

DOD Technology Report – 2008

Tom Fagan
Email: tfagan@ieee.org

Technology Trends are continuing in many Mission Areas. At the top of the list continues to be personal and vehicle protection including lots of new research in material development. Special emphasis is being placed on passive, lightweight composite and ceramic based materials utilized for structural or appliqué armor kits.

Sensors of all types for identifying threats and their location continue to be a robust development area. Systems that provide gunshot detection and rapid counter fire are of great interest to the DOD Community. Mortar location systems and means for precision engagement are well funded. A new emphasis is being placed on overcoming cross-cultural barriers, with R&D in such areas as electronic translators, multimedia systems supporting collection, translation, and archiving of Arabic broadcast media and bi-lingual speech- to- speech translation supporting Arabic, Pashtu and English.

On the logistical side of the equation, improved and better protected trucks (The Army's New "Truck of the Future"), airborne delivery supply systems and new power sources, particularly those supporting regenerating energy are showing great promise in reducing transportation requirements, thus reducing convoy vulnerability to enemy attacks.

Other Technology developments include robotics, Unattended Airborne Vehicles (UAV's) and mobile command and control with ad hoc networking and secure communications. Information Systems and Software Development for Systems that create a situational awareness picture and provide battlefield identification are receiving lots of attention.

2008 will also see much emphasis on the new DOD Reset Program that will provide Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) on all kind of equipment to replenish the depleted DOD Supply Chain.