

DYNAMIC NETWORK ANALYSIS

DNA team moving forward, breaking barriers

By 1st Lt. John Picklesimer
AFCA/ITAI

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, ILL. — The Air Force Communications Agency's secret weapon for analyzing information systems capabilities and network interoperability, Dynamic Network Analysis, is not so secret anymore.

The DNA team is moving forward from consolidating Air Mobility Command's e-mail system and modeling the U.S. Central Command Tactical Air Force network. DNA is now working with USJFCOM, the Army, and is displaying the capability to coalition partners in the Middle East. War game and warfighter level support is still the major focus for DNA, but branching out has opened up new opportunities for data sharing and interoperability.

After Sept. 11, 2001, government agencies began transforming information from a need-to-know to a need-to-share philosophy.

The Thor's Hammer National Space Game hosted by USJFCOM, USSTRATCOM and the National Reconnaissance Office, set out to break down those walls within the government to facilitate data sharing without compromising sources or technologies. This decision superiority game, set in the year 2018, examined intra-government and multinational communications.

The AFCA DNA team played a key role by providing network analysis.

"The Thor's Hammer computer war game demonstrated information sharing and working relationships between military, civilian and coalition organizations," said command officials in Norfolk, Va. "The games taught groups they can train together in these areas using the coalition collaborative information environment."

Although the exercise proved to be challenging, the DNA team takes pride in knowing their involvement directly contributed to

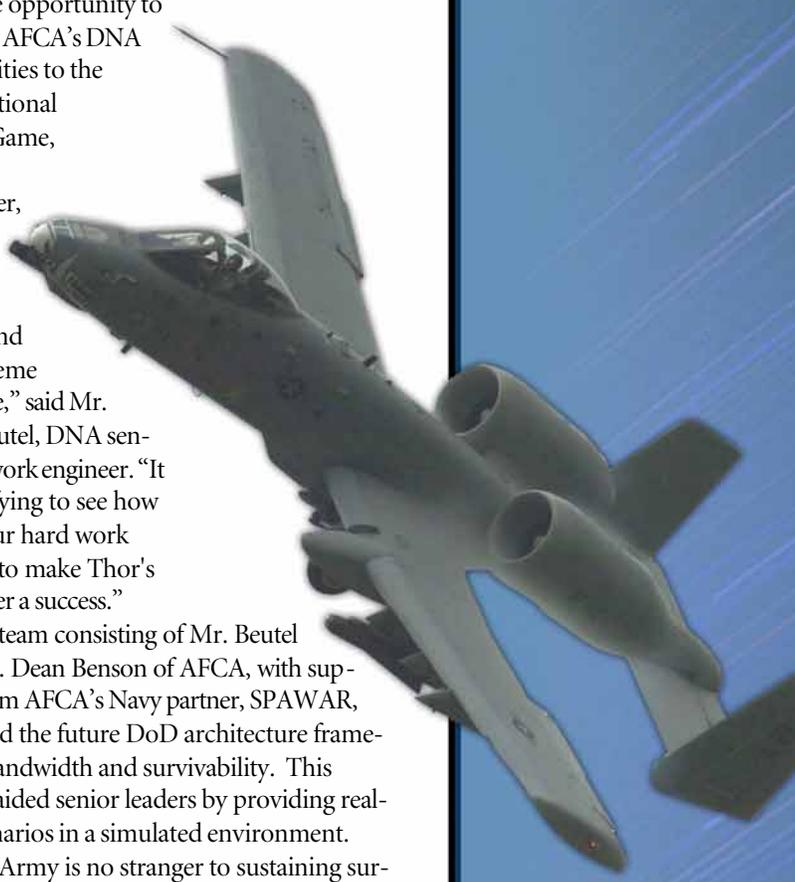
mission success.

"The opportunity to provide AFCA's DNA capabilities to the first National Space Game, Thor's Hammer, was a great challenge and an extreme pleasure," said Mr. Rob Beutel, DNA senior network engineer. "It is gratifying to see how all of our hard work helped to make Thor's Hammer a success."

The team consisting of Mr. Beutel and Mr. Dean Benson of AFCA, with support from AFCA's Navy partner, SPAWAR, modeled the future DoD architecture framework bandwidth and survivability. This model aided senior leaders by providing real-life scenarios in a simulated environment.

The Army is no stranger to sustaining survivable communication and has moved into the network modeling business to enhance its mobile and fixed communications systems. AFCA and the Army's Information Systems and Engineering Command at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., have found common ground in modeling the Army enterprise architecture.

Lt. Col. Arthur Aragon Jr., deputy director of the Army Information Systems Engineering Command said, "We are looking forward to partnering with AFCA and exchanging models and reports. "This partnership enhances the joint effort of interoperability between services. Partnerships between uniformed services and government agencies are our biggest resource when compiling data and modeling architectures."



When networks are secure and reliable, senior leaders are better able to direct bombs on target.