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Navy's Next Generation Tactical Afloat Network Presses Forward

*PEO C4I's CANES Program Receives Milestone B Approval
After Meeting 'Better Buying Power' Criteria*

SAN DIEGO – The Consolidated Afloat Networks and Enterprise Services (CANES) program met key cost, schedule and performance entry criteria and received a Milestone B Acquisition Decision Memorandum Jan. 10.

The approval was based on the program's ability to meet key defense acquisition efficiency criteria such as maximizing competition, streamlining the acquisition process, targeting affordability and controlling cost growth.

CANES is the consolidation and enhancement of five shipboard legacy network programs and will provide the common computing environment infrastructure for command, control, communications, computers and intelligence applications that currently require system specific infrastructure to operate legacy systems.

"This is an extremely significant acquisition milestone for the CANES program as it validates technology maturity, stable requirements and a fully funded program," said Navy Capt. D.J. LeGoff, program manager for the Tactical Networks Program Office. "Our next step in the acquisition process is to take the proper programmatic steps to demonstrate the ability of CANES in an operational environment."

**Office of the Secretary of Defense
Cost Assessment and Program
Evaluation CANES Assessment**

- Financial return on investment to the Navy for CANES implementation is 8.1 percent
- Benefits will meet requirements by increasing operational capability, performance, situational awareness and security to the Navy

Milestone B is the initiation point for acquisition programs and official entry into the Engineering and Manufacturing Development phase of a program's lifecycle. The purpose of this phase is to develop a system, complete full system integration, develop an affordable and executable manufacturing process, and demonstrate system integration, interoperability, safety and utility.

The Milestone B decision, which also included Milestone C entrance criteria, allows for the production of four limited fielding units. These units are intended for operational and training use and will not be installed until completion of an operational assessment and a successful Milestone C decision. At this point the program will enter the Production and Deployment phase.

The Navy's Program Executive Office for Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence oversees the CANES program and is managing competitive system development contracts with Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman.

The CANES program is at the forefront of recent acquisition reform changes directed by the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (USD AT&L). A recent series of "Better Buying Power" memorandums directed Defense Department acquisition organizations to pursue initiatives in the following five areas: (1) Target Affordability and Control Cost Growth (2) Incentivize Productivity and Innovation in Industry (3) Promote Real Competition (4) Improve Tradecraft in Services Acquisition and (5) Reduce Non-Productive Processes and Bureaucracy.

"CANES meets the spirit and intent of what the Department of Defense wants acquisition programs to be doing to obtain greater efficiency and productivity in defense spending," explained LeGoff. "In alignment with USD AT&L's acquisition roadmap, the program foundation is built upon cost containment, open architecture and competition throughout the program's lifecycle."

Consolidation through CANES will eliminate many legacy, standalone networks while providing an adaptable and responsive information technology platform to rapidly meet changing warfighter needs. This strategy strengthens the network's infrastructure, improves security, reduces the existing hardware footprint and decreases total ownership costs. In addition to providing greater capability, CANES will allow fleet end-users to benefit from reduced operations and sustainment workloads as a result of common equipment, training and logistics.

CANES introduction to the fleet will begin with installs in 2012 on unit level ships with two Engineering Development Model installations, followed by Limited Deployment installations in 2012 that cover force level ships, shore sites and additional unit level ships. CANES will be deployed to more than 190 ships, submarines and Maritime Operations Centers by 2021.

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Headquartered on the Old Town Campus of the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) in San Diego, Calif., the mission of PEO C4I is to provide integrated communication and information technology systems that enable Information Dominance and the command and control of maritime forces. PEO C4I acquires, fields, and supports C4I systems that extend across Navy, joint, and coalition platforms. This includes managing acquisition programs and projects that cover all C4I disciplines: applications,

networks, communications, intelligence and surveillance, and reconnaissance systems for afloat platforms and shore commands.

Supported by Team SPAWAR and industry partners, PEO C4I annually completes more than 2,000 C4I installations to fleet and coalition customers.