

National Defense Industrial Association

# CHECKPOINT

Michigan Chapter

October 2006

<http://www.ndia-mich.org/>

Volume 3, Issue 1

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Fort Knox-Armor Conference Projected for May 7-10, 2007

## ‘Want To Keep Up With Federal Contracting?’

There is a great website to keep up with the latest information titled “Where in Federal Contracting” and found at [www.wifcon.com](http://www.wifcon.com).

At this website you can find links to the Federal Acquisition Regulation, new acquisition policy and regulations as they are published, the latest GAO protest and Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals decisions, and much more.

There are articles and analysis on subjects like data rights. It even includes info on the status of current legislation in Congress as well as archives of Public Law. If that’s not enough, there are links to state and local contracting sites. The website is comprehensive, yet fairly easy to navigate. Check it out!

## Business Profiles

NDIA Members who would like their business profile displayed in Checkpoint should contact Chet Bisno ([chet.bisno@Comcast.net](mailto:chet.bisno@Comcast.net)). You need only provide your own material to fit a standard page in .doc or .ppt format

## President's Message

Members of NDIA’s Michigan Chapter, it is an honor to serve as your President. The Michigan defense community is a close family and I am very proud to be a contributing member.

This year marks Detroit’s 65<sup>th</sup> year as the heart of America’s Arsenal of Democracy. For those years our family, military and civilian alike, have provided what I consider the most vital service that our nation receives. We have collectively protected our individual freedoms while serving as a light of hope for those people downtrodden. This year, as the global war on terror continues, the fight remains very personal as our friends and family members serve around the globe. My wife, Jennifer, and I know the mixture of pride and concern that parents feel as both of our children serve in the US Air Force.

As the war continues, it impacts our lives and the Chapter on a daily basis. In August, the Army postponed the Power & Energy Symposium and later decided to cancel the 2007 Logistics Symposium. While certainly a disappointment, the Michigan NDIA Chapter supports these TACOM LCMC decisions knowing that our primary focus must remain on sustaining

Continued on page 2

## Presidents Corner (Cont.)

the warfighter. These actions in no way reflect badly on either the Chapter or our many volunteers. We stand ready to provide whatever help DoD needs in executing the fight.

I'd also like to thank Mr. Randal Gaereminck for his incredibly successful term as our 2005-2006 Chapter President. He continues to serve on the Board of Directors as Immediate Past President and our representative to NDIA National. The transition took place at the 2006 Annual Dinner meeting in July. This year's event was a sell out and was highlighted by a stirring discussion by General Barry McCaffrey's recent experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The success of this event is due completely to our planning committee pictured on page 4. They embody the spirit of cooperation and volunteerism that sustains this community as a family.

Finally, I'd like to encourage anyone who would like to be more involved in the Michigan Chapter of NDIA to do so. Please contact me directly and I can help ([chuck.prikopa@baesystems.com](mailto:chuck.prikopa@baesystems.com)). Thank you all for the opportunity to serve

Chuck Prikopa

## FY-07 Defense Authorization Bill Includes FCS 'Go/No Go' Decision Point

Inside the Army, 09 Oct 2006

The conference report on the FY-07 defense authorization bill requires an FCS milestone review within 120 days of the completion of the program's preliminary design review -- slated to occur in fiscal year 2008. "The [milestone] review shall include a comprehensive assessment and will determine whether the program should continue as currently structured, continue in a restructured form or be terminated," according to a summary of the conference report. Additionally, the provision would keep the Army from spending FCS funds beginning in FY-09 until the defense secretary submits the report to lawmakers.

## Michigan Chapter NDIA Membership

Members of the Michigan Chapter can be proud that our total membership is 1106 as of the September 16, 2006. This is a product of a two year concerted effort to improve. At every symposium we have had a membership table fully manned and supported with NDIA information, as well as complimentary promotional gift items.

Tight Government budgets have restricted travel, so the US Army has cut back participation, resulting in cancellation of several chapter activities planned in late 2006 and in 2007. However, your Board of Directors are still planning worthwhile venues for your participation and benefit.

We still need volunteers to help with our many planned activities; regardless of your specific talents. If you wish to help, please contact Glen Williams by: Cell (248-224-1957); or Fax (248-737-0066), or email ([eaglepacific@msn.com](mailto:eaglepacific@msn.com)).

On 2 August 2006, Michigan Chapter members participated in TACOM Organization Day activities. The TACOM LCMC community, family members, retirees, and guests were welcome to participate. There were games, displays, rides in military vehicles, food, and vendor/sponsor tables. We had a membership booth which provided many opportunities to interact with key TACOM personnel from all elements of the command. We discussed the objectives and benefits of NDIA membership to many visitors to our booth. The NDIA Michigan Chapter was recognized by Major General Lenaers, Commanding General, TACOM LCMC, and Mr. Jack Dugan, Deputy to the Commanding General for it's generous support of Organization Day.

Glen Williams

### Dinner Dance Photos.

If you attended the Dinner Meeting at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club and would at copy of any pictures taken of you at the event, please contact Denise Jablonski ([denise.jablonski@us.army.mil](mailto:denise.jablonski@us.army.mil)). She has one extra set of prints available. These prints are limited and no extra copies are available

## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Intelligent Ground Vehicle Competition (IGVC)

On 12 June 2006, the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Intelligent Ground Vehicle Competition had record breaking participation with 35 teams. The competition was held at Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Harrison Township, Michigan.

There were many IGVC firsts this year including:

- First team from India - University of Delhi.
- First California school - California State University at Northridge
- First ever Joint Architecture for Unmanned Systems (JAUS) Challenge. This new JAUS Challenge sponsored by the OSD Joint Robotics Program Manager experienced two firsts. .

The additional schools and universities to successfully complete the JAUS Challenge and receive a \$500 cash award sponsored by the OSD JRP were:

Bluefield State College  
Case Western Reserve  
Trinity College  
University of Cincinnati  
Ecole de Technologie Superieure  
Lawrence Tech  
Virginia Tech – Gemini  
University of Alberta  
University of Colorado Denver

## BAE Systems Delivers First FCS Communications Payloads

BusinessWire, 06 Oct 2006

BAE Systems has delivered the first communications payloads composed of Joint Tactical Radio System Ground Mobile Radio Systems under the U.S. Army's FCS program. "With this milestone achievement, Future Combat Systems has moved from delivering design to delivering hardware," said Donald C. De Pree, director of FCS C4ISR for Boeing. [See the full story on the Web.](#)

### APBI Conference Nugget:

JLTV dates now: RFI Dec 2006, Draft RFP Feb. 2007, Final RFP Apr. 2007.

### Editorial

## Moving *Checkpoint* to the Next Level—Will You Help?

As *Checkpoint* enters its third year, it's time for change. By that, I mean it's time to include more content of material interest to readers. *Checkpoint* will continue to highlight upcoming NDIA activities and report results of past activities. But each issue will complement NDIA activities with items about programs, contracting, contacts, and activities.

In addition to articles from members involved with NDIA management, I invite material from you. If you are aware of open, unclassified, common information that would be of value to the life cycle management community, don't hesitate to forward it. Of course, accuracy and good taste are critical. Short items of three to four paragraphs with highlights and a reference to a site or article for details will do.

We're starting this month with an open-ended list of URLs (Internet addresses) on page 6. Please support this list with sites you discover that are a good resource for our membership. When you forward the URL, please briefly describe the highlights you found there.

We'll publish new URLs in *Checkpoint* and we'll maintain a comprehensive list of URLs at the Michigan NDIA Site

Art Siirila gave us a great started with "Where in Federal Contracting." Art's contribution is a reference to a great site and an excellent description for members to understand its value.

I hope you find a nugget or two in *Checkpoint* in return for your participation as an NDIA member.

Chet Bisno

**Army Times** magazine reports that the Army will soon encrypt all portable computers, require the Common Access Card (CAC) to access them, and eventually require the same machines to read fingerprints before logging on.

Eventually, the CAC will be required to sign into all Defense Department computers.

### NDIA Combat Vehicles Conference Nugget:

FCS maximum weight confirmed as 27.7 tons.

# 62nd Annual Michigan NDIA Black Tie Dinner at the Gross Pointe Yacht Club



The Black Tie Dinner is the premier Michigan NDIA activity each year and all members are encouraged to join the festivities. Special thanks to the NDIA Dinner Dance Committee. Committee members at the 2006 dinner included (left to right) Ament, Elaine Jones, Pat Kotovich, Paul Curtis, Brian Naimola, Barb Naimola, Chuck Prikopa, Jennifer Prikopa, Stephanie Gaereminck, Randal Gaereminck, Kathy Lytle, Tom Lytle. Melissa Spencer (some committee members not pictured).

## Michigan NDIA Chapter Leadership

### President

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# Michigan NDIA Presents Silver Medals to McClelland and Mehney

At the 2006 Annual Dinner Meeting at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, the Michigan Chapter presented Silver Medals to Dr. Richard E. McClelland and Mr. Daniel G. Mehney for their years of support to the NDIA Michigan Chapter.

Daniel G. Mehney, Director of the Acquisition Center, US Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Life Cycle Management Command was recognized for his outstanding leadership and commitment to the Army Acquisition community. As Director of the TACOM Acquisition Center, he was responsible for a procurement mission that last year awarded over \$19 billion in contracts for a wide range of equipment in support of our war-fighters and our allies, including combat and tactical vehicles, the Future Combat System, small arms and armaments, research and development, services, and a myriad of other systems.

As Director of the Acquisition Center since 1994, his progressive leadership, focus on innovation and quality, and emphasis on professional development of his workforce has resulted in an organization that is a role model for Army contracting.

Dr. Richard E. McClelland, Director of the Tank-automotive and Armaments Research Development and Engineering Center was recognized for his outstanding leadership and commitment to the Ground Combat Systems and Combat Support Systems of the U.S. Army. His commitment to Transformation has brought a new focus in all phases of Research, Development, Engineering and the National Automotive Center mission areas.

Through Dr. McClelland's focus on Science & Technology transitioning to the Unit of Action, the Future Combat Systems will employ leap-a-head technologies. Those Technologies will allow the Army to benefit during future war-fighting with over-match capabilities. Key to the Army's Modernization Program was his support of the Stryker and the Future Tactical Wheeled Fleets. Dr. McClelland has been a strong advocate and supporter of NDIA by being involved as a speaker and attendee to many of its Technology symposiums and conferences.

Dr. McClelland is succeeded by Dr. Grace Bochenek who assumed responsibility at a ceremony hosted by MG Roger A. Neadeau, Commanding General, RDECOM, on Oct 20th.

Constance Blair

## Defense Acquisition University (DAU) Available to Contractors at No Cost, With Basic Classes Online

If you're interested in expanding your professional acquisition knowledge, I recommend you consider the Defense Acquisition University . They offer some web based, basic acquisition classes for which contractors can register at no cost. Basic classes, including Acquisition, Contracting, Logistics, can be completed on the web with no residency requirement. I've completed the three examples mentioned and found them all to be somewhat challenging, and very well presented.. They do require some self discipline to complete in the 60 to 90 days allotted.

There is no cost to defense industry employees for any DAU course attendance at resident courses. Attendance is on a space available basis. POC is Art McCormick, Industry Student Registrar, may be contacted at (703)805-4498 fax (703) 805-3709 or arthur.mccormick@dau.mil .

Chet Bisno

## Recommended Internet Sites:

### Defense Contracting Information:

**Where in Federal Contracting** - FAR, new policy and regulations, latest GAO protest and Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals decisions, and more - [www.wifcon.com](http://www.wifcon.com).

**Boeing** - FCS Lead Systems Integrator (LSI) Site - <http://www.boeing.com/defense-space/ic/fcs/bia/index.html>

**Global Security Organization** - News Intel and Systems Descriptions - <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/systems/ground/m1-intro.htm>

**PROCNET**—TACOM LCMC Procurement Information Site - <http://contracting.tacom.army.mil/awd.htm>

**U.S. Army Rapid Equipping Force** - To rapidly increase mission capability while reducing risk to Soldiers- <https://www.ref.army.mil/textonly/default.html>

**U.S. Army Solicitation Search** - Finding solicitations - [https://acquisition.army.mil/asfi/solicitation\\_search\\_form.cfm](https://acquisition.army.mil/asfi/solicitation_search_form.cfm)

**Federation of American Scientists** - Search for descriptions of US Weapon Systems and Munitions - <http://www.fas.org/main/home.jsp>

### Major U.S. Army Commands:

**Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC)** - <http://www-tradoc.army.mil/index.htm>

**Forces Command** - <http://www.forscom.army.mil/>

**Army Material Command (AMC)** - The Army's principal material developer <http://www.amc.army.mil/>  
Requires registration and password

### **Others:**

**Snopes** = To research all those chain letters to find out if they are true or not, before forwarding on to anybody- <http://snopes.com/>

**AcronymFinder** - Acronym Finder is the world's largest and most comprehensive dictionary of acronyms, abbreviations, and initialisms - <http://acronymfinder.com/>

## FCS Program Holding to Acquisition Milestones Despite Funding Cuts

Defense Daily, 12 Oct 2006

The Army's Future Combat Systems is holding fast to its schedule for major acquisition milestones, despite funding cuts that average a quarter billion a year, according to Claude Bolton, the Army's acquisition chief. In the next couple of weeks he will sit down with Army Program Manager Future Combat Systems Maj. Gen. Charles Cartwright to talk about the impact of the latest cuts--how they impact FY '07, and into the Program Objective Memorandum FY '08-'13. In FY '07 FCS faces more than \$300 million in reductions. FCS is on track and on budget and is a successful program, he said. No one has attacked the program as mismanaged, or that technologies are not maturing as expected. "Quite frankly, I think Congress is between a rock and a hot spot," he said, as it works to balance priorities and funding.

U.S. Army Combat Systems:

# STRYKER

Stryker, a family of eightwheel-drive combat vehicles that can travel at speeds up to 62 mph on highways with a range of 312 miles, is the Army's highest-priority production combat vehicle program and the centerpiece of the ongoing Army Transformation. Stryker operates with the latest C4ISR equipment and an integrated armor package protecting soldiers against improvised explosive devices, rocket propelled grenades, and a variety of infantry weapons. Stryker's current combined fleet operational readiness rate is 96 percent with more than 6 million miles accumulated through two



completed Operation Iraqi Freedom rotations.

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The U.S. Army placed an FY06 order for 306 Strykers wheeled combat **Stryker** vehicles in April. To date, General Dynamics has delivered more than 1,500 Strykers to

the U.S. Army. Significantly lighter and more transportable than existing tanks and armored vehicles, Stryker fulfills an immediate requirement to equip a strategically deployable (C-17/C-5) and operationally deployable (C-130) brigade capable of rapid movement anywhere on the globe in a combat-ready configuration. Stryker Brigade Combat Teams have operated with "historically high" mission availability rates in Iraq since October 2003, demonstrating the value of a force that can move rapidly as a cohesive and networked combined arms combat team.

The U.S. Army has placed a \$127 million order for 103 additional Stryker wheeled combat vehicles from General Dynamics Land Systems. This order increases the Army's fiscal year 2006 Stryker procurement to a total of 409 vehicles.

All work will be performed in Anniston, Alabama; Lima, Ohio; and London, Ontario, Canada, by existing General Dynamics employees. The U.S. Army also awarded General Dynamics a \$9.5 million contract modification to procure additional parts for Stryker vehicle battle damage repair. This work will be performed in Sterling Heights, Michigan, and London, Ontario, Canada.

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## NDIA 2006 Combat Vehicles Conference and TACOM APBI

# Some Senior Army Leadership Messages

The NDIA Combat Vehicles Conference and TACOM APBI took place in Dearborn the week of Oct. 23. Having attended these activities over about 20 years, I have to say these were among the best. It's impossible to address all the information presented, so only a few senior leadership key points will be addressed. Most of the messages, the need for change in particular, have been heard before. This time there is new emphasis.

The Combat Vehicles Conference Keynote speaker was LTC Joseph Yakovac, JR., Military Deputy/Director of the Acquisition Corps, Off of the Sec. of the Army (AL&T). He stressed "Agility to change" is necessary at the developmental level. LTG Yakovac cited the changing armor mission from tank vs. tank to today's urban fighting as an example of change. That scope of missions must be addressed in development.

Note that "agility," in the paragraph above, was used where you might have previously found "flexibility." In the past flexibility was considered a benefit. Today, flexibility in this context means "reactive." Agility means "proactive." Further, while clairvoyance would be nice, it's not available. Therefore both the government and industry must be agile and refocus rapidly as change indicates redirection.

He challenged industry's agility in recognizing the interdependency that now exists up to the Joint level. Combat systems are no longer independent – all are integrated and sensed from the individual soldier to the vehicle. The result is "Mega Systems" that are large, complex and cross traditional boundaries.

Yet another senior officer addressing change was MG Richard J. Rowe, Jr., Deputy Director/ Chief of Staff, Army Capabilities Integration Center, TRADOC.

MG Rowe's presentation was titled "Driving Change for the Army." He cited combining the U.S. Army's Armor and Infantry schools into the Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning (completion scheduled 2012) as an example. Similar centers will be established at other installations.

He too emphasized the operational imperative for scope from high intensity to stability operations. "Battle Command on the move" will replace Command Posts of the past. Global/Joint communications and assured communications anywhere will characterize the future.

The Keynote speaker for the APBI was MG Stephen Speakes, Director, Force Development Office, DCS, G8. MG Speakes also used "agility." However, coming from G8 his presentation was more directed to resources. He noted that Army personnel and funds requirements are growing, both are actually getting smaller. GDP share for the Global War on Terror is about 3.9%, less than any time in the past – in peace or conflict.

One opportunity to contain spending is standardization – a major feature of the Future Combat System (FCS). Standardization will enable troops to train on home station equipment with the assurance they can operate the same equipment anywhere in the world. This would eliminate transporting equipment unique to units. They will have trained on common FCS equipment.

He stressed that FCS is not in conflict with Transformation. He asked industry to support this story. He gave the impression that some persons in industry were bad mouthing FCS. He said the Army has killed over 160 developments over the last 10 years, but it will not kill FCS.

While on the topic of change, MG Nadeau's remarks at Grace Bochenik's October 20th TARDEC Assumption of Responsibility, address change from yet another angle. He proposes we, as a community, reexamine all processes and procedures in light of changes occurring daily. In his words – processes that worked well in the past, almost guarantee failure today. He charged Ms. Bochenek with that responsibility.

In conclusion, the only constant remains change. And it's accelerating change that will drive today's acquisition process.

Briefings from both conferences will be available on the NDIA website ([www.NDIA.org](http://www.NDIA.org)) within the next month

Chet Bisno