**OBW Frequently Asked Questions**

1. What is OBW and what value or benefit can my company/organization expect to receive by participating?

   a. There are many benefits to participating in OBW.  First and foremost, it allows close collaboration with government and industry experts in the field of live, virtual, constructive (LVC) simulation and the many challenges with contending with distributed simulation environments.  It allows navigating through all of the intricacies and challenges of an exercise that is highly realistic compared to real-world exercises.  It also allows your organization and products to benefit from the increased exposure that can only be obtained through I/ITSEC.   Some past participants even commented that they learned valuable lessons about their own products as they considered OBW to be a realistic test, or "use" case.  They commented that in some cases, they learned about limitations regarding their products that they would use as feedback to develop new and improved capabilities.

2. Who is leading the effort for OBW 2016?

   a. For 2015, the Navy was the lead service and will still be involved in 2016.  For 2016, Air Force is the lead service for I/ITSEC, however, a new Integrated Product Team (IPT) structure is being developed for 2016 that will reduce the reliance on any given military service, and allow each service to contribute in areas of strength.  More to follow.

3. What will be different for OBW 2016?

   a. For 2015, there were three main objectives or focus areas:  standards, cyber and after-action review.  For 2016, those three areas will remain prominent, but the additional areas of adding coalition participants and multi-level security/cross-domain solutions (MLS/CDS) and performance measurements will be key focus areas.

4. What is the schedule for OBW events during I/ITSEC week?

   a. The schedule is currently being assessed but will be similar to 2015.  There were five 90 minute blocks, each consisting of three 30-minute vignettes.  One on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, and two on Wednesday.  The overall number of vignettes, days, and blocks is currently being assessed based on 2015 lessons-learned.

5. How much does it cost to participate, and what does that fee cover?  When is the deadline for payment?

   a. For 2015, the cost for participation was $2000, which included the OBW network connection, marketing and printing costs, and offsetting the cost of the exercise control booth (referred to as the Distributed Training Center or "DTC").  For those that share another network connection paid by another participant, the cost was $1000.  The cost structure for 2016 has not been determined but should be similar.

   b. Payment will be invoiced by NTSA and will be due in September.  NTSA will coordinate and put in place the OBW booth-to-booth network connections on the I/ITSEC floor.

6. We are considering doing a long-haul connection to the convention center.  Who coordinates that and how much does it cost?

   a. For those that plan to connect remotely to the convention center, you will be responsible for that aspect of planning and the cost for the connection between the remote site and your booth at the convention center.  In addition, you will also be required to pay for the participation fee that includes the network service between your booth and the DTC as outlined in (5).  It should be noted that the cost for a dedicated remote connection is highly dependent on what kind of service and capabilities are required.

   b. If you plan to do a remote connection, please make sure you keep NTSA up to date with your efforts.

7. Are there different levels of participation or sponsorship opportunities?

   a. Yes.  For more information regarding the various sponsorship opportunities, please contact Debbie Langelier, NTSA Director of Exhibits and Sponsorships.

8. I'm sharing a booth with another company and will share the OBW network connection.  Why am I being charged a participation fee?

   a. The short answer is because there is a lot more involved that just running a network connection line.  There is an extensive effort to develop signage and a "Playbook" that includes your corporate information.  Additionally, the cost of the exercise & control booth, or DTC and its electrical and other furnishings have to be covered.  That is why there is still a cost for a participant that shares another connection.

9. What is ITAR and EAR, and why should I be concerned?

   a. The International Traffic in Arms Regulations, and Export Administration Regulations impose strict guidelines regarding what may be shared with international participants. For purposes of OBW, an ITAR controlled item is any device, system, tool, including hardware, software, data representations, computer model, algorithm or other technical data or representation of actual tactics, techniques and procedures and falls under the US Munitions List (USML).  Oversight for ITAR falls under the State Department's Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (DDTC).  More information can be found at: https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title22-vol1/xml/CFR-2011-title22-vol1-chapI-subchapM.xml.

   b. EAR refers to a manufacturer or exporter whose articles or services appear on the Commerce Control List (CCL) (including particularly "600 series" items) as regulated commercial items, including those items that have both commercial and military applications. Any such manufacturers or exporters are registered in SNAP-R and licensed by the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) as applicable.  More information can be found at: http://www.bis.doc.gov/index.php/regulations/export-administration-regulations-ear.

10. What is the Participation Agreement, and what is its purpose?  When is the deadline for signing the agreement?

   a. A Participation Agreement is a document that describes the Information Assurance, ITAR/EAR, and liability requirements.  It is used to ensure that all participants understand the rules, and agree to comply.  For 2016, the Participation Agreement is being updated from the 2015 version and the draft will be available for review in the Spring 2016.  The update will address new requirements associated with remote network connections, MLS/CDS, and coalition participants.  As the document is updated, versions will be released to allow participants the opportunity to provide comments and feedback.  The final document is expected by the end of June.

   b. The deadline for submission is 31 July 2016.  Anyone that doesn't sign by this date may be dropped from participation.

11. We don't agree with all of the restrictions in the Participation Agreement.  Can you explain the waiver process?

    a. There is no waiver process.  Everyone must comply with the Information Assurance, ITAR/EAR, and other liability clauses.  If there are areas of concern, you will have an opportunity to provide comments during the review stage.

12. Our company/organization is considering participating for 2016.  What are the expectations and time-commitment?

    a. Thorough planning for this type of event is critical to not only your success, but the overall success of OBW.  There will be 3 planning meetings that will require your attendance.  Technical, programmatic, business development and operational/subject matter experts are invited to attend.  Each meeting will have a heavy emphasis regarding technical discussions as well as scenario/vignette discussions.  Attendance by video-teleconference or teleconference is impractical and not available.

    b. More specifically, we are looking for people that can represent your prospective products that will be used in OBW that can talk operationally as well as the technical aspects.  The operational side is required as we develop the scenarios or "vignettes", and the technical people will be talking connectivity and protocols.  In between the planning meetings, there will be a series of telecon's to ensure we maintain the necessary tempo to ensure OBW '16 matures as required.

    c. Pre-conference integration testing is one area that received a lot of feedback from OBW '15.  While we are still assessing that aspect of the schedule, we will still plan to have a window in the Oct – Nov timeframe to conduct actual testing.  Prior to that, we are looking at doing a more independent testing using data log files as a first step.  Having completed that by successfully demonstrating basic handling of protocols, we will be looking for each participant to attend actual testing in Orlando for ~ one week in the Oct – Nov timeframe.

    d. In summary, considerable time for planning and testing will be required.  A TENTATIVE schedule is as follows:
        i. Planning Meeting #1:  26 – 28 April (Orlando).
        ii. Planning Meeting #2:  28 – 30 June (Orlando)
        iii. Planning Meeting #3:  23 – 25 August (Orlando)
        iv. Pre-conference integration testing:  18 Oct – 18 Nov

     v. Onsite conference integration:  24 Nov – 27 Nov

     vi. I/ITSEC: 28 Nov – 2 Dec

13. If we become a participant, looking ahead to the actual conference, are there things that we need to plan and/or do differently?

  a. Yes, there are many more details that need to be addressed during the setup portion of the conference as well as during I/ITSEC week.  During setup, we need to have booths ready at an earlier time frame.  For 2015, we needed to have each booth connected to the network by Saturday afternoon.  This means we were able to safely drop the fiber into the booth.  Ideally, dropping the fiber happens after overhead signage and other items are rigged, and booth structures are in place.  Integration testing begins on Saturday afternoon and continues into Sunday morning.  By noon on Sunday, all participants need to be ready to begin vignette rehearsals.  Technical, vignette, and booth personnel within each company need to communicate frequently throughout the planning cycle to ensure everything comes together in a timely fashion.

  b. During the week, participants need to be ready, online, and have reported they are ready and in standby to the battlemaster and tech control 30 minutes ahead of each set of vignette block.

14. We plan to participate but cannot commit to the planning time.  We have an excellent marketing department that has developed comprehensive brochures for each of the systems we plan to use.  Will the vignette "leads" and other planning committee members look out for our best interest and ensure we are fairly represented in multiple vignettes?

  a. No.  Your participation is vital not only to the success of your own marketing efforts, but to the other participants.

15. If we participate, how frequently should we expect communications to take place, and in what form?

  a. Email and telecons will be the predominant method and will be fairly frequent.  Outside of the Planning Meetings, the majority of planning and coordination takes place via email.  We respect that this is an extracurricular activity and not part of your day job, so emails and datacalls will only take place when necessary.  However, when we do request information, responsiveness is critical.  There are just too many moving parts to have to repetitively chase responses.  Vignette planning takes place by frequent (almost weekly) telecon's or "tag-ups".  While it isn't necessary to dial into every telecon,

frequent attendance is necessary to maintain continuity and to ensure vignettes get fully developed.

16. We don't have a terrain database for the operating area.  Will a database be provided to us?

    a. We are not in a position to provide databases to the participants, however, we will foster a working environment to allow as much sharing as possible.  Having a valid terrain database is critical to the success for OBW and efforts are underway to facilitate help in the area.

17. We have limited experience with LVC but are very much interested in learning and gaining experience, and have technical staff that has basic interoperability knowledge.  We plan to dedicate the resources necessary to get past the learning curve.  Are there certain "keys to success" to make the technical side as seamless as possible?

    a. This is the perfect collaborative environment to get your feet wet, however, your organization will have to be diligent in supporting the planning events as well as ensuring your products or systems can be integrated into the OBW network.  While there will be a wealth of expertise represented across the government and industry participants, you will be expected to do what is necessary with your own resources to bring your systems in line with the necessary standards and protocols in order to play seamlessly in the "battlespace" environment.

    b. Keys to success:  be proactive to make sure your system(s) are included in the appropriate vignettes; attend the meetings and represented at as many of the vignette planning telecons as possible; ask lots of questions and seek advice from the wealth of experience from the other participants; share your knowledge with the other participants; pay close attention to the guidance put out by the technical team; be timely in responding to the necessary "datacalls" for information; make sure you coordinate your plans for participation across your company or organization to include system subject matter experts; technical personnel; business development/marketing personnel; and booth leaders, and have some fun!

18. We have been doing our research and have talked with some of the 2015 participants.  We don't have all of the "gateways" and other ancillary equipment that others have said is needed.  Will that equipment be provided?

    a.  For 2015, several companies offered temporary licenses to use their products.  While there are no guarantees, we are already receiving strong support from those companies so we have every reason to expect that we have the same collaborative teaming arrangements for 2016.

19. Do we need a booth to participate?

    a.  The general answer is yes because you need to be able to connect to the OBW network.  There are alternatives though:  1) in 2015 there were a small number of participants that shared a connection in another company's booth and requires that your equipment be in their booth.  We will not be running connections between booths, or allow others to connect to the OBW network in that manner; 2) we can run a network connection to an exhibit meeting space, and 3) if you desire a remote connection, however, the remote connection will require you to then connect to your booth on the exhibit floor.

20. We normally don't set up our booth until Sunday just before I/ITSEC.  Do we need to adjust our timing if we plan to participate?

    a.  Absolutely.  For 2015, and similarly for 2016, we need to begin network connectivity testing starting on Saturday afternoon, and vignette rehearsals beginning at noon on Sunday.  To meet that demand, fiber-optic cabling, coordinated by NTSA, will need to be dropped to your booth in advance of that, and then will need to be terminated with connectors.  This will take place between Friday and Saturday morning.  Before fiber can be dropped, your booth structures need to be in place, and any overhead items such as signage must be rigged prior to dropping the fiber.  So yes, absolutely as there are no work-arounds to this.  Booths will need to be up and running, and integrated to support vignette rehearsals on Sunday.

21. We understand that NTSA will provide an exercise and technical control booth which has been referred to as a Distributed Training Center (DTC).  Can we plan to put our equipment in that booth?  Who decides what equipment goes into that booth?

    a.  No.  The majority of the equipment for the DTC will be provided by the military services.  Any additional equipment will be the sole discretion of the military services and NTSA, and only for the purpose of enhancing exercise and technical control.  When the

decision is made to host a participant's system in the DTC, the participant will still be subject to the $1000 participation fee. Finally, hosting a participant's system in the DTC will only be for the overall benefit of the event, and not as a substitute because the participant doesn't have a booth.

22. How are the OBW network connections at the convention center handled, and who makes the necessary arrangements?

    a. All aspects of the OBW network infrastructure and connections are handled through NTSA who deals directly with SmartCity and other vendors such as Cisco. Prior to that, NTSA will coordinate with your booth planners to ensure the OBW network drop is in the right location and de-conflicted with your signage and other booth accessories.

    b. Any networking or telecommunications requirements that you may have outside of OBW should be handled directly between your company and SmartCity.

23. Our company would like to participate, but we don't have any equipment that can actually play in the vignettes. Rather, we see our expertise associated with the planning and execution of the event. How can we become involved?

    a. You need to contact the planning committee and describe your capabilities associated with the aspect you would like to assist. Based on that, we will vet the capability vs. the overall need.

24. Who determines the overall technical architecture, and who decides which standards and protocols will be used? Is there any latitude to deviate?

    a. We will reuse as much of the current 2015 architecture as possible which was developed by the Navy and agreed to by the participants. It is expected there will be discussion and possible changes to augment the 2015 architecture and will be developed during the planning meetings for 2016.

    b. The basic VLAN structure was agreed to during the 2015 planning meetings that included DIS, DIS Comms, HLA, HTTP, and Video. For 2016, the use of MLS and CDS solutions will require a slightly different approach but at this point, what is important is that we will still be using the above mentioned protocols.

25. We would like to offer the use of our product(s) and/or services to NTSA and/or the other participants. How does this work?

    a. Several participating companies provided their products/services with free licenses to the other participants for OBW '15 and we very much appreciate the collaborative and collegial nature of the OBW community. With this in mind, NTSA's goal is to manage

OBW in a fair and consistent manner across all participating companies/organizations and feedback from OBW '15 participants confirmed that providing their products/services to other OBW participants was a valuable marketing aspect and one way to justify their participation.  For OBW '16 we plan to handle as follows:

- If you plan to play a role in the vignettes with a network drop (or shared drop), and offer your products/services to other participants, NTSA will include a description of your company capabilities in the OBW Playbook, include your company logo in the signage and you will be given exposure during the vignette execution.  NTSA will require payment of a participation fee Participation Agreement.
- If you are a paid participant but do not plan to play a visible role in the vignettes and/or do not require a network drop, but still want to offer your products/services to other participants, NTSA will require payment of the lower of the two participation fees and signing of the Participation Agreement.  NTSA will include your company capabilities in the OBW Playbook, include your company log in the signage and you will be given exposure during the vignette execution.
- If you are offering your product(s) and/or services, but do not desire to pay a participation fee or receive exposure in the Playbook or signage or during vignette execution, then this is not a viable option for NTSA.  Access to information associated with OBW will be restricted to OBW participants.

b.  With these caveats in mind, we hope that you will consider one of the first two options by becoming a member of the OBW community and take full advantage of the increased exposure and opportunities available to OBW participants.