Operation Blended Warrior 2016 (OBW '16) Registration is now open!

DUE DATE: 26 February 2016

The National Training & Simulation Association (NTSA) is serving as the sponsor for a Live-Virtual-Constructive (LVC) special event otherwise known as Operation Blended Warrior (OBW). The inaugural event took place during I/ITSEC '15 and showcased the capabilities of 31 industry and government participants, networked across the exhibit floor, with a focus on standards, after-action review, and cyber. Building upon last year's success, these areas will continue to be emphasized and we will be adding multi-level security/cross-domain solutions and performance measurements as new focus areas. Additionally, OBW '16 will be open to both US and coalition partners, and may include remote/long-haul connectivity to the exhibit floor.

More information can be found at http://exhibits.iitsec.org

Participation may be limited, so timely responses are requested.

How to participate:

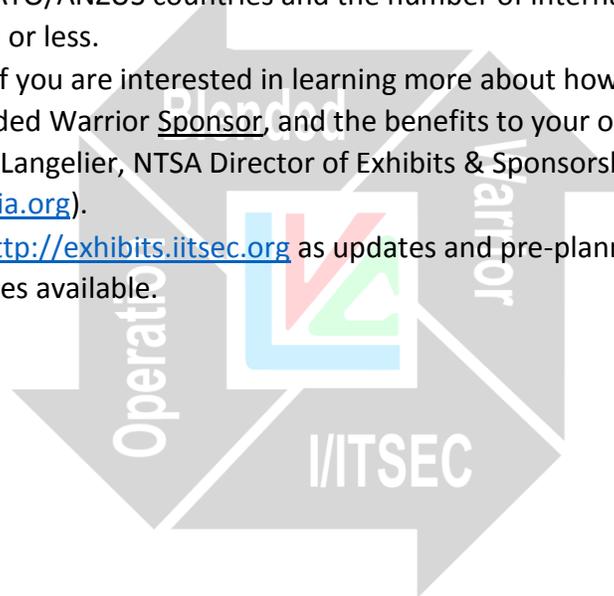- Go to http://exhibits.iitsec.org and review, download and complete the "Operation Blended Warrior 2016 Information and Participation Request Form"
- Forward completed forms to NTSA c/o Gary Fraas (gfraas@ndia.org) AND Debbie Langelier (dlangelier@ndia.org) by 26 February 2016
- You will then be contacted by the planning team for further information and instructions

Basic Background Information:

- I/ITSEC '16, Orange County Convention Center (OCCC), 28 Nov – 2 Dec 2016.
- Over-arching objectives of OBW include documenting lessons-learned and facilitating identification of hindrances to achieving a true interoperable, plug-and-play environment associated with distributed training.
- The event will consist of multiple exhibit floor vignettes showcasing government and industry LVC distributed simulation capabilities, similar to OBW '15.
- All aspects of OBW will be UNCLASSIFIED .
- NTSA will provide a closed-network on the I/ITSEC exhibit floor that participants will connect to. The technical architecture from 2015 will be re-used, and augmented to meet 2016 needs.
- Available protocols and network VLANS will include DIS 6/7, HLA (version TBD), Cyber, TENA, Video, and others that may be identified during the planning sessions.
- Because of Information Assurance, International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR), and Export Administration Regulations (EAR) requirements, further constraints may be identified regarding the network architecture

- Planning Schedule: The schedule of events leading up to OBW '16 is currently being developed, and will be posted at http://exhibits.iitsec.org when it becomes available. Tentatively, there will be three planning meetings (~April, June, August), and pre-conference test & integration activities (Oct – Nov). In addition, there may be one May planning meeting for international participants just prior to ITEC.
- Participation Fee: This will cover NTSA management, exercise control booth costs, marketing/media and OCCC exhibit floor networking connection costs. The fee structure 2016 has yet to be determined but will be similar to 2015 (see the Information and Participation Request Form for more information). Any long-haul/remote network coordination and connection costs to the OCCC will be the sole responsibility of the participant.
- NTSA reserves the right to restrict the number of participants in order to better manage the event, and ensure participants receive proper visibility. Coalition participation will be limited to NATO/ANZUS countries and the number of international participants will be limited to 12 or less.
- Sponsorships: If you are interested in learning more about how to become an Operation Blended Warrior Sponsor, and the benefits to your organization, please contact Debbie Langelier, NTSA Director of Exhibits & Sponsorships (dlangelier@ndia.org).
- Refer back to http://exhibits.iitsec.org as updates and pre-planning meeting read-ahead material becomes available.