

Executive Summary

Exercise Reconstruction and Data Collection

In summary, the NRAC Panel on Exercise Reconstruction and Data Collection recognizes the high value in providing immediate feedback to the Fleet and Battle Group Commanders during a BG exercise to assist in identifying shortcomings, establish additional training requirements, and assess war fighting capability. It is paramount that this information be made available to the Fleet on a timely basis so that all the benefits can be realized. In addition, longer term analysis of the data can provide "lessons learned" for future commanders of battle groups.

The current process of data collection is a piecemeal approach that does not provide accurate and timely data to the Fleet. In recognition of this, OP-73 has two initiatives underway (EXCOM and ORA refocus) that will move the Navy toward the goal of capitalizing upon exercise data to enhance training and Battle Group readiness. The NRAC Panel believes that these initiatives should be broadened in scope and should drive a systems engineering process that evolves the hardware and software sub-systems necessary to meet the Fleet's objectives.

The NRAC Panel finds that several short-term efforts will provide an immediate boost in the Navy's ability to provide feedback to the Fleet on a quick look basis. These critical improvements include providing a commercial SATCOM terminal on key surface combatants; adding voice digitizing capability; improving the timeliness of the quick look data obtained from the E-2 and Aegis; and the development and employment of a DoD/Joint Services Range Applications Program instrumentation pod.

A Navy commitment to resolve the exercise reconstruction and data collection problem must include the implementation of a management and systems engineering process that ensures the central coordination and effective employment of immediate improvements, and the evolution of a data collection system that incorporates the latest available technology (commercial and military) to meet the needs of the fleet commanders.