

AMTASE: *Air Mobility Battle Lab, AIA counter new battlefield*

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During the post-Cold War era, Air Mobility Command realized the potential for adversaries to target command platforms, creating greater dependence on intelligence.

When the Air Mobility Warfare Center was established at Fort Dix, N.J., four years ago, the word spread of Air Intelligence Agency's Tactic Analysis Reporting Program and the Tactics and Adversary Studies Elements.

Creation of AMTASE

In 1993, a new Air Mobility TASE was created with five AIA intelligence analysts. Three signals intelligence analysis craftsmen and two electronic signals intelligence exploitation craftsmen were assigned to Det. 4, 67th Intelligence Group, Fort Dix, N.J., collocated with AMWC.

The TARP was conceived decades ago to bring information on adversary tactics derived from signals intelligence community sources closer to the warfighter, so the warfighter could develop countertactics. Several three- to five-person TASEs support numbered air forces worldwide, answering requests for information on an adversary's order of battle and tactics.

Paradigm shift

For the first three years, the AMTASE had to change traditional thinking as to how a TASE should respond to an AMC scenario versus a combat Air Force scenario.

To compound matters, the AMTASE didn't have a sensitive compartmentalized information facility, access to classified databases or connectivity to classified servers. Plus, none of the five analysts had any previous tactics analysis experience including the OL-DX chief at the time. He was asked to teach his analysts to become tactics analysts practically overnight, educate AMC aircrews on the need for an AMTASE and justify the program to the tactics analysis community.

Overcoming challenges

Despite these challenges, the AMTASE analysts also became instructors for the AMC

Tactician Course. In May, 1998, the AMTASE was given a fully accredited SCIF with connectivity to several highly-classified databases, allowing access to SIPRNET, Intelink-high and NSANet.

AMC created a battle lab to find innovative ways to advance the Air Force's core competency in rapid global mobility.

Hurry up and wait

Currently, the AMC Battle Lab is awaiting final approval from Headquarters U.S. Air Force to become the Air Force's seventh battle lab.

Col. John Skorupa, director of the AMC Battle Lab, realized how AMTASE objectives and those of the new battle lab complement each other, so he pulled AIA folks under the battle lab's wing while still supporting the AMTASE mission.

Skorupa recently launched initiatives designed to bring more tools to AMTASE analysts, renovate AMTASE work centers and improve efficiency and production.

Year 2000

As the new millennium approaches, AMC is well positioned to take on its new role in U.S. peacemaking policy as its assets get closer to the battle.

With the collaborative vision of AMC's Battle Lab and AIA's AMTASE, AMC intends to develop countertactics to increase the survivability of its platforms as they continue an evolution from passive targets to front-line instruments of national policy. ■

