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The transmission of information from reconnaissance and other units that are in contact with the enemy units to the commanding units is a very important process for operations ranging from emergency and peacekeeping, to warfare. It comprises all means of transmitting messages, orders, and reports, both in the field, at sea and in the air and also between distant headquarters.

Most probably the land environment is the most challenging communications environment that the army faces nowadays. The challenges come from a combination of factors that includes the way that small teams are scattered in the battle terrain and the challenging environment in which modern warfare is conducted.

On the ground, dependency on communications is highly and especially at the lowest tactical levels. The reason is that there should be a way of compensation for the loss of visual contact between small teams and their parent organizations as they disappear in alleys, multistory buildings, and subterranean tunnels.

As it is already mentioned the land environment is the most challenging environment. An additional reason is that the performance of communications suffers from radio frequency (RF) transmission range reductions that are caused by line-of-sight issues and attenuation due to buildings, structures and terrain; as well as interference from other local electromagnetic systems.

The aforementioned problems create a new environment in which new tactical communication systems or novel ways of deploying or using existing tactical communication systems is needed.



Kyriazis Vasileios,

Epicos Newsletter Head Editor

Epicos "Project Opportunities" provides a unique set of online tools enabling the structure, identification and implementation of comprehensive Offsets programs, through a searchable database. By introducing different offset projects and ideas proposed by local A&D industry it ensures the optimum cost for Prime Contractors and reassures that the priorities of local industry are fully met...

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### **Uninterrupted secure communication utilizing existing different wireless technologies for Military and Homeland Security applications**

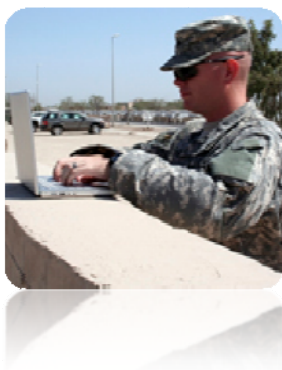


An independent, private, non-profit institution with extensive expertise in modern communications networks and services is proposing the development of a system that will take advantage of the availability and widespread use of multiple wireless networks in order to provide uninterrupted, wireless, secure and broadband communications in military, as well as homeland security applications.

**For Further Information Contact our ICO Department**

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### **WiFi Wireless networks to support coverage of large campuses or mobile formations**



A leading company in the design, development and production of networking infrastructure equipment for carrier and service provider networks, is proposing the implementation of a WiFi solution introducing a completely new WLAN that eliminates the coverage and capacity limitations of traditional WLAN architectures and the need for cell planning and site surveys. This solution is ideal for rapid deployment of mobile formation HQ and other data-on-the-move formations.

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**Military Communications: From Ancient Times to the 21st Century, by Christopher H. Sterling**



communications.

This book provides a thorough analysis of all military communication systems that humanity has used throughout the history. Advancing from fire signals to VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol), from foot to carrier pigeons to satellites and Blackberries the book gives the history of a fascinating topic. Military communications have evolved side-by-side with technological breakthroughs and even sometimes were the motivating factor behind communication advances. "Military Communications: From Ancient Times to the 21st Century", is a must be in anyone interested in the evolution of military

**Crystal Clear: The Struggle for Reliable Communications Technology in World War II, by Richard J. Thompson Jr.**



of the most basic devices of the post-war era, from watches, clocks, and color televisions, to cell phones and computers.

Some of the most important technological leaps in the twentieth century occurred during the Second World War II. From radar to nuclear energy important technological discoveries occurred during this period that effected later developments on several domains of civil and military industry. One of these discoveries was the quartz crystals, which proved to be pivotal to the Allied victory-and to post-war development. The author of this book tries to give a thorough history of this invention that provided the U.S. military, for the first time, with reliable communication on the front lines and then went on to become the core of some

### **Medvedev pledges to recreate strong Navy in 10 years**

KALININGRAD REGION, September 28 (RIA Novosti) - Russia will recreate a powerful Navy in the next ten years, President Dmitry Medvedev said on Monday at a meeting with military personnel who took part in the Zapad 2009 drills. The Zapad (West) 2009 large-scale joint military exercises being held by Russia and Belarus started on September 18 and will end on Tuesday, with about 12,500 service personnel and up to 200 items of military equipment and hardware having taken part. Asked whether any of Russia's naval fleets are to be replaced now that many vessels have been in service for 20-25 years, Medvedev said: "We are facing the most large-scale task - to reestablish the Navy, as a significant number of our ships - both surface and submarine - are serving their last years now." "This does not mean they can't operate, but nevertheless new ships should be put into operation. And we have a stock of submarines and ships," he said. "I am convinced we will be able to reestablish our Navy in the next decade at levels that our state will require. And we need a strong navy," the president said. The service personnel, numbering over 20, presented Medvedev, who is Supreme Commander-in-Chief, with a striped sailor vest, a marine beret and a mockup of a battleship that took part in the maneuvers, while the president presented them with watches. The ex-Soviet neighbors Russia and Belarus announced plans in the late 1990s to form a union state in a bid to achieve greater political, economic and military integration, but the project has largely existed on paper. The exercise among other things rehearses interoperability within the framework of the Belarusian-Russian integrated air defense system, which the two countries agreed to establish recently. Russia is represented by the Moscow Military District units, Ground Forces, Air Force, Air Defense Forces, Airborne Troops and Baltic Fleet naval task forces, and Belarus by operational command units, Interior Ministry, Emergencies Ministry and State Security Committee troops.

**Source:** Ria Novosti

### **NATO chief endorses US commander's Afghan report**

NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said on Monday he agreed with a grim assessment of the war in Afghanistan by the top US commander there but stopped short of calling for more troops.

"Basically I share the views presented by General (Stanley) McChrystal," Rasmussen said when asked about a leaked report by the commander of US and NATO forces in Afghanistan.

The general's analysis recognizes there is no military solution to the war and calls for a "more comprehensive approach" that seeks to safeguard the population, Rasmussen said after a speech at the Atlantic Council, a Washington think tank.

Rasmussen said he was not ready to comment on McChrystal's request for tens of thousands of additional troops to reinforce efforts to counter Islamist insurgents.

"It would be premature to make any judgment here and now as regards a resource request," he said.

"Now we have to go through his initial assessment and analysis, discuss it within the alliance, agree on the approach and then we can make a decision on resources," he said.

But he urged the NATO-led coalition to provide more advisors and funding to build up Afghan security forces, which he said would pave the way for eventually scaling back the international military presence.

"We need more resources for our training mission in Afghanistan, to develop the capacity of the Afghan security forces," the NATO chief said.

Rasmussen's visit to Washington comes at a pivotal moment as President Barack Obama's advisors debate war strategy and a request from McChrystal for up to 40,000 additional troops.

Rasmussen held talks earlier with US Defense Secretary Robert Gates and was due to meet Obama on Tuesday.

In his speech, Rasmussen acknowledged declining public support in NATO countries for the war in Afghanistan that he said was marked by the perception that the coalition was "not getting anywhere."

He said a new approach was required and that "things are going to have to change."

It was crucial to show evidence of a transition to Afghan leadership, with the Kabul government gradually taking responsibility for security, he said.

"Sooner rather than later the transition must begin," he said.

But he added his call was not a "run for the exits" and that "NATO would stay as long as it takes to succeed."

Rasmussen also said the Afghan government had to be held accountable by donors to fight corruption and deliver services to its people and called for a new "compact" between outside governments and Kabul.

The McChrystal assessment endorsed by Rasmussen described daunting challenges in Afghanistan, with a government plagued by corruption and insurgents extending their reach.

Analysts who advised McChrystal for his assessment have urged the United States and its allies to make more demands on the Kabul government in return for generous development funds flowing to the country.

**Source:** © 2009 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

### **Russian, Belarusian leaders to discuss trade, military ties**

MOSCOW, September 29 (RIA Novosti) - Russian and Belarusian presidents will meet during the final stage of military drills in the Belarusian city of Baranovichi



on Tuesday to discuss trade and military ties. Dmitry Medvedev and Alexander Lukashenko will attend the final stage of the large-scale joint military exercises, Zapad (West) 2009, which started on September 18 and ends on Tuesday. On Monday the Russian president said the exercise was of a defensive nature and the two countries were "not threatening anyone." Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko earlier said that the removal of trade barriers was the only problem in the relations between the two states. Relations between Belarus and Russia, which have been trying for several years to establish a Union State, have been strained recently over a series economic and political disputes, including Russian energy supplies, a milk export row and Lukashenko's reluctance to sign a deal to set up a post-Soviet rapid reaction force. The Russian president said the talks would not go on smoothly, but the solutions would definitely be found. Kremlin aide Sergei Prihodko earlier said the two leaders are expected to meet on the sidelines of the Eurasec summit in November. The ex-Soviet neighbors announced plans in the late 1990s to form a union state in a bid to achieve greater political, economic and military integration, but the project has largely existed on paper.

**Source:** Ria Novosti

### **Olympic Airlines successor takes over Tuesday**

Greece's national carrier Olympic Airlines which was bought by Greek and United Arab Emirates investment group Marfin announced Saturday that starting Tuesday most of its flights will be operated by its successor Olympic Air.

The new airline was originally set to start operations on Thursday "but for reasons related to adapting and transferring passengers to Olympic Air flights, we decided to make this succession on Tuesday, a day when traffic at Athens airport is not that heavy," Olympic Airlines spokesman Michalis Miyakis told AFP.

Olympic Air will take over most of the 28 international flights and 26 domestic flights previously operated by Olympic Airlines, he added.

Any passengers holding tickets on Olympic Airlines after September 29 can travel on Olympic Air or with other carriers at no additional expense, the airline said in statement.

Earlier this month Olympic Air said it had signed a deal with US carrier Delta Airlines allowing code sharing on the Athens-New York route from October 1 in a bid to boost its global reach.

Olympic Air chief Antonis Simigdalas also said the airline would sign agreements with Air France-KLM, Cyprus Airways and Etihad Airways for flights to Canada, France and the Netherlands between now and March 2010.

Olympic Air has received investments totalling 1.1 billion dollars (746 million euros), employs 5,000 people, owns 32 planes and includes handling and engineering services.

Olympic Airlines will continue to operate flights to a few international destinations including Tel Aviv, Istanbul and Cairo and some Greek islands after a call for bids for these destinations proved unsuccessful in August.

A new Greek government to be formed after the general election next weekend is expected to relaunch bids for these remaining destinations, Olympic Airlines has said.

**Source:** © 2009 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

### **Delta gets financing to tackle debt**

Major US airline Delta said Monday it had closed 2.1 billion dollars in financing deals, marking "a significant step" toward repaying debt.

"The competitive terms and strong demand for this financing reflect the market's confidence in Delta and our financial strength," said Ed Bastian, Delta's president.

The 2.1 billion dollars in transaction will generate 600 million dollars in "incremental liquidity," Delta, the world's largest airline in terms of traffic, said in a statement.

The new financing transactions were secured by liens against Delta's Pacific franchise, which includes route authorities, slots and gate leaseholds, the statement said.

Liens are a form of security interest granted over property items to secure debt payment.

"With these transactions, we've addressed more than 40 percent of our 2010 (debt) maturities and generated an incremental 600 million dollars to bolster our best-in-class liquidity position," Bastian said.

Delta said earlier this year that it planned to slash flight capacity by 10 percent in 2009 amid a global economic slowdown and rising fuel prices.

The Atlanta, Georgia-based airline had said the capacity reductions would begin in September.

**Source:** © 2009 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)