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DMSO DESIGNATED AS DOD's LEAD STANDARDIZATION ACTIVITY FOR MODELING AND SIMULATION

On April 26, 2004, the Defense Standardization Program Office established the Modeling and Simulation Standards and Methodologies (MSSM) as the Department of Defense's newest standardization area. At the same time, it designated the Defense Modeling and Simulation Office (DMSO) as the Lead Standardization Activity (LSA) to manage it. This milestone marks further recognition of the growing importance of standards in making modeling and simulation (M&S) more interoperable to support an increasingly wider array of DoD operations and missions, including transformational changes that are presently taking place in the operating forces and the acquisition communities.

As LSA, DMSO is responsible for approving DoD standardization documents in the MSSM area, adopting non-Government standards (e.g., IEEE, ISO) for DoD use, and commenting on standardization documents from other Defense Standardization Program (DSP) areas that affect M&S. DSP policies foster broad community participation in the development and adoption of Defense standards. In addition to the participating and reviewing organizations identified in the DSP, DMSO will be working with OSD, the Military Services, and other DoD Components to establish a cadre of reviewers sensitive to the M&S requirements of the acquisition, training, analysis, and operational communities. The DSP process also allows for participation from industry and academia.

In response to end-user and M&S community input, over the coming months, DMSO expects to adopt several non-Governmental M&S standards for the Department. Adoption of the documents will list them in the Department of Defense Index of Specifications and Standards (DODISS) and Acquisition Streamlining and Standardization Information System (ASSIST) databases. Listing a standard in the DODISS makes it available to be cited in contracts and other acquisition and procurement documents.

As the Department's LSA for M&S, DMSO will also work in partnership with the M&S organizations of each of the Services to support standards that they wish to propose for full coordination within the DoD. In addition to the development and adoption of M&S standards, DMSO, as LSA, represents the M&S community as a review activity for standards in other areas that impact M&S activities. Such areas include information technology and communications standards.

Commenting on the new standardization area, Colonel Michael Finnern, USAF, Director, DMSO, said: "The investment in M&S totals in the billions of dollars. DMSO is designated as the Department's full-time focal point for M&S. Thus, the DMSO is ideally placed with the Department's senior management body for M&S to serve as the LSA for the MSSM standardization area."

The availability of DoD-adopted M&S standards will facilitate the incorporation of modeling and simulation capabilities into the Global Information Grid (GIG), their use as tactical decision aids, and their utilization in support of acquisition programs and test events. The goal of the M&S standardization program is to ensure that M&S standards are in place to support the current and projected needs of the user communities—operating forces, training, acquisition and research.

Reviewers and other interested parties can contact the DMSO standardization program at the following: ms_standards@dmsomil or via the DMSO web page at <http://www.dmsomil>.