

# OPERATIONS & EXERCISES

## require multi-level security methods

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**ORLANDO, Fla.** — The need for all services, government departments, foreign states and coalition forces to train as one entity presents a major security and disclosure problem.

**Air Force leaders expect the warfighter to train as he fights and to be able to use all means possible to accomplish his goals, unhampered by old security concerns.**

Since Sept. 11, multi-level security methods of communication have taken center stage and old security work-arounds can't be tolerated.

Simulation training is done on stand-alone systems in physically separated locations to allow different classification levels to be worked in training and exercise events.

Information from different sources are then sneaker-netted to other systems for exercise inject.

Today's new exercise/training concept calls for interfacing geographically separated simulation systems (live, virtual, and/or constructive) into realistic training envi-

ronments. **A key challenge is how to link two or more simulations that operate at different security classification levels.**

The conventional approach is to operate the entire simulation at the highest security level of the participating exercises.

This limits play during Korean, NATO, and coalition exercises. It's also increasingly more difficult and impractical, and often limits training because it limits participation.

The future approach must be hinged on developing a multi-level security solution for distributed simulation.

**Multi-level security is the ability to work with information from all domains via a single workstation.** This would allow two or more classification levels of information to be processed at the same time within the same system, when some users are not cleared for all levels of information being used.

A number of initiatives are ongoing by many Air Force, service and nation-

al organizations. All are focused on a system that would allow use of all classified materials by different need-to-know personnel, with a password or physical card reader that would allow sign-on to the system— a security tag on information used during exercise or training events. The box would include a physical up-guard and a physical down-guard. These projects will in time solve the technical problem.

Progress also needs to be made on the procedures and policies associated with this effort. If the system is in a controlled environment then this would be the same as housing it in a Secured Compartmentalized Information Facility and not actually be multi-level.

The policy question is the hardest aspect. Policy must be changed to allow for true multi-level security. The National Security Agency sets policy for MLS. To change existing policy will take the full collaboration of the services, joint and national communities. To truly train as we fight, MLS must be a fully practiced reality.

