

Post Event Questions/Answers from the 9 Dec 2021 SOARS Event

Four additional questions provided by the event coordinators to see if BG Barrie could offer some additional feedback for the audience/attendees.

Question 1: Project Convergence looks a lot like NIE. It is very expensive for Small Businesses to participate. Do you know how many SBs and Large Businesses participated in PC21? Are there any plans to provide some cost share for selected small businesses in the future...kind of like xTechSearch does?

PEO AVN Answer 1: Partnership of our military and industry partners was critical to the demonstration. More than 130 companies, including 53 small businesses were involved in PC21 exercises and experiments. These strong partnerships help move our Joint Forces into the future. If there is no possibility for cost share, industry should be advised up front that they are proceeding with no guarantees.

Question 2: Has the Army manned looked at any type electric/hybrid manned rotor craft to increase stealth capabilities (engine noise) or does current battery technology limit this application due to weight of current battery technology?

PEO AVN Answer 2: The Army does not currently have any programs to develop electric/hybrid manned aircraft. Battery technology is a limiting factor to meet current range requirements, however, PM Aviation Turbine Engines continues to work with industry to further develop battery technologies as well as track the commercial advancements in electric/hybrid aircraft. Areas of interest include smart electrical power and thermal management, lower life cycle cost, aircraft design, and lower IR / noise signature. These areas of interest will continue to be explored to initially address eVTOL solutions for short range, last tactical mile mission profiles.

Question 3: Given Sec Wormuth's recent talk about the army roles in the Pacific (logistics, long range fires, base support/protection) and the USAF's focus on Agility Prime (large unmanned aircraft), what are the primary roles of Army Aviation in the Pacific?

PEO AVN Answer 3: Army Aviation remains a critical enabler to maneuver forces in Multi Domain Operations.

Question 4: Cyber Security is a growing area of concern and can often be an obstacle to adopting some of the digital technologies discuss. How is the Army / your office

investing in cyber security to ensure that your developments in technology keeps pace with growing threats?

PEO AVN Answer 4: *PEO AVN utilizes a three prong approach to cyber security to achieve and retain cyber resilience beginning from the time of initial concepts for weapon systems and then lasting throughout their entire life cycle. The first prong is a set of intense efforts to substantially harden the system while it is digitally 'built' by using known architectural resilience constructs throughout the systems engineering process. Secondly, the system is subjected to rigorous cyber testing throughout its development, integration and operational testing and then on throughout the balance of its fielded life cycle. Lastly, all digital efforts in PEO AVN are subject to the Risk Management Framework to provide secure robust and tailored Cybersecurity Posture in their coding, integration, fielding and maintenance.*

Question 5: You mentioned changing contract approaches, will there be industry day briefs or insight provided to any new approaches in contracting processes?

PEO AVN Answer 5: *PEO Aviation utilizes numerous opportunities throughout the year to communicate program and contract activities. These include events such as Industry Days, Non-DoD symposia and industry forums (e.g. AAAA, AUSA, etc.) as well as solicitations on 'Contract Opportunities' (beta.SAM.gov).*