

## **Background**

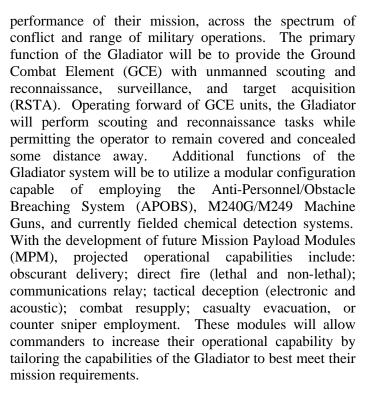
In 1999, the Department of the Navy Science and Technology Corporate Board established the Autonomous Operations Future Naval Capability (FNC) to enhance the mission capability of Naval Forces by developing technologies that will dramatically increase autonomy, performance, and affordability of Naval organic unmanned vehicles. The Autonomous Operations FNC will address critical technology gaps in the ability of Marine Corps forces to utilize unmanned ground vehicles in an expeditionary warfare campaign. The Unmanned Ground Vehicle (UGV) S&T investment is focused on the accelerated development of technologies to fill critical capability gaps, demonstration of those technologies with operational forces, and successful transition of technologies into acquisition programs.

## **Office of Naval Research TUGV Program**

The Office of Naval Research awarded contracts for the United States Marine Corps Gladiator Tactical Unmanned Ground Vehicle program. The objectives of this science and technology effort are to develop, demonstrate and transition a lightweight, multi-purpose, unmanned ground vehicle. Contracts were awarded for the development of TUGV system preliminary designs, with options to proceed to detailed designs. During FY02/03, a Preliminary Design Phase was conducted. The program is currently in the Design Refinement and Demonstration Phase. At completion of this phase near the end of FY04, the program will transition to the Unmanned Ground Vehicles/Systems Joint Project Office (UGV/S JPO) and Marine Corps Systems Command. Subsequent management and support for the System Development & Demonstration (SDD) Phase (FY04-06) will come from the UGV/S JPO and the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD). This effort will lead to the first combat TUGV fielded by the DoD.

## **Gladiator Tactical Unmanned Ground Vehicle**

The Marine Corps is engaged in an acquisition program to develop a Tactical Unmanned Ground Vehicle in order to provide the Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) with a tele-operated/semi-autonomous ground vehicle for remoting combat tasks in order to reduce risk to Marines and neutralize threats. The Gladiator is designed principally to support dismounted infantry during the





Technology Demonstration/Concept Validation Models

## POC's:

Mr. Jeffrey Bradel Office of Naval Research 703-588-2552 bradelj@onr.navy.mil

Capt. Robert Parks Marine Corps Combat Development Command 703-784-6209 Robert.parks@usmc.mil

Mr. Larry Hennebeck Marine Corps Systems Command UGV/S JPO 256-876-3988 larry.hennebeck@us.army.mil



