

Opportunity Summary

Program Name: "Blue Water Apache"

Program Description: A newly developing program established by a recent CINCPAC Mission Need Statement (MNS) that identified need for upgrades to the Apache Longbow weapon system, specifically the Fire Control Radar (FCR), Radar Frequency Interferometer (RFI), and the Longbow and Hellfire II missiles. The upgrades are focused on providing extended ranges, expanded target sets, and improved lethality for littoral missions.

Background: The Longbow Joint Venture team (LM / Northrop Grumman) has been working with LM Owego, Boeing, and PM Apache for the past year in developing plans for future enhancements to the Apache Longbow weapon system. The objective was to make Longbow more competitive in the International markets. In Feb of this year we were asked by PM Apache and PM ARM to submit a white paper proposal with ROM cost estimates and schedules for essentially the same list of upgrades that are contained in the MNS.

Status: Rich Russell and his Longbow JV team are in the lead role for M&FC and have been actively working with Col Waldo Carmona-Cdr AATD Ft. Eustis, Col Ralph Pallotta -PM Apache, Carol Frazier-PM ARM, and Col Mike Riley-TSM Apache, in developing this program. Under AATD's recommendation, we have established an Army-Industry IPT to complete the program planning and execution. A series of recent meetings with the Army have resulted a three-phased spiral development program plan. The first phase is to develop and integrate several simple software-based upgrades to the FCR and RFI to operate at extended ranges in littoral environments against maritime targets. This is a critical event-driven phase that needs to provide initial capability by May 2003 in order to coincide with CINCPAC's deployment of an Apache Longbow battalion in theater. The remaining phases will complete the integration of the blast-frag warhead into the Longbow missile and upgraded rocket motors to provide the extended ranges for the Longbow and Hellfire II missiles, as well as further expand the FCR and RFI capabilities. The IPT is currently developing detailed plans, schedules and cost estimates, and is seeking Phase 1 funding.

Issues: 1) In the past, there was some concern that the missile improvements could compete with plans for Common Missile. However, the current feeling is that Longbow/Hellfire missile enhancements are complimentary to the Common Missile program. Carol Frazier recently briefed BG Sorenson on our recommended multi-phased approach. He was very supportive, offered no objections and even suggested that BWA could serve as a risk reduction or interim solution for Common Missile. 2) The time urgency of Phase 1 will require reprogrammed funding in FY03 budget, which is a hurdle to be overcome.

Actions: Meetings are setup this week with Col Mundt, ADCSPRO G8, in the Pentagon to get him up to speed on the latest plan for Blue Water Apache, to better understand where the MNS is in the requirement validation process, and to identify the best possible sources for funding.