

## **NATIBO Annual Meeting**

**24-25 June 2008**

The U.S. Office of the Secretary of Defense hosted the NATIBO annual meeting in Boston, Massachusetts.

The meeting served to update the NATIBO Steering Committee on the ongoing initiatives of the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and the Canadian Department of National Defence (DND), under the auspices of NATIBO and to receive strategic guidance for the coming year.

The two day meeting included a full day workshop at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) titled, "Technology Collaboration in an International Environment" and a second day of update briefings to the Steering Committee membership.

The MIT Workshop was held on 24 June. The agenda included an industry session with briefings from Pratt & Whitney, Raytheon, M/A Com, Incorporated, and GE Ceramics that focused on issues and barriers to international technology collaboration and a Government/academia session with briefings from the U.S. Army Natick Soldier RD&E Center, the Department of Transportation, the MITRE Corporation, and MIT Lincoln Laboratory with a similar focus. The speakers provided valuable insights and gave the meeting participants an excellent opportunity to better understand the complexities U.S. and Canadian government and commercial organizations encounter in conducting and managing defense technology development and transfer in the international environment. NATIBO plans to use the discussion and ideas generated in the workshop to improve advocacy of collaborative international vehicles and streamline processes to initiate and conduct projects that leverage resources between the respective Departments of National Defense.

The NATIBO Steering Committee Meeting was held on 25 June. Discussion topics included ongoing Industrial Base and technology initiatives of the U.S. DoD and the Canada DND, as well as the work program of the NATIBO.

A portion of the meeting focused on status reports presented by members of working groups established under the NATIBO Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

a. The Infantry Soldier Modernization Working Group (ISMWG) Terms of Reference (TOR) was signed at this meeting. The purpose of the WG is to formalize cooperation between PEO Soldier, the U.S. Marine Corps, and Canada's Director Soldier Systems Program Management in the collaboration on engineering, development, testing, and technology assessment (equipment acquisition activities) and the exchange of equipment under a Project Arrangement (PA) for programs and projects related to the Army, Marine Corps, and Canada's Integrated Soldier System Project. Specific items include: soldier equipment and sensors; integrated soldier systems; human systems integration; human performance optimization; and infantry

weapons. The group is currently working on a PA for equipment exchange; and other PAs are planned for soldier distributed power and integrated headwear design.

b. Defense Industrial Base/Critical Infrastructure Protection Working Group (DIB/CIPWG). The U.S. and Canada are working to establish a process framework for a Joint Critical Infrastructure Protection-Mission Assurance Assessment. They will identify one site in each country and develop a joint vulnerability assessment. The WG is currently working to establish a PA under the NATIBO MoU and hopes to have it finalized later this year. The DIB/CIPWG plans to establish and define the requirements for a bi-national protection program that focuses on lower tier contractors. Twenty-one assessments are scheduled for FY2009. A common geospatial tool (ie: Palanterra or Knowledge Display & Aggregation System (KDAS)) will be used in analyzing and evaluating the threats and vulnerabilities that would impact the production of defense contractors in an emergency.

Representatives from the U.S. DoD and Canadian DND presented informative briefings on the current political environment in their respective countries and the potential effects on U.S. and Canadian defense policies/strategies in coming years.

A representative from the U.S. Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Industrial Policy) provided an update on DoD's industrial base policy and activities.

The Defense Contract Management Agency Industrial Analysis Center provided an informational briefing on their efforts with the Joint Defense Manufacturing Technology Panel on the Fuel Cell Roadmap. Purpose of the Roadmap is to develop an overarching DoD Manufacturing Technology investment strategy by looking at near, mid and long term outlooks and to support production of affordable and readily available military essential batteries, fuel cells, etc. for the warfighter.

Two geographic information systems (GIS), Palanterra and the KDAS, were demonstrated to the group. A GIS integrates hardware, software and data for capturing, managing, analyzing, and displaying all forms of geographically referenced information. The DoD/Homeland Defense and DND plan to use a common (as yet unnamed) GIS to map their critical assets and to build databases to aid First Responders.

Representatives from DoD, HQ DND, the Services, Defense Agencies, Industry Canada and others participated in the meeting.

The 2009 annual meeting will be hosted by Canada's Department of National Defence.