MEMORANDUM FOR Director, Operational Test and Evaluation, 1700 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC  20301-1700

SUBJECT: Army Response to Fiscal Year 2020 Director, Operational Test and Evaluation Annual Report

1. Thank you for the opportunity to provide the Department of the Army response to the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation (DOT&E) Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Report.

2. I appreciate the thoroughness of the DOT&E report as well as the coordination between DOT&E and the Army. There has been significant progress in addressing many of the issues contained in the report. However, the Army provides the enclosed comments to the report.

3. We look forward to working with your office on implementing the recommendations to bring a better product to the Warfighter.

4. Thank you for your continued support of Army programs and our Soldiers.

5. My point of contact is Ms. Laura Pegher, Director, TE Coordinator, OASA(ALT), 571-256-9438 or laura.i.pegher.civ@mail.mil.

Encl

Ryan D. McCarthy
Enclosure

1. Pursuant to Section 815 of the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, I am providing comments to the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation (DOT&E) Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Report. The Army reviewed and coordinated this report for accuracy and security purposes prior to this final report. Based on the final review, the Army recognizes and thanks DOT&E for the reporting and recommendations on how to improve our programs in the future. In addition to what is documented within this report, the Army feels the need to expand upon a few specifics that the Congress may take particular interest. They are as follows:

   a. The Aerosol Vapor Chemical Agent Detector (AVCAD), Pages 55-56. Due to COVID-19 supply chain disruptions, the two AVCAD vendors experienced supply chain delays and impacts to delivery schedules. The vendors are fixing the issues and in response the program office implemented additional engineering and manufacturing phase testing to address reliability issues and obtain full data sets for both vendors to support a Milestone C decision. Despite the schedule expansion, the program is on track to achieve original acquisition program baseline milestones.

   b. The Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV), Pages 61-63. An update on recent activities in November 2020, FMTV A2 began contractor funded shakedown testing at Aberdeen Test Center. Thirteen vehicles will complete a total of 19,500 miles in a staggered approach to prove out fixes made during the Corrective Action Period. Upon successful completion of shakedown miles the vehicle will re-enter USG Production Verification Testing in January 2021.

   c. The Common Infrared Countermeasures (CIRCM), Pages 75-76. From March to July 2020, the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) conducted integration flight testing of the CIRCM system as integrated on the CH-47 Chinook platform. CIRCM operated as expected with no shortfalls during CH-47 Chinook integration flight testing. The Electromagnetic Interference (EMI) jitter, which was observed during UH-60 testing, was not observed during CH-47 testing. The Army designed and validated an UH-60 solution which provides CIRCM EMI hardened assets for fielding in 3QFY21.

   d. The Infantry Squad Vehicle (ISV), Pages 83-84. As noted in the report the ISV has not demonstrated to date the capability to carry the required mission equipment, supplies, and water for a unit to sustain itself to cover a range of 300 miles within a 72-hour period. This will be demonstrated during the IOT&E in August 2021 at Fort Bragg, NC.

   e. Army Test and Evaluation (T&E) Resources (Page 237). The Army agrees with DOT&E that ATEC performs a critical role by ensuring new warfighting systems are tested as they are intended to be employed by Soldiers. Army resourcing for developmental and operational test capabilities is integrated and is focused on seeking efficiencies and improved effectiveness of these precious capabilities. For the development of future multi domain operation testing and training technologies the Army is taking a comprehensive approach informed by both future threat capabilities and corresponding operating concepts. The Army recognizes the T&E opportunities as we
integrate early Soldier feedback in material development. Demands are addressed through prioritization of T&E efforts for Army signature modernization efforts and optimizing investments made in T&E capabilities. Importantly, the Army is postured with adequate manning, processes, and partnerships to meet the T&E demands of Army modernization in order to ensure our Soldiers have the systems they need.

2. As noted in this report, the Army recognizes the need to develop and test our systems to counter Electronic Warfare and Navigation Warfare threats. Testing in a GPS-denied environment requires agile, enterprise test technologies; the Army is working with sister Services and Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) Test Resource Management Center (TRMC) to seek solutions to modernize these test capabilities.
MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION

SUBJECT: Department of the Navy Comments on the FY2020 DOT&E Annual Report

Pursuant to your e-mail dated December 11, 2020, please find the Department of the Navy comments on the FY2020 DOT&E Annual Report. Although we have seen good collaboration and adjudication of several issues in the report, the following top level comments on some of our key programs are highlighted below:

- CVN 78 Gerald R. Ford-Class Nuclear Aircraft Carrier: The Navy concurs that efforts to improve system reliability should continue to ensure sortie generation rate requirements are met and the Navy is committed to doing so. The Navy is realizing the benefit of focused efforts over the last several years and, as an update to this DOT&E report, three more Independent Steaming Events (ISE 12, 13, & 14) have been completed with each demonstrating the Ford’s ability to execute required sortie generation rates with an Air Wing embarked. The Ford has now recorded nearly 6,400 aircraft launches and recoveries, including over 5,600 launches and recoveries since January 2020, demonstrating the growing proficiency of the crew to operate and maintain shipboard systems and conduct relevant operations in an operational environment while underway a total of 232 days.

- Amphibious Combat Vehicle (ACV) Family of Vehicles: The report notes egress challenges for the ACV, but in test the vehicle exceeded the threshold emergency egress requirement and is approaching the objective requirement to debark the crew and embarked Marines while afloat. Of note, the demonstrated ACV emergency egress is a significant improvement over the legacy predecessor vehicle, the Amphibious Assault Vehicle.

- F-35 Joint Strike Fighter: The JPO is assessing the lessons learned from C2D2 early execution and commissioned an independent review team to identify improvements required in infrastructure, processes, and tools across capability planning, development, and test to deliver capabilities more efficiently and effectively to the fleet.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the FY2020 DOT&E Annual Report.

Copy to:
ASN(RD&A), PCD/PMD ASN(RD&A)
DASN(RDT&E)
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION

SUBJECT: Department of the Air Force Response to Fiscal Year 2020 Director, Operational Test and Evaluation (DOT&E) Annual Report

I appreciate the opportunity to review this 2020 report. In general, this annual report accurately reflects the status of oversight programs in the Department of the Air Force. Additionally, it faithfully identifies the challenges and opportunities of resourcing the Department of Defense test enterprise as a critical enabler for the rapid, all-domain acquisition required by tomorrow’s Airmen and Space Professionals to meet the peer threat. The Department of the Air Force looks forward to continued engagement with DOT&E in the future.

Sincerely,

Shon J. Manasco
Acting

cc:
AF/CV
AF/TE