endorsement by Deputy Defense Secretary Patrick M. Shanahan of the Army’s modernization efforts and the new U.S. Army Futures Command.

Urging Congress and the Defense Department to fully embrace the reorganization, he encouraged the defense establishment to “integrate Army Futures Command into your processes, relentlessly hunt for the talent they need, remove obstacles from their path, and advocate and build momentum for them within the building, throughout the government, on the Hill and throughout industry.”

Finding the right people is important, the deputy defense secretary said.

“We need people who have successfully given birth to something new, with the knowledge and experience to innovate, make decisions and execute a successful program,” he said.

Calling for focus on output over process, Shanahan said the goal “is not about development of the perfect weapons system. This is about delivering lethality to our soldiers as quickly as possible.”

See PRESIDENT Page 4
“The Army has more than a vision and a strategy,” Shanahan said. “They have a plan and that plan gets better every day.”

‘A renaissance’

Secretary of the Army Mark T. Esper, making his first appearance at the AUSA annual meeting in his current role, said the Army is at an important point in its history, which he called a renaissance.

“I am asking all of you to seize this opportunity with us to embrace reform,” Esper said. “Ten short years from now, in 2028, we will look back on this time as a pivotal moment for our Army.”

There were other important messages.

It was heartening to hear Undersecretary of the Army Ryan D. McCarthy talk about the importance of our conference to the Army.

“The great thing about this conference is it helps us get a pulse on industry and whether they understand us and where we are headed,” he said. Gen. Mark A. Milley, at his fourth and final AUSA meeting as Army chief of staff, had a similar message that reform isn’t going to come easy or overnight but is essential.

“The key to future victory for us lays in modernization now,” he said.

“Building our future forces is not a weeklong, a monthlong or even a yearlong process,” the chief said.

By Milley’s count, the Army is already three years into a reform mission, and he’s a little worried about losing momentum.

The Army is “on the mend after nearly two continuous decades of operations,” he said, but there may not be a lot of time to be prepared for the next major battle. “The faint clouds of a coming storm are visible on the horizon.”

One Army

There was another important message.

At one of our nine contemporary military forums, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael A. Grinston of Forces Command made an important observation about the Total Army.

“We are never going to fight as one component,” he said. “We rarely fight as one country.”

We at AUSA share that view.

We are one Army and a global partner to other militaries.

We were also pleased that Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen and Second Lady of the United States Karen Pence spoke at our professional forums, and that actor, humanitarian and musician Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band were on hand to perform a free concert for attendees.

Family reunion

Our annual meeting is important to us for other reasons.

It is the annual business meeting where we and the dedicated volunteer leaders of our 123 chapters from around the globe meet to discuss how we can better accomplish our missions of being a voice for the Army and supporting our soldiers.

It is an exciting time for AUSA as our membership has grown from about 75,000 at the 2017 annual meeting to more than 132,000 today.

For the Army family, current and former soldiers, civilians and family members, and our many industry partners, the annual meeting also serves as a family reunion.

We cherish the time to catch up with our friends and colleagues, and look forward to seeing them again on Oct. 14, 2019, when we gather again in our nation’s capital for the 2019 AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition.

We look forward to seeing you there! DN
31,062 Visitors at AUSA 2018

84% Civilian 16% Military

9 The number of Contemporary Military Forums hosted during the annual meeting with topics ranging from Multi-Domain Operations to Disruptive Threats.

73 The number of major weapons systems exhibited.

82 The number of foreign nations represented, with 3,929 total visitors.

1:37.76 The winning time for Capt. Peter Doblar, the top finisher on the Battle Challenge obstacle course. The fastest finishing woman was Sgt. Casey Lubiniecki, with a time of 3:04.42.

724 Exhibits
AROUND THE SHOW

The Army is pursuing virtual reality and simulated training environments in order to increase training opportunities for soldiers.

The Army’s Sergeant Major Dan Dailey kicked off the annual meeting at the Battle Challenge obstacle course.

The Warriors Corner featured discussions and presentations on several topics over the course of the three-day show.
Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band performed a free concert on Oct. 9.

Army Secretary Mark Esper, left, checks out an exhibit on the show floor.

Soldiers participating in the opening ceremony march in the ballroom.
The Army was out in full force at this year’s AUSA annual meeting.

The “pinks and greens” uniform made an appearance at this year’s show.

Gen. Mike Murray, left, commander of the new Army Futures Command, visits an exhibitor on the show floor.
NOTABLE QUOTES

“AMID ALL THE HEADLINE NEWS, IT SEEMS LIKE WE HARDLY NOTICE WE ARE STILL A NATION AT WAR IN SOME PLACES, AND IN OTHERS, WE ARE PREVENTING WAR.”

— Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley, speaking two days after the 17th anniversary of the start of Operation Enduring Freedom

“IF THAT IS RUN BY A FLUX CAPACITOR, HOVERS AND HAS A RAY GUN AND WE CAN MAKE IT RUN AT A REASONABLE COST, WE’LL LOOK AT IT.”

— Brig. Gen. Ross Coffman, director of the Next-Generation Combat Vehicle Cross-Functional Team, on the Army’s search for the future replacement for the M1 Abrams tank

“YOU KNOW, LIEUTENANT, FAT PEOPLE DON’T MAKE GOOD SOLDIERS. ... THEY GET THEMSELVES AND OTHERS KILLED.”

— Retired Lt. Gen. Sam Ebbessen, recalling the words of a master sergeant he worked with, when discussing a study that warns America’s obesity is threatening national security

“I HAVE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF HOURS OF EXPERIENCE. I’VE MADE EVERY MISTAKE THAT THEY’RE GOING TO MAKE.”

— Deputy Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan on the importance of putting experienced leaders in Army Futures Command

“We’ve exceeded the capacity of our civilian counterparts to do moving for our soldiers. It’s not just an army problem, it’s a defense department problem.”

— Sergeant Major of the Army Dan Dailey, addressing concerns about this year’s brutal permanent change of station season
FUTURES COMMAND NEEDS EXPERIENCED LEADERS

DEPUTY SECDEF SPEAKS AT AUSA ANNUAL MEETING

BY AARON MEHTA
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The U.S. Army’s Futures Command is supposed to be a center of future capabilities and new thinking, but for that to flourish, a certain level of experienced leadership must remain in place, according to Deputy Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan.

Speaking to reporters after a speech at the annual Association of the United States Army conference, Shanahan said he believes Futures Command is in good hands under Gen. Mike Murray, describing the role of the Office of the Secretary of Defense as supportive.

“We’re not there to grade his paper. We’re there to identify where there are risks and opportunities, then help him to go address them,” Shanahan said.

“People who are on the leadership team have to have experience. People like myself, who’ve been involved with these kind of programs for 30 years, it’s not that we’re smarter than anyone else in the department,” Shanahan said. “I have tens of thousands of hours of experience. I’ve made every mistake that they’re going to make.”

Below Murray, however, the deputy pointed to a lack of programmatic expertise, as opposed to technical or acquisition expertise, as a potential area to target when looking to hire new talent.

“It’s not like we have the wrong folks. We need a few more of the right folks to complement,” he said.

Asked specifically about how the department was looking at Future Vertical Lift, one of the six key focuses for Futures Command, Shanahan touched again on the idea that “experience has a lot of value” for such complex programs, pointing to the kind of individuals who are buried inside the department but have worked on multiple programs in the past.

“Those are the people who have all the experience and the knowledge. And they really need to be sitting with these young colonels and brigadier generals and other acquisition people and helping them challenge their assumptions,” Shanahan said.

“As we build out Futures Command, that’s the type of work that we’re going to do, because we’re not going to do miracles. We’re not going to put inventions on the critical path,” he added.
The Army’s future tank may not be a tank, Brig. Gen. Ross Coffman, who is in charge of combat vehicle modernization, told Defense News in an interview at the Association of the United States Army annual meeting.

While the M1 Abrams tank still has life in it yet, the Army is starting to begin the thinking and planning process for a future tank, “which is really exciting because it might not be a tank,” Coffman said. “It is decisive lethality, and what that decisive lethality is will be determined by academia, our science and technology community within the Army, and industry.”

Coffman is spearheading that effort along with some more near-term plans to replace the Bradley Fighting Vehicle with an Optionally Manned Fighting Vehicle and bring online the Army’s Armored Multi-Purpose Vehicle and a light tank called the Mobile Protected Firepower system.

The one-star is in charge of the Next-Generation Combat Vehicle Cross-Functional Team housed under the Army Futures Command, which is tasked with modernizing the force.

“We have to get away from these paradigms that we created that decisive lethality must come from a tank,” Coffman said. “It may be a tank in the end, and that would be great, but we need choices for our soldiers, so we can really move into a position of lethal advantage over the enemy.”

Coffman is spearheading that effort along with some more near-term plans to replace the Abrams, and some of the ideas cropping up in discussions have been “everything from a ray gun to a Star Wars-like four-legged creature that shoots lasers,” Coffman said. “But the reality is that everything is on the table.

The Army began accepting the M1A2 System Enhancement Package Version 3 — or M1A2 SEP V3 — from General Dynamics Land Systems a year ago. The service expects to begin fielding the version in fiscal year 2020.

The main intent of the upgrade is to buy back size, weight, and power lost during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as the Army focused on protective measures for the tank. The upgrade also includes a modernized architecture.

The modernized architecture allows for the inclusion of an ethernet connection that enhances processing within the tank to accommodate an updated fire control system that will allow users to engage targets more quickly.

The Army is also installing an ammunition data link that will allow the tank itself to talk to the new smart rounds it is fielding in order to optimize the effect of those rounds.

The variant rolling off the production line essentially primes the pump for the integration of future technology and improved lethality because of the new architecture and restoration of power to the vehicle.

The next round of upgrades — the M1A2 SEP V4 — will fall in on the tail end of the M1A2 SEP V3 production and is focused on increasing the lethality of the system. The Army just awarded GDLS a contract over a year ago to develop the M1A2 SEP V4.

The service will make a production decision in fiscal year 2023 and hopes to field to the first brigade in 2025.

The keystone technology is the incorporation of the third generation Forward-Looking Infrared (FLIR) camera.

DN
A new virtual marksmanship trainer for squads is headed to 26 Army locations early next year and will soon be followed by an early version of the squad immersive trainer.

The squad advanced marksmanship trainer is an immediate development that will feed into a complete overhaul of how the Army and Marine Corps combine the crush of new virtual and augmented technologies with live training events.

At the Association of the United States Army’s annual meeting, Maj. Gen. Maria Gervais, who serves both as the director of the Army’s Synthetic Training Environments Cross-Functional Team and deputy commanding general of the Combined Arms Center-Training, laid out some immediate hits on the virtual training front while also talking about long-term goals for the programs.

The squad immersive trainer has been a concept the Army has pursued since at least 2009, but much of the hardware and software needed to make it a reality simply didn’t exist at the time, Gervais told the audience.

But recent testing has put a four-soldier stack, wearing augmented reality goggles, into room-clearing exercises at the “Tomato Factory,” an immersive training facility at the Marine Corps’ Camp Pendleton, California. The goggles allow troops to “see” augmented items such as enemies, civilians or other characters and items in the real-world environment.

Think Pokemon Go for close-quarters battle.

While a portable, lightweight device that allows dismounted soldiers to move around a real/virtual combined battlespace is still the goal, the early version due next year will be a more static station where soldiers link up and respond to scenarios presented to them, Gervais said.

To make these trainers even more realistic, the Heads Up Display 3.0 is under development and expected to be operating by late 2020 or early 2021. That will lighten the hardware load on soldiers and allow for kits that can be taken to the field and incorporated in both training and real-world scenarios.

Right now, much of the virtual goggles require wiring and bulky power sources that limit them to smaller indoor training areas like virtual studios or limited, room-clearing type exercises.

But both squad trainers and the Heads Up Display, tactile assets that low-level troops will see soon, are simply pieces of a large mosaic being built by teams from the simulations cross-functional team and Program Executive Office Simulation, Training and Instrumentation, as well as their Marine Corps counterparts.

The main objective in the near term is bringing One World Terrain to reality.

Right now, developers have 57 different terrain formats for their virtual trainers. At times simply getting terrains matched up and having a variety of systems talking with each other can take longer than the actual exercise being planned.

But One World Terrain would give troops a unified, synchronized playing field, something akin to Google Earth for warfighting.

It would make a secure, plug-and-play virtual world in which units from squads to, some day, divisions or corps commanders, could fight war at scale.

Another effort that’s just as important, Gervais said, is building reconfigurable virtual trainers so that new versions of vehicles, aircraft and other equipment can be quickly upgraded as the technology advances.

Troops also need to have more access to these trainers. These types of trainers are only available at a dozen locations, mostly major installations or mission training complexes.

That means that units have very little time on the simulators. New tech should allow infantry squads, helicopter pilots or brigades to run exercises virtually at home station.

The Heads Up Display, One World Terrain, virtual trainers and software were used and evaluated by soldiers, Marines and software engineers back in March. Feedback from that event is helping designers rework the items for another troop eval this coming March, Gervais said.
An as-yet identified unit will be the first to field an advanced, binocular night vision goggle that incorporates day/night optics and thermal and targeting capabilities, all in one package, by this time next year.

Speaking at the Association of the United States Army’s annual meeting, three leaders tied closely to work on improving soldier lethality shared details of the goggle’s development and timelines.

Brig. Gen. Anthony Potts, who leads Program Executive Office Soldier, said that 10,000 pairs of the Enhanced Night Vision Goggle-Binocular, or ENVG-B, have already taken orders. The helmet works in concert with the current version, and the company is more than a year’s development on the high rise version.

The specific unit to first receive the new goggle has not been identified, but it will be a close combat-focused unit, likely infantry or cavalry scouts.

But first, in the coming months, some Army units will get an immediate upgrade with the ENVG-III, which has some of the same capabilities but in a monocular setup.

While the day/night optic and thermal vision is an advance over much of the night vision being sported by soldiers now, the key change is the Rapid Targeting Acquisition feature.

This is a wireless connection between the soldier’s weapon and the vision device that allows the shooter to line up the target via the weapon sight camera. Soldiers can shoot from the hip, around corners and in other novel ways not available with current systems.

And early data is proving promising, officials said.

Brig. Gen. Dave Hodne, director of the Army’s Soldier Lethality Cross-Functional Team and Infantry School commandant, shared results of recent ENVG-B testing on the range.

Shooters using the ENVG-B saw 100 percent improvement with M4 carbine qualification, 300 percent improvement on detecting targets, and a 30 percent to 50 percent decrease in time to employ their weapon.

Previous estimates about fielding the device suggested fielding was more than three years away. Part of the reason fielding has been sped up is the additional funding and top leader prioritization of the program, which officials say makes an immediate impact in marksmanship and lethality. 

A new helmet by 3M offers high-level protection and lightweight similar to the helmets worn by special operations troops.

The Minnesota-based company unveiled the new ballistic helmet F70 at the Association of the United States Army’s annual meeting.

The F70 comes in both high- and mid-cut versions. Each offers more protection than the company’s Ultra-Light Weight Ballistic Bump Helmet but also can be used as a lighter, modular option to the heavier Combat II Ballistic Helmet.

Terry Griffith, defense business manager for 3M, told Army Times that there’s been more than a year’s development on the current version, and the company is already taking orders. The helmet works for both military and law enforcement applications.

The Ultra-Light Weight helmet comes in at 1.73 pounds but only offers protection for 17 grain, .22 caliber projectiles at 2,200 feet per second.

The F70 protects against those size projectiles at higher velocities as well as against 3mm-sized projectiles at 1,400 feet per second.

The legacy Combat II helmet does offer more protection, up to projectiles in the 7.62mm range, but it comes at a heavier weight, 3.31 pounds.

The F70 weighs just 2.21 pounds for the high rise and 2.44 pounds on the mid-rise version.

And, Griffith noted, the “no thru-hole” design maintains better protection because standard bolts put into the helmet shell for items such as night vision devices can weaken the structure and lessen the protection.

The Air Force Test Parachute Program performed an evaluation of the 3M Ballistic Helmet F70 and determined it to be suitable for Air Force static line and military free fall operations, according to a 3M release.

Each F70 helmet comes with reverse dovetail rails that accept common industry accessories. Optional accessories designed for the helmet include ballistic mandibles, visors, helmet covers, over ear ballistic protection and counterweights. Also, the helmet works with 3M PELTOR communications and hearing protection solutions.

This new helmet gives soldiers more options and greater protection at a lighter weight.
KEY UPGRADES ON THE WAY FOR THIS 7.62MM MACHINE GUN

BY TODD SOUTH
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An upgraded version of the mainstay of machine gun power in the Army’s dismounted formations just got a few new tweaks.

The FN Mk 48 Mod 2 was on display at the Association of the United States Army’s annual meeting.

The Mk 48 itself was a project begun in 2002 to find ways to improve the Army’s 7.62mm M240 machine gun.

The new version has a buttstock adjustable to five settings that can shorten down for transport and quickly push out for the right fit.

It has a wheel adjuster rather than the push-button style on the M4 carbine.

That buttstock also has an adjustable cheek weld or comb to give the shooter a better eye level for optics use.

In addition, feed claws on the feed tray were added to eliminate the aged old belt-fed ammo problem of the first round not seating and then not firing, a problem that required another cycling to get going.

The gun also got a new charging handle that has a release button to give it more purchase when racking, and FN has beefed up the feed tray cover to better hold it up vertically when loading so it doesn’t smack down on the shooter, especially when holding heavier optics.

The machine gun now includes 3-, 6-, and 9-inch rails for mounting lasers, range finders or a vertical grip.

A double notch sear adds another safety layer to help prevent a “runaway gun scenario.”

SMASH has been successfully tested by U.S. special operations forces and other military agencies, the company said.

The platform is also undergoing testing with the Australian Defence Force, as a combined effort with Thales Australia as part of the Australian Army’s F-90 assault rifle upgrade program.

Also of note, the SMASH system provides an optional video recording function of engagements for training or after-action debrief and analysis. Like all optics, it still needs to be “zeroed in” to the rifle on which it’s mounted.

The company also offers a SMASH 2000M with a 4x increase in magnification, as well as a SMASH 2000N with enhanced night capabilities.

This optic guarantees ‘one shot, one kill’ — is it too good to be true?

BY KYLE REMPFER
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Israeli defense firm Smart Shooter showcased a new optical device for assault rifles that the company said virtually guarantees rounds on target.

SMASH 2000 Plus is a ruggedized optical device that can be placed on a wide range of legacy small arms, including the M4 carbine.

The system works by tracking potential ground and aerial drone targets using a day or night mode with a traditional red dot sight picture. Once found, it works out a firing solution even as a soldier’s natural breathing and fatigue draw his aim off target, all a soldier has to do is hold the trigger down.

When the solution is calibrated, the round is let loose, hitting the target and nothing else, Smart Shooter officials told Army Times at the Association of the United States Army’s annual conference in Washington, D.C.

“The human factor is the main reason soldiers and policemen miss the target ... because they are under stress and fatigued,” said Nir Kaveh, Smart Shooter’s marketing director.

“What we promise here is that almost every bullet will be on target, by controlling the exact moment when the bullet is released,” Mazor added. “So, if you’re not on target, you won’t be able to fire.”

In essence, the system adds digital precision to rifles and ammunition already fielded to troops.

While the system is designed for the rigors of close-quarters combat, it’s also able to quickly revert back to free-fire mode through the click of a button.

During one trial, Kaveh said, the company took a group of Israeli soldiers and drastically increased the proportion of rounds on target.

Indeed, SMASH 2000 has been in use by the Israel Defense Forces since earlier this year, according to the company. However, Kaveh wasn’t allowed to specify which units and where the system was being fielded.

SMASH 2000 Plus is the latest variant of the SMASH system. The new variation is specifically designed to also lock, track and accurately hit fast and maneuverable tactical drones during the day and at night.

“Drones are increasingly used by insurgents to improve their situational awareness and even drop bombs on patrols,” Michal Mor, CEO of Smart Shooter, said in a company release.

“They’re [drones'] small size and speed make them hard for a normal shooter to tackle effectively, but SMASH makes it easy, denying enemy forces those advantages,” she added.

SMASH has been successfully tested by Australian military agencies, the company said.

Key upgrades on the way for this 7.62mm machine gun

The newest model of the Mk 48 machine gun includes an adjustable buttstock and cheek weld along with other features

The SMASH fire control optic helps dismounted infantry eliminate small aerial drone threats and revolutionizes small arms combat, according to the system’s manufacturer.

THIS OPTIC GUARANTEES ‘ONE SHOT, ONE KILL’ — IS IT TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE?

RECAP
WHAT THE ARMY NEEDS TO HELP GPS-DENIED TROOPS
HAS THE SERVICE FINALLY FIGURED IT OUT?

BY MARK POMERLEAU
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The Army is nearing the finalization of its first set of requirements for a vehicle-based assured position, navigation and timing solution.

The six- to seven-page capabilities requirements document is awaiting signatures from Army leadership, said Willie Nelson, director of the assured-PNT cross-functional team, at the Association of the United States Army annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

Nelson described this feat as a somewhat watershed moment for the Army because the service has been trying for years to complete a requirements document.

Previously, the approach was trying to come up with a system-of-systems approach for the entire Army that ended up being too big and too expensive.

Now, the approach is to break off smaller chunks to be more manageable. This includes a mounted requirement, which is completed and awaiting signature, a dismounted requirement, which is also nearly complete, as well as others.

The program managers are now using rapid equipping contracting vehicles to get after solutions in this space immediately.

Nelson also said the plan for engaging industry is to ask for specific solutions within each of the position, navigation and timing sectors as opposed to only something that addresses all of the above.

“I break it down because I think everybody has an area within that. Maybe you’ve got a specialty area where you’ve got a unique or innovative capability that can help in one of these areas. We’re all ears,” he said.

The Army is planning an industry day in Austin, Texas, for February or March where it plans to provide industry with technical and program of record roadmaps in the mounted, dismounted and aerial spheres of the assured-PNT realm. DN

ARMY’S NEW INTEL, EW PLATFORM GETS HELP FROM INDUSTRY

The Virginia-based IT and services company CACI is helping the Army reduce risk on a major new platform that combines signals intelligence and electronic warfare.

The Terrestrial Layer System, or TLS, is considered by some high-ranking Army officials to be a critical capability.

The system will provide a much-needed jamming capability that aims to restore electronic warfare capability back into units for one of the first times since the Cold War and aims to offset Russia’s highly sophisticated electronic warfare capabilities.

Jerry Parker, senior vice president of C4ISR and electronic warfare at CACI, said Oct. 10 at the Association of the United States Army annual meeting that the company is using its Tactical RF Exploitation Vehicle, which is funded through the Army, for work on the new system.

Company leaders hope the Army’s program office and the requirements generators can figure out how to best use these capabilities.

CACI’s demonstrator platform combines SIGINT, EW and cyber in one vehicle.

The initial capabilities and requirements paperwork for TLS has been finalized, with follow-on requirements documentation still in the works.

According to an Army spokeswoman, the service is awaiting analysis of a variety of efforts prior to writing final capability documents and intends to generate them over the next six to nine months.

Parker said he expects the Army won’t get its initial funds to test the new system until 2020.

As the Army continues to refine the concept and requirements, it is looking to leverage exercises and experimentation to inform this process.

The more the Army can learn about the concepts of operation and how to deploy these systems with tactical units, the more of those lessons they can incorporate into final requirements documents, he added.

“Our intent is to shorten the timeframe that it takes to get this capability out because we’re not advancing the state of the art, it’s really just an integration of things that exist today that just have never been put together before,” Parker said. DN

RECAP
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We fully support the U.S. Army’s mission of readiness, and are continually taking steps to minimize risks. Northrop Grumman’s focus on safety, quality and modernization efforts have increased production capacity ultimately ensuring we meet our operational demands.

During our tenure as the operator of the Lake City facility, through our own efforts and in partnership with the U.S. Government, we have improved capacity and equipment by increasing production by roughly 400%, while investing over $200M into the facility. As a leader in aerospace and defense technologies, Northrop Grumman maintains the critical skills, personnel and technical manufacturing capabilities essential to enable the Lake City facility to deliver high-quality, small-caliber ammunition from development to production.

“We at Northrop Grumman are unwavering in our commitment to ensure the U.S. Army’s state of readiness for today and tomorrow, with the highest quality ammunition for our soldiers.”

Mike Kahn, President Defense Systems
Northrop Grumman Innovation Systems