



News Release

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

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3701 North Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22203-1714

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 3, 2003

DARPA ANNOUNCES J-UCAS OFFICE STRUCTURE

Recently appointed Joint Unmanned Combat Air Systems (J-UCAS) Program Director Michael S. Francis today announced that he would be assisted by three Deputy Program Directors.

Cmdr. Ralph N. Alderson, USN, is the J-UCAS Deputy Program Director, X-45, and serves as the Program Manager for the Boeing X-45 effort. Randy Brown of the Air Force's Aeronautical Systems Center serves as Alderson's deputy.

Lt. Col. Paul C. Waugh, USAF, has been selected as the J-UCAS Deputy Program Director, X-47, and will serve as the Program Manager for the Northrop Grumman X-47 effort. John Kinzer of the Office of Naval Research serves as Waugh's deputy.

Marc J. Pitarys has been selected to serve as the J-UCAS Deputy Program Director, Common Systems and Technologies. The Common Systems and Technologies group is responsible for designing and developing an overarching common operating system and architecture that assures intra- and inter-operability of J-UCAS system elements. The common operating system will enable inter-vehicle collaborative command and control, flexible human-in-the-loop operations and effective information sharing for battlespace awareness. In addition, this group will oversee the development of common J-UCAS sensor, weapon and communication capabilities. Pitarys' deputy will be selected from the U.S. Navy in the near future.

The J-UCAS Office is supported by an integrated business operations staff providing security, finance and contracting functions. Francis also plans a customer relations staff that will work with the Air Force, Navy, and other Defense organizations to formulate the acquisition and early operational assessment plans.

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) officially established the J-UCAS Office on October 1, 2003. The J-UCAS Office is led by DARPA in collaboration with the Air Force and Navy. The J-UCAS Office is developing an advanced, networked system of unmanned combat air vehicles to demonstrate technical feasibility, military utility and operational value in the prosecution of 21st century air warfare. These missions include suppression of enemy air defenses, electronic attack, penetrating surveillance, and deep strike within the emerging global command and control architecture.

(more)

The small J-UCAS Office headquarters staff described here operates out of DARPA spaces in Arlington, Va. The majority of personnel supporting the J-UCAS program are located at the Air Force's Aeronautical Systems Center, Dayton, Ohio, and at Naval Air Systems Command, Patuxent River, Md. The government team also includes personnel at NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center and Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards AFB, Calif., where flight demonstrations of the X-45 system are being conducted.

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More information on the J-UCAS program can be found at <http://www.darpa.mil/j-ucas>. Media with questions, please contact Jan Walker, (703) 696-2404 or jwalker@darpa.mil.