



U.S. ARMY COMBAT CAPABILITIES DEVELOPMENT COMMAND – ARMY RESEARCH LABORATORY

Experimentation at ARL-Distributed Virtual Proving Ground (DVPG)

Jade Freeman, Ph.D. Niranjan Suri, Ph.D.

Information Sciences Division

Computational and Information Sciences Directorate



ARL-DISTRIBUTED VIRTUAL PROVING GROUND (DVPG)



- **Decentralized, collaboratively owned, and geographically distributed network**

- Distributed modeling and simulation
- Accelerated converged experimental innovation
- Datasets and an environments where basic research can be explored and evaluated

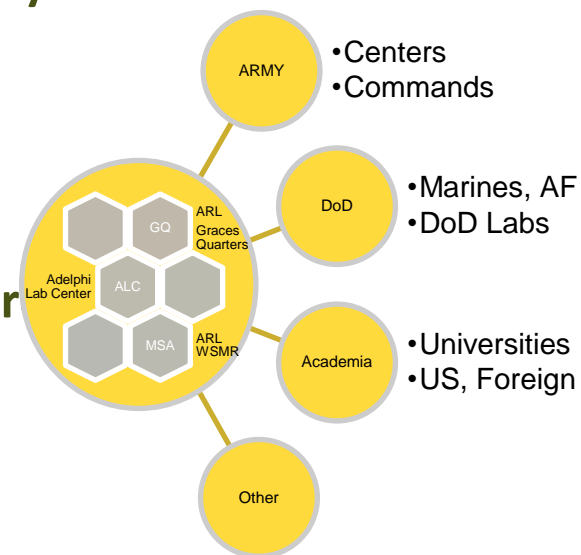
- **Brings experiments closer within collaborative research**
- **Component infrastructure to leverage/share/amplify capabilities**

- **External collaborators run experiment on their networks, and provides access to DoD collaborators**

- Accelerates interactions with innovations
- Reduces time, costs, and risks associated with network, materials, and labor

- **ARL controlled and addressed security concerns**

- Core testbeds within the Army control
- 6.1/6.2 content (outside of PII, ITAR, Financial) is not CUI -- CUI limits foreign national access





UNCLASSIFIED

ARL-DVPG FEATURE OVERVIEW



- **Physically Distributed – Leverages Existing Facilities Nationwide**
 - Core ARL Labs at WSMR (NM), ALC (MD), APG (MD)
 - Include collaborator's testbed facilities
- **Complex synthetic environments with sensors and information infrastructure to support live and simulation-based testing of the Army's future systems**
 - Integrated information systems, hardware, Algorithms, Data, Tools, Actors
 - Continuous data collection and Recording
 - Playback and Data Set Creation
 - Ground truth data contained at each test center, access to external data sources
- **Connect heterogeneous sensing and actuation capabilities that achieves scale in spatial diversity and heterogenous capabilities**
- **Represents all conditions in which the Army may operate**
 - Urban/Suburban Warfare
 - Natural environmental effect
 - Desert, Forest, Grassland



UNCLASSIFIED



MULTI-PURPOSE SENSING AREA (MSA)



UNCLASSIFIED

Location: WSMR, NM

Fully-instrumented capability to execute collective sensing experimentation and evaluation, with mobility and spectrum effects

ARL's Multi-Purpose Sensing Area (MSA)

- ARL shared-owned facility
- Low security concerns
- Natural characteristics for contested austere environment and MDO Effect Loop evaluation



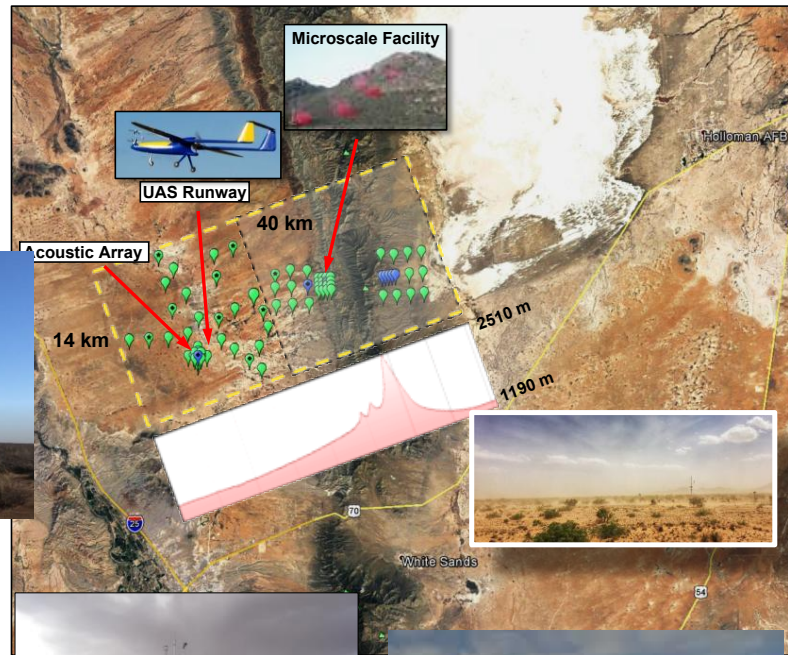
Fifty-One towers with heterogeneous sensors

Video Cameras, Passive IR, Visual, RF, Atmospheric Sensors (Temp, Humidity, Light) Vibration / Movement Sensors (Accelerometer)

GPS Sensor (for moving entities)

Integration with Joint C2 systems

- Connects to containerized/virtualized C2 systems with firewalled access
- Provides immersive & 2D COP visualizations



UNCLASSIFIED



ALC CAMPUS SENSOR NETWORK (CSN)

UNCLASSIFIED



Location: Adelphi, MD

Dynamic heterogenous sensors, network infrastructure on laboratory campus



ARL sensor network infrastructure

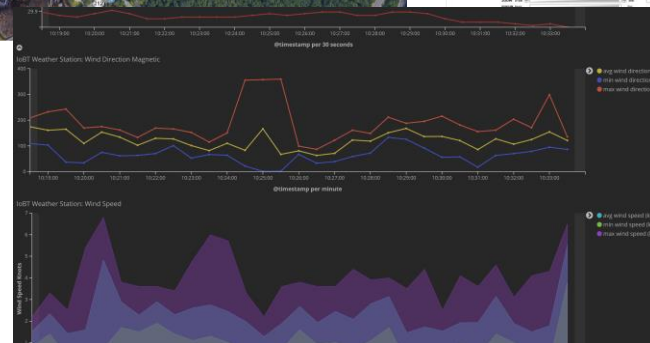
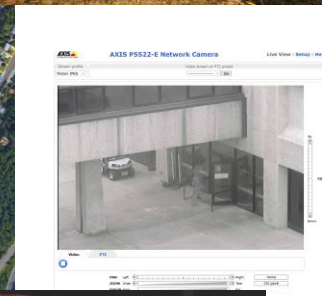
- Developed and maintained ARL/ALC
- Originally developed for data exploitation for ARL researchers
- Provide robust and validated research in lab/field test setting
- Real-time sensor data stream acquisition and control

Twenty-Nine sensor assets and more to come

- Ground sensors fully instrumented for movement detection and longitudinal data collection
- Environmental sensing
- Rooftop cameras
- Other sensor capabilities mirroring MSA

Integration with Joint C2 systems

- Connects to containerized/virtualized C2 systems
- Provides immersive & 2D COP visualizations



UNCLASSIFIED



ROBOTIC RESEARCH COLLABORATION CAMPUS

UNCLASSIFIED



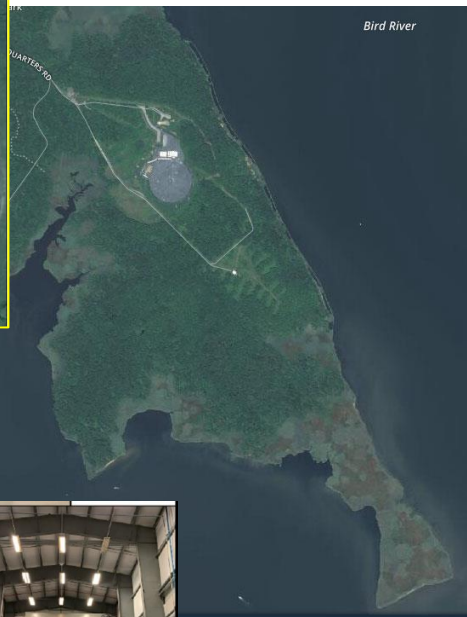
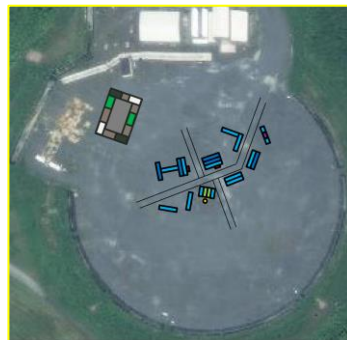
Location: Graces Quarters, MD

CHALLENGING AND COMPLEX SITUATED
EXPERIMENTATION FOR ARL AUTONOMOUS
SYSTEMS ENTERPRISE with IoBT Sensing
capabilities

Current High Profile DoD Collaboration Projects

- AIMM – Artificial Intelligence for Maneuver and Mobility
- VICTOR - Versatile Tactical Power and Propulsion
- EOT – Emerging Overmatch Technologies
- HAT – Human Autonomy Teaming
- DCIST - Distributed and Collaborative Intelligent Systems and Technology
- SARA – Scalable, Adaptive and Resilient Autonomy
- A2I2 Cooperative Agreements

**Integration and engineering support for
research-driven development of air and
ground platforms**



UNCLASSIFIED



PURPOSE OF ARL-DVPG

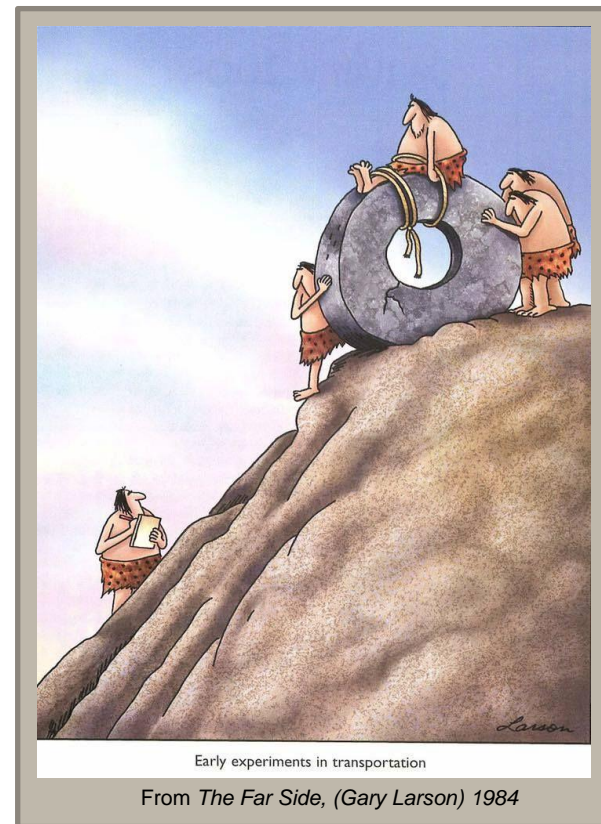


- Large scale basic research experimentations by Virtual integration of new and existing experimentation facilities across collaborating institutions deployed in cooperation with other Army / DoD / US Government Agencies
- Allows for validation, rejection, refinement, and abandonment of concepts and hypotheses in the early course of 6.1/6.2 research safely within a “would be real-world” environment

Failing Fast Approach

Failing fast, for the right reasons, supports the development of the right concepts.

- NATO CD&E Handbook, 2021



Early experiments in transportation

From *The Far Side*, (Gary Larson) 1984

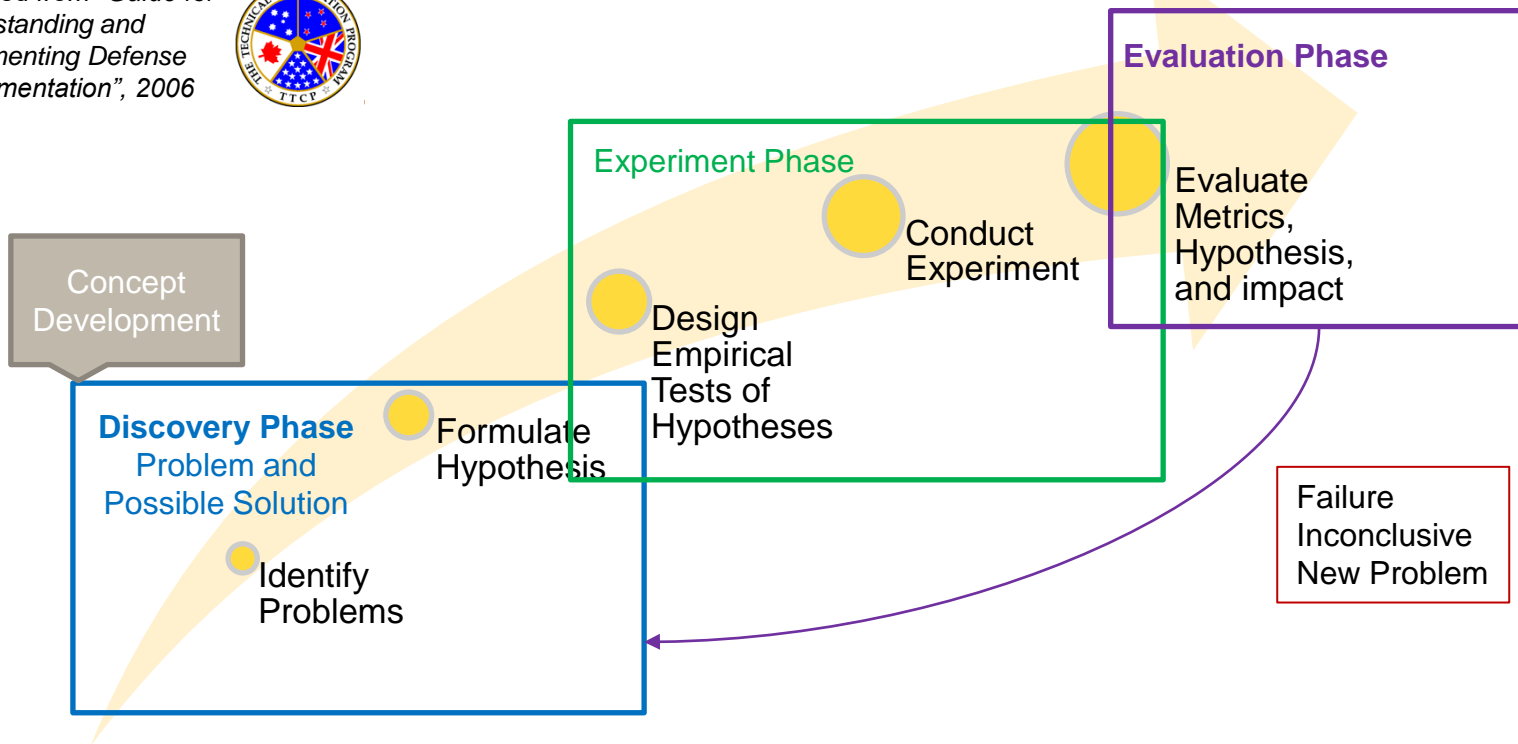


RESEARCH CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT & EXPERIMENT PROCESS



UNCLASSIFIED

*Adopted from "Guide for Understanding and Implementing Defense Experimentation", 2006



UNCLASSIFIED



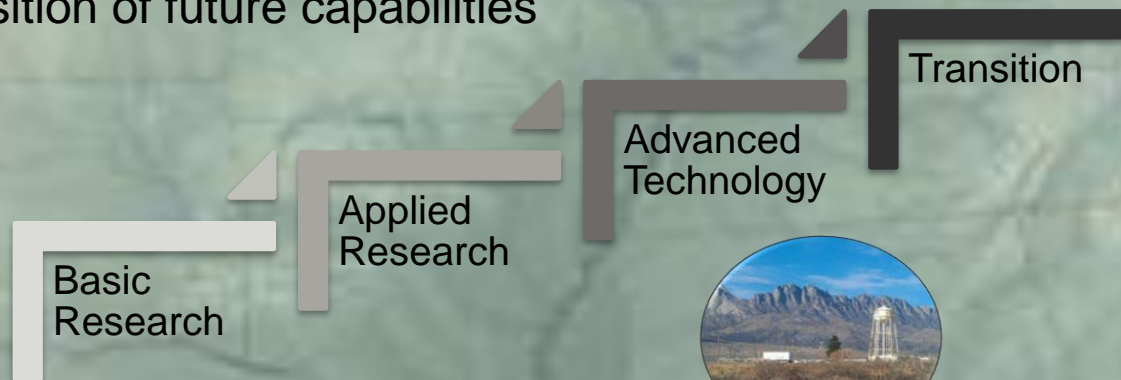
UNCLASSIFIED

FOUNDATIONAL RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTATION AT SCALE



Large-scale repeatable experiments accelerates

- Basic and applied research towards incremental scientific advancement
 - Collaborative discovery and converging capabilities
 - Robust validations
- Path to transition of future capabilities



UNCLASSIFIED