



National Training Systems Association



March 6, 2006

Congressman J. Randy Forbes  
U.S. House of Representatives  
307 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Forbes,

As per your suggestion that the National Training and Simulation Association (NTSA) prepare a summary report of the activities and recommendations of the First Annual Modeling and Simulation (M&S) Leadership Summit conducted in Suffolk, VA on 6 February 2006, the following is submitted:

**Background:** NTSA has long sought a means to underscore the importance of M&S technologies to the industrial base of this Nation. The establishment of the Congressional M&S Caucus based on your inspiration and vision has provided just such a vehicle. In discussions throughout 2005 with members of your staff it became apparent that optimal conditions existed to actively engage Congressional Members with the activities of the world's largest M&S Conference, I/ITSEC, an event drawing an international audience of 17,000 people committed to M&S technology advancement. The next logical step post I/ITSEC, and again based on your inspiration and vision, was to charter NTSA to organize and administer the First Annual M&S Leadership Summit with the intent of bringing together professionals from across the broad range of the M&S community of practice. That population includes representatives from government, industry, and academia, all of whom have deep and abiding interests in M&S. In spite of the short time given to pull the necessary resources together, over 350 delegates gathered in Suffolk on 6 February to engage in discussions intended to identify strategic imperatives for the M&S community of practice.

**Process:** To facilitate the discussion process it was determined that topical workshops would enable delegates to focus on important areas of interest. The intent was that workshop results be briefed to a Roundtable group composed of key leaders from across the community of practice spectrum. Workshop co-chairs were selected based on their expertise in the field and were given broad guidance as to expected outcome. Their primary directive was to ensure that issues developed within the workshop were actionable. They were also instructed to keep their presentations to the Roundtable brief and succinct.

The topical workshop themes were selected, and areas for discussion within each theme are listed below:

**M&S Industrial Development:** identity, scope, organizational relations, event coordination, size of M&S marketplace.

**M&S Business Practice:** acquisition issues, M&S market description, M&S investment, cost-effectiveness.

**M&S Professional & Workforce Development:** requirements/needs of M&S Industry, workforce development, curriculum management, professional certification.

**M&S Technology:** available technologies, research agenda, interoperability, architecture management, standards.

**Results:** The workshop briefings to the Roundtable were uniformly superb and reflected the seriousness and dedication of the men and women who participated in the workshop discussions. Listed below are the most significant issues put forward by the workshops with a notation as to which community or organization should assume responsibility for promotion and execution. The notation is necessary due to the fact that there was cross over between that which Congress can effectively and realistically execute and that which is in the purview of industry. One thread of consistency throughout all workshops and the Roundtable was that the entire community of practice, Congress, industry, academia, other government branches, must share the burden of moving M&S technology forward – we all must shoulder the wheel and work in unison.

- 1 **Issue:** Advocacy and indeed promotion of the community of practice is a task for all involved to undertake, but developing an understanding of the power and utility of M&S and its importance to the economic productivity of the Nation requires leadership at the national political level. Local and regional authorities are already actively engaged, but it is now time for voices at the national level to be heard. This can only be accomplished by the Congress of the United States and its members, and indeed at the appropriate time by the President.

**Action: Congress** - that the Congressional M&S Caucus assume an increasingly active and energetic role as the principal advocate for M&S policy and guidance, and adopt appropriate resolutions and/or appropriate entries into the Congressional Record to that end.

2. **Issue:** The importance of M&S to the industrial base is not greatly appreciated by the general population (even though M&S has become pervasive throughout our society). The President in his recent State of the Union address reemphasized his strong support for science and technology education and for S&T initiatives in general. Taking this one step further, it would seem reasonable to encourage the Administration to actively promote M&S technologies and to publicly acknowledge their importance to the economic productivity of our Nation.

Action: **Congress** - that the Congressional M&S Caucus encourage the Administration to publicly acknowledge the importance of M&S and to declare M&S a “National Critical Technology.” A suggested letter in that regard is attached hereto.

3. Issue: While studies/surveys have been undertaken to define the breadth of regional M&S activities and their attendant economic impact, there has never been a national effort to provide the same data.

Action: **Congress** – that the M&S Caucus seek to identify and provide funds to conduct a nation-wide survey to clearly identify the entire national M&S community of practice, its various constituents, and the national economic impact of M&S activity.

4. Issue: Recent man-made and natural disasters have underscored the desperate need for disaster preparedness training and enhanced city and local area planning. Utilization of modeling and simulation technologies offers great opportunities for training personnel who have responsibilities in these areas.

Action: **Congress** – that the M&S Caucus seek ways to offer incentives to industry and city and local governments (through tax breaks, federal government matching funds, or insurance discounts) to more actively use M&S tools to train emergency management personnel. Such incentives should also be applied to law enforcement and fire fighter scenario training and to emergency medical personnel training.

5. Issue: Factors such as the definition of the M&S workforce, training and education of that workforce, and its long term development and sustainment, are critical to the continued advancement of M&S technology. Modest gains in this area have been achieved in the last few years, but without a clear understanding of the above issues, continued maturation of the M&S community of practice will be stymied.

Action: **NTSA/SISO/SCS** – Organizations with vital interests in furthering the development of the M&S workforce must collectively charter research and development efforts to address the issues listed above, in addition to necessary work in Body-of-Knowledge development and NAIC code establishment. NTSA will lead this effort and will coordinate funding from industry partners for its execution.

6. Issue: The incubation of small M&S businesses is critical to maintaining the technological industry base that drives the community of practice, but impediments exist which limit realization of full potential.

Action: NTSA – NTSA will recommend mechanisms to the M&S Caucus that would enable small businesses to overcome obstacles related to Verification, Validation and Accreditation (VV&A), data access, organizational conflicts of interest, and reuse.

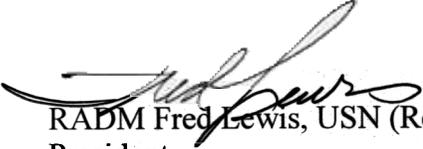
## Summary

It was clear from the reaction of Summit delegates during and after the event that a conference of this type was long overdue. The consensus was that the Summit provided key players within the community of practice the opportunity to engage in dialogue heretofore available only on rare occasions and that a series of Summit events would clearly hasten the maturation of M&S technology. NTSA and its constituency strongly recommend that the series be continued on an annual basis. Further, NTSA has taken the initiative in this regard and has established a Leadership Summit Standing Committee to perform the following functions:

1. Actively promote and monitor throughout the year the status of those critical issues identified at the Summit. Report issue status to the M&S Caucus and NTSA on at least a semi-annual basis.
2. Actively participate in and oversee the planning activity for subsequent Leadership Summits, to include issue and agenda development, site selection, and funding/sponsorships.
3. Provide support throughout the year to the M&S Caucus members and support staff.

The M&S Leadership Summit in February 2006 clearly represented a “sea change” in the development of the M&S community of practice. We are on the threshold of broad national recognition but all of us must work in harness to make that a reality.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
RADM Fred Lewis, USN (Ret)  
President