

LOGNET
Innovating, Developing & Delivering
The Defence Support Network

on

Friday, 13th March 2020

Transcribed from the Audio Recording

CAPTAIN DAMIAN EXWORTHY, ON BEHALF OF MARTIN MOORE:

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome back to what's going to be the final session of LOGNET. In the programme, we are now going to go to look at the three sort of deep dives into the areas of the sub-working groups, but before we do that I thought it would be just useful to sort of set in context where those are and one of the reasons also why I've been talking to you on a fairly regular basis over the last 24 hours.

My job there is Assistant Head of Concepts and Force Development, working through Brigadier Moore, out to Admiral Kyte and one of my roles as doing that apart from organising conferences like this, is to chair the Defence Logistics Force Development Board (DLFDB). Force development is a process that's been reinvigorated by the current Vice Chief and it's to make a much more coherent set of policy choices across everything from 0 out to 30 years and you can sort of split that into three groupings: you've got warfare development in sort of the 0-5 year timeframe and that's cohered through a new body, the Operational Priorities and Requirements Group (OPRG), chaired at three star level by Deputy for Defence Staff for Operations, Lieutenant-General Doug Chalmers. The Military Capabilities Board takes the sort of the middle chunk, so the 5-15, 5-20 year and that's not an area, as was explained yesterday with General Hutchings, not an area we've really got into at the moment because we haven't got that dedicated hoc support for our business

and so we're not really playing in that particularly, but as we take support as a capability and all the subsequent bits of that, that will become a much more important area. Where DLFDB has had its focus is in sort of the futures out to 30 years space and in the Integrated Concepts Board, which again chaired at three star level by Director General Joint Force Development and that ties in much more to the DSTL space and to the innovation and that end of the spectrum. So we are going to have to re-engineer a little bit what the DLFDB does to cover how defence now views the whole 0-30 as a spectrum of activity. Ours is, to say, much more focused on the left-hand end, the 30-year horizon. So we've got a bit of work to do on that but as part of what we do we have three main sub-working groups and there are a couple of other bits and pieces as well.

So where do we fit in? That's what we're going to quickly look at. We'll crack on now to look at what we're actually trying to achieve. That's taken from CDLS's vision paper, and the key bit there we just bolded up, increase the availability, have an assured coherent and cost-effective logistic structure and systems, exploit technology and make sure we're interoperable. That's what we're trying to achieve through our processes and as we heard yesterday from the Admiral we're looking at taking the feeds out of IOPSI and the future force concept as to how we do stuff and really the bottom piece there in delivering freedom of manoeuvre for the operational command units, obviously got to be about combat effectiveness.

So how are we going to get there? A nice simple diagram masking a huge amount of complexity but we're going to take a sort of transformation approach and there are going to be some waypoints on that marker, taking over sort of the next 15 years and the activity that we're going to try and look to do, make sure it sort of fits in with those big ideas that we are strategically prepared, globally responsive and operationally precise. As I've said, information led leading to support advantage, making sure it's available, reliable, sustainable and there are going to other themes that inform our work group as we develop this over the next few years. So, as I said, under LOGNET and under the DLFDB, and effectively they're two sides of exactly the same coin, we've got these three sub-working groups and you'll hear from each of the leads on those of the main three. Future of nutrition is a new one at the moment. I'll give you 30 seconds on that. How do we make the man more independent? The soldier more independent of the supply chain? Well, if they can carry more that's useful. How do they carry more? Well you need to reduce the weight. You need to reduce the waste. So there is work going on with the Institute of Naval Medicine at Birmingham University. How can we maybe molecularly change the structure of the food? How can we reduce the packaging? Can we make the packaging edible? Can we get rid of the bits and pieces we don't need or if we do have the packaging can we make sure it's of a sufficient burn property that it can go into bio generators in the field and things like that. Ultimately, it will come down to one small

tablet but that will probably fail on the psychological aspect of what food provides to the person but theoretically entirely feasible in terms of nutrition, just not on the other side of it.

But we'll hear more from the robotic autonomous systems additive manufacture and AI systems. Everything at the moment is being underpinned by energy and CDLS has asked me to be part of the team working through Lieutenant General Richard Nugee on climate change and sustainability implementation, being driven by the integrated review over the next few months and there is a huge amount of work to do there as we try and map, not just the carbon footprint, though that is the biggest part of it, but getting to sustainability in the round. It's going to be an interesting challenge because we don't own that much but we have a huge influence through policy into the supply chain and for those of you familiar with some of the Carbon Lexicon Scope 1, 2 and 3 Emissions and Scope 3 as you go down that chain is becoming more the indirect emissions. How do we look into what Leidos are doing on our behalf? Do we really understand that? Do we understand the food packaging and the food waste issues in terms of what we are demanding as a customer ultimately through a multi-layered contractual relationship now? So there's going to be a lot of work and energy but it's absolutely, with the legislative programme we have, going to underpin everything we do. We've also got the moon shots. Those are the VCS led big ideas leading to sort of accelerated innovation as we heard with the, I think it was the American presentation earlier, how do we bring those through and Jonah was also mentioning the DASA side of life, so we've got the ability to accelerate processes out and look at some of those possibilities. I mentioned DASA. Emma's already mentioned the LTI under DC and DSTL, logistics technology investigations, a separate programme of work funded through the Chief Scientific Advisor, but we have absolutely tied into and many of their workstreams match exactly many of our workstreams through LOGNET and the DLFDB. Equally, we're taking inputs from academia and also from many of you in industry.

So without further ado, I'm going to hand you now over to Group Captain Craig Watson, who's the Chair of the AI and Machine Learning sub-working group. Craig.

[Recording ends]