



National Training and Simulation Association - Point Paper

The Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference (I/ITSEC)

I/ITSEC Purpose

The Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference (I/ITSEC) stands for over five decades as the premier platform for DoD to advance warfighting readiness through innovations in training, simulation, realism, and joint and coalition collaboration. In an era where near-peer competition demands carefully tailored training, leveraged technology overmatch, and a relentless focus on lethality, I/ITSEC delivers solutions that directly support the Pentagon's highest priorities—from restoring the warrior ethos and enabling no-gaps readiness, to streamlining agile acquisition, and strengthening STEM-driven force development. It is where the warfighter, the technologist, the policymaker, and the academician converge to collaborate and ensure that training is not a secondary concern—but the centerpiece of America's competitive military edge.

I/ITSEC exists to advance warfighter readiness through:

- The free exchange of information in modeling, simulation, training, and education.
- A collaborative environment showcasing emerging technologies, professional tutorials, and research presentations.
- Cross-sector cooperation identifies shared challenges and drives innovative training solutions.
- Advancement of synthetic battlespace capabilities and instructional technologies.
- Cross-service dialogue on requirements, acquisition reform, and emerging technology areas such as LVC training, AI, and data analytics.
- Support for lifelong workforce development and retention across government, industry, and academia.

The National Training and Simulation Association (NTSA) is the sponsor and organizer of I/ITSEC and exists to support the warfighter by advancing the development and adoption of training, modeling, and simulation technologies that enhance national security, readiness and operational effectiveness. As a 501c3 nonprofit affiliate of the **National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA)**, NTSA serves as the unifying voice of the modeling, training and simulation community—bringing together government, industry, and academia to solve warfighter challenges through innovation, collaboration, and policy engagement. Through its leadership of I/ITSEC and other initiatives, NTSA champions training as a strategic asset vital to U.S. defense and deterrence.

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I/ITSEC Key Benefits

Rebuilding Lethality and Warfighting Dominance

I/ITSEC directly supports the urgent call to reestablish warfighter primacy through rigorous, purpose-driven training.

Key Benefits:

- **Unrelenting Training:** Continuous exposure to immersive, stress-inducing environments that mimic combat conditions support the ethos of *train hard, fight easy*.
- **Lethality First:** Demonstrations and case studies show how realistic simulation improves decision-making speed, marksmanship, target discrimination, and combined-arms proficiency.
- **Training as a Priority:** Prioritizes training not as an afterthought but as a strategic investment in warfighting capability—backed by quantifiable outcomes.

Driving No-Gaps Readiness for the High-End Fight

Modern conflict with near-peer adversaries demands round-the-clock preparedness. I/ITSEC is where readiness gaps are addressed and closed.

Key Benefits:

- **No-Gaps Readiness:** Simulation fills gaps caused by budget cycles, range availability, or platform limitations—ensuring that combat readiness doesn't lapse.
- **High-End Fight Prep:** Showcases training against peer-level threats using complex scenario generators that incorporate EW, cyber, hypersonic, and contested logistics.
- **Inside the Adversary's OODA Loop:** Simulations enable red teaming, cognitive modeling, and real-time scenario adaptation to accelerate tempo and dominate adversary decision cycles.

Technology Overmatch & Agile Acquisition Pathways

To deter or defeat sophisticated adversaries, the U.S. must achieve technological superiority—fast. I/ITSEC enables this by connecting acquisition leaders with proven and emerging capabilities.

Key Benefits:

- **Technology Overmatch:** Exhibits emerging dual-use and military technologies that enhance MDO (multi-domain operations), autonomy, AI/ML, and ISR.
- **Agile Acquisition Processes:** Highlights rapid prototyping models, SBIR success stories, and acquisition reform practices aligned with Hegseth's drive to streamline bureaucracy.
- **Real World Integration:** Offers direct feedback from warfighters to acquisition teams, shortening the requirements-to-fielding timeline.

Simulation-Driven, Cost-Effective Training Modernization

Amid fiscal constraints and increasing operational demand, efficient training is non-negotiable.

Key Benefits:

- **Effective & Efficient Training through Simulation:** Reduces cost per training hour while increasing training repetitions and data fidelity.
- **Validated Outcomes:** Emphasizes performance-based metrics to evaluate simulation ROI—proof that high-performance training doesn't require massive budgets.
- **Scalable Models:** Demonstrates how small-unit, large-scale, and distributed force training can be executed using the same core technologies.

Strengthening the Defense STEM Ecosystem

There is an emphasis on rebuilding the military from within. That includes STEM-driven innovation and warfighter intellectual development.

Key Benefits:

- **Increased STEM Education Focus:** I/ITSEC offers robust STEM outreach programs, DoD internship showcases, and high school/college-level competitions to feed the future workforce.
- **Industry & Academia Pipeline:** Connects DoD with emerging STEM talent, university R&D centers, and workforce development partners. With more than 500 students, 170 universities, and over 30 high schools represented, I/ITSEC actively supports the Department's STEM and talent modernization goals.
- **Digital Fluency:** Supports building a tech-competent military force, in line with the Digital Transformation and AI-driven future force initiative.
- **Certification & Continuing Education:** DoD personnel earn CLPs and CEUs at I/ITSEC—supporting professional military education and acquisition certification mandates.
- **Post-Service Transition:** I/ITSEC connects transitioning service members with employers, supporting recruitment and retention initiatives across the enterprise.

Supporting Long-Term Strategic Investments

Consistent defense budgets are essential for sustained training transformation. I/ITSEC reinforces this need by making clear the linkage between readiness investment and strategic outcomes.

Key Benefits:

- **Budget Justification Through Data:** Simulation training effectiveness is presented in measurable readiness gains, providing strong ROI narratives to defend budget priorities.
- **Sustainment Readiness:** Demonstrates how digital twins and simulation can reduce downtime and improve platform availability across the lifecycle.
- **Program Alignment:** Brings visibility to programs of record and advanced concepts that benefit from consistent funding, helping align stakeholders across Congress, DoD, and industry.

Bottom Line: Training is Warfighting

I/ITSEC is not just a showcase—it is the crucible where the Pentagon's most critical strategic challenges are addressed through simulation, science, and service collaboration.

- **Restoring the Warrior Ethos** through real-world readiness
- **Training as Strategic Deterrence** through capability and resolve
- **Enabling Overmatch** through speed, realism, and STEM
- **Breaking Bureaucracy** through industry-driven acquisition agility