

International Communications Exercise Tests C4 Interoperability

By Harrison Donnelly

Combined Endeavor 2005, a military communications and information system exercise involving 43 countries, is drawing to a close this week after two weeks of interoperability testing.

The exercise was held at Lager Aulenback, Germany, with a forward operating site in Constanta, Romania. Sponsored by U.S. European Command in cooperation with the German and Romanian defense ministries, the test brought NATO and Partnership for Peace nations together to test interoperability of participant nations' C4 systems in support of future humanitarian, peacekeeping and disaster relief operations.

The multinational communicators were scheduled to conduct more than 1,400 interoperability tests, focusing on satellite communications, video teleconferencing, Voice over Internet Protocol and single channel radio networking.

For example, members of the Air Force Engineering and Technician Services (AFETS) tested laser equipment with their Romanian counterparts. A recent laser

module demonstration, using LSA Photonics S1552XR equipment, worked flawlessly and revealed multiple advantages.

Another experiment tested the ATM core network for capacity and latency and checked out the interconnected router IP networks between participating nations. As part of a team led by the Joint Interoperability Test Command, Spirent Federal used Spirent's Abacus 5000 to conduct Voice over IP and video testing, and employed Spirent's SmartBits Performance Analysis Test System with its Avalanche Web and Security Test System to simulate mul-

multiple users of the data network into command centers.

"Simply put, this exercise is creating the future of military communications worldwide," said Air Force Brigadier General Thomas Verbeck, director of the Command, Control, Communication Systems and Warfighting Integration Directorate (ECJ6). "Future operations in the European theater will typically involve the joint, multi-national forces of several different nations; therefore it's critical that their communications and information systems are compatible and interoperable."

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The Army Chief Information Office/G-6 has become the first Army staff section at the Pentagon to appoint a command sergeant major as its enlisted advisor. **Command Sergeant Major Ronald Desjardins** started the new position as part of a pilot program. Desjardins will visit direct reporting units and signal elements to ensure they have what they need, and will also oversee equipment fielding, training programs and other functions for all signal soldiers.



Navy **Rear Admiral Nancy E. Brown** has been nominated for appointment to the grade of vice admiral and assignment as director of Command, Control, Communications, and Computer Systems, J-6, Joint Staff. Brown is currently serving as director for command control systems, J-6, Headquarters North American Aerospace Defense Command/director, architectures and integration, J-6, U.S. Northern Command.



Joel Brunson has been named president of TANDBERG Federal, with responsibility for all facets of TANDBERG's federal business. Before assuming his new position, he served as vice president of the federal sector for Avaya. Prior to Avaya, Brunson held various management roles in public sector sales, field finance and operations during his 15 years at Storage Technology Corp.