



NATIONAL TRAINING AND SIMULATION ASSOCIATION
THE VOICE OF THE TRAINING & SIMULATION COMMUNITY



INTERSERVICE/INDUSTRY TRAINING,
SIMULATION & EDUCATION CONFERENCE

**OPTIMIZING TRAINING: ENSURING
OPERATIONAL DOMINANCE**

1 DECEMBER – 5 DECEMBER 2025



I/ITSEC 2025 CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

1 DECEMBER – 5 DECEMBER 2025 | ORLANDO, FLORIDA
WWW.IITSEC.ORG



2025 CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

OPTIMIZING TRAINING: ENSURING OPERATIONAL DOMINANCE



1 DECEMBER – 5 DECEMBER 2025

Orange County Convention Center
Orlando, Florida USA

ORGANIZED BY

National Training and Simulation Association
an affiliate of
National Defense Industrial Association

THE CALL

This is your opportunity to be a part of I/ITSEC 2025 and share your innovative solutions with the community that serves our nation's Warfighters and the service men and women of our international partners. In addition to the vast exhibit floor that showcases the best of our industry's leading-edge technical developments, I/ITSEC provides a comprehensive technical program that includes paper presentations, tutorials, professional development workshops, and special events. Through these knowledge sharing opportunities, members from government, industry, and academia are able to learn from one another and push capabilities to solve the community's most pressing challenges.

The time from training to field implementation of knowledge and skills continues to compress, with an escalating need for user-centered training solutions that optimize learning, retention, and real-time support at the point of need to ensure mission success. I/ITSEC provides the premiere venue to share advancing technologies designed to keep our Warfighters prepared against complex, dynamic, distributed threats. This year's theme "Optimizing Training: Ensuring Operational Dominance" developed by our lead service this year, the United States Department of the Air Force (USAF and USSF) puts focus on training transfer – ensuring that all training solutions are optimized to result in highly effective and efficient tactical and operational impacts. While advances in training have evolved to incorporate immersive environments, AI/ML, distributed collaborative spaces, and comprehensive digital engineering infrastructures, it is critical that the result of all training ensures mission dominance and mission success.

We call on you – modeling & simulation, training, education, and acquisition community leaders – to contribute to the I/ITSEC 2025 program by submitting an abstract to one of the program elements listed below. We look forward to receiving your best ideas as we build out the industry's leading opportunity to share the latest knowledge and results on modeling and simulation solutions for training and education.

ANNE LITTLE, PH.D.
2025 Conference Chair

KELLY HALE, PH.D.
2025 Program Chair

IMPORTANT DATES

Instructions for each step will be posted at least two weeks before the process opens.

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 17 JANUARY – 9 MARCH | Abstract, Tutorial, Workshop Portal Open |
| 11 APRIL | Authors Notified of Abstract/Tutorial Review Results |
| 15 APRIL – 27 JUNE | Paper Submissions |
| 15 APRIL – 27 JUNE | Tutorial/Workshop Draft Submissions |
| 11 JULY | Clearance Forms Due |
| NLT 8 AUGUST | Authors notified of submission review results |
| 15 AUGUST | Submission Updates in Portal for Print Program |
| 12 AUGUST – 6 OCTOBER | All Final Presentation Submissions |
| 1 – 5 DECEMBER | I/ITSEC 2025 |

THE CONFERENCE

The Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference (I/ITSEC) is the world's largest modeling, simulation and training event. Held near the beginning of December in Orlando, Florida, USA, I/ITSEC consists of peer-reviewed paper presentations, tutorials, professional development workshops, special events, a commercial exhibit hall, a serious games competition, and STEM events for teachers and secondary students. I/ITSEC is organized by the National Training and Simulation Association (NTSA), which promotes international and interdisciplinary cooperation within the fields of modeling and simulation (M&S), training, education, analysis, and related disciplines at this annual meeting. The NTSA is an affiliate subsidiary of the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA). Hence, I/ITSEC also emphasizes themes related to defense and security. I/ITSEC is an annual forum for representatives from the military, industry, and academia to connect and share knowledge. The conference draws 17,500 attendees from industry, government and academia, and features over 450 exhibits.

The United States Department of the Air Force (USAF and USSF) will serve as the lead service for I/ITSEC 2025 in partnership with all military services.

PAPERS

The I/ITSEC 2025 Conference Committee invites you to submit previously unpublished work to be shared with the community. Prospective authors are encouraged to read through the subcommittee descriptions (see next page) and submit abstracts for papers that highlight training and educational advances that drive operational dominance. All paper presentations will be offered for Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

PAPER PROCESS

The complete three-stage process for submitting papers is detailed in the I/ITSEC Author's Handbook (available for download from the Authors section of the I/ITSEC website).

ABSTRACTS (Stage P1). Please read the subcommittee descriptions carefully to determine the track that best matches the intent of your paper to maximize your chances of being accepted. It is also vital that you submit your abstract on time. Please refer to www.iitsec.org for additional details.

PAPERS (Stage P2). If your abstract is selected, you will be assigned a bird dog who will be your liaison to the subcommittee and the champion for your paper. Your chances of having your paper accepted are significantly greater if you work closely with your bird dog. Papers are accepted for both publication in the conference proceedings and presentation at the conference. The selection process includes a Best Paper nominee from each subcommittee that will be considered for the overall conference Best Paper. Detailed instructions for completing and submitting your paper will be available on the I/ITSEC website.

PRESENTATIONS (Stage P3). If your paper is accepted, then you will be required to submit a presentation for review prior to the conference. Presentations should be designed for a 20-minute timeslot, plus five minutes for questions and answers. Detailed requirements for the presentations will be available on the I/ITSEC website.

TUTORIALS

2025 CHAIR: CHARLES COHEN • ccohen@cybernet.com

I/ITSEC presents a comprehensive tutorials program covering a diverse set of topics essential to the simulation, training, and education communities. Each tutorial is focused on building skills and provides an opportunity to earn CEUs. Tutorials are 90 minutes in length.

The tutorial program provides learning opportunities in two focus areas:

1) FOUNDATIONAL: Topics related to skills and knowledge required by practitioners in the I/ITSEC community. This includes topics to prepare for or maintain certification as a Certified Modeling and Simulation Professional (CMSP).

2) EMERGING and INOVATIVE: Concepts of particular interest to I/ITSEC attendees that provide skills in new and evolving technologies.

Tutorials should not include hands-on or audience participation elements other than questions at the end. Proposals that involve these activities should be submitted to Professional Development Workshops (below). Tutorials focused on specific products are not permitted.

TUTORIALS PROCESS

The complete three-stage process for submitting tutorials is detailed in the I/ITSEC Author's Handbook, available for download from the Author Information page of the I/ITSEC website (under "Get Involved").

PROPOSAL (Stage T1). As a prospective tutorial presenter, you must submit a complete tutorial proposal including an abstract, detailed outline, intended audience, any prerequisites, and targeted learning objectives. Learning objectives are critical to the Tutorial Board's selection process. The Board also assesses the degree to which proposal topics will contribute to a comprehensive tutorial curriculum encompassing the two focus areas described above.

PRESENTATIONS (Stage T2). If your abstract is selected for expansion into a complete tutorial presentation, you will be assigned a bird dog who will be your liaison to the Tutorial Board and the champion for your presentation. You must submit a complete set of presentation slides to the Tutorial Board for review.

FINAL PRESENTATIONS (Stage T3). If your presentation is selected, you will receive feedback from the Tutorial Board and will have the opportunity to submit a revised and final version of your tutorial presentation.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

2025 CHAIR: BRIAN VOGT • bvogt@appliedtrg.com

I/ITSEC seeks workshop proposals that offer in-depth and interactive engagement with innovative concepts, technologies and use cases exploring effective training and readiness. Workshops are half-day events. Topics should be of general interest to the I/ITSEC audience across the broad categories of training, education, human performance, and simulation. The session should provide an in-depth treatment of a topic of current relevance or an emerging capability. Submissions from individuals and organizations outside of the traditional boundaries of the defense industry are welcomed. Proposals should describe the general topic for the workshop and a high-level outline of how the workshop would be conducted. Workshops with a thematic connection to a Tutorial are also encouraged as paired events.

THE SUBCOMMITTEES **EDUCATION**

2025 CHAIR: **MARRYAM CHAUDHRY**

This subcommittee seeks rigorous research papers that present significant advancements in instructional strategies, methods, technologies, and best practices that demonstrably advance learning outcomes. Submissions should detail innovative approaches across all phases of the learning lifecycle (analysis, design, development, delivery, and evaluation) with a clear focus on accelerating and optimizing learning processes. We strongly encourage papers that present robust quantitative and/or qualitative data from studies with substantial sample sizes, utilizing cutting-edge methodologies and technologies. Of particular interest are studies leveraging big data analytics to drive learning acceleration and generate large-scale datasets suitable for in-depth educational research. The Education Subcommittee welcomes empirically grounded papers that propose and evaluate continuous improvements to military, corporate, or STEM education. These should offer actionable insights supported by solid research methodologies and data analysis, with clear potential for implementation in operational contexts. Priority areas include, but are not limited to, research on enhancing individual, team, collective, joint, and coalition training. We are especially interested in papers examining the efficacy of mobile, social, blended, and adaptive learning strategies in these contexts.

EMERGING CONCEPTS & INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

2025 CHAIR: **JENIFER WHEELER**

This subcommittee seeks papers that discuss emerging and innovative technologies, methodologies, or concepts in modeling and simulation, training, and education. Papers should clearly explain how the topic advances the state of the science and has relevance within the I/ITSEC community. Of particular interest are research and development papers from DoD emerging concept programs like DARPA, IARPA, SBIR, NavalX, TReX, and AFWERX. New developments in artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML), human-autonomy interaction, advanced computing and software, and integrated sensing and cyber are also of interest. Candidate papers should thoroughly describe the challenges encountered and associated creative solutions implemented to overcome them. Submissions that simply describe applications or instantiations of known fielded technologies are discouraged. Rather, this track emphasizes unique and emerging concepts that enhance the mission effectiveness of the workforce, supporting platforms, systems, components, or materials proposed to be acquired or upgraded. With a focus on leveraging new concepts and technologies each year, this subcommittee offers an opportunity for attendees to find inspiration, gain insight, and support innovation in their own domain.

HUMAN PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS & ENGINEERING

2025 CHAIR: **SCOTT JOHNSTON**

This subcommittee seeks papers that focus on the human dimension – systematically addressing individuals and teams as an integral component within workplace systems. Papers should address the application of HPAE technologies, human performance measurement and effectiveness models, methods and tools, human-computer interaction (HCI), usability/user experience (UX), decision/performance support systems, and the impact of HPAE on organizational outcomes. Specifically, the subcommittee seeks papers that present robust quantitative and/or qualitative data from studies with substantial sample sizes, utilizing cutting-edge methodologies and technologies. Of particular interest are studies describing how particular interventions such as wearable, ingestible or off-body sensors, human interfaces to extended realities (XR), human-machine teaming, personalized adaptive monitoring, predictive algorithms or decision support solutions leverage and extend the capabilities of an individual and/or a team, improve learning transfer and provide positive operational impact. Papers supported by human performance data gathered from scientifically valid experiments are especially valued.

POLICY, STANDARDS, MANAGEMENT & ACQUISITION

2025 CHAIR: **ROBERT EPSTEIN**

This subcommittee seeks papers related to policy and standards challenges associated with the acquisition, implementation, and maintenance of

education, training, and simulation capabilities. This includes policy-related topics regarding training systems development and associated content, delivery, and sustainment. Papers are sought that provide insight into innovative approaches or managing requirements for acquiring, implementing, and sustaining these capabilities. Papers should provide qualitative and/or quantitative analysis of data to help substantiate outcomes; and where possible, characterize innovative processes or techniques to improve return on investment. Papers may address emerging policy, standards, or the need for policy or standards with respect to education, training, simulation, data analytics and cybersecurity. Topics of particular interest for the current year include emerging concepts in policy and standards, including Other Transaction Authority (OTA) implications to the training and simulation communities, sustainability, and outcome-focused approaches to training and simulation acquisition, development, execution and evaluation. Cyber policies dealing with the introduction of new technologies such as AI, XR and digital engineering are a valued contribution. The PSMA subcommittee also has a continuing interest in papers that address innovative intellectual property solutions that support maintenance and competition across the education, training and simulation industry.

SIMULATION

2025 CHAIR: **TARA KILCULLEN-OLIVA**

This subcommittee seeks innovative papers on the applied science of modeling and simulation, simulation architectures or techniques, as well as the exploration of synthetic entities or environments and how they apply to training, mission rehearsal, analysis, experimentation or research. Papers should present and explain concepts, theories and or applications that bring innovation to the modeling and simulation enterprise. Discussions should detail the technical challenges, past lessons, and unique and creative developments associated with developing, interacting with, and maintaining simulation systems. Topics of interest include evolving modeling and simulation technology, expanding interoperable simulation architectures, realistic human behavioral modeling, medical simulation, replication of cyber effects, and innovation in representing physical entities and behavioral actions within live, virtual, constructive, mixed reality and gaming environments.

TRAINING

2025 CHAIR: **MIKE THORPE**

This subcommittee seeks papers that discuss the application of innovative concepts, methods and technologies to create effective training solutions. Papers should present a clear problem description, state-of-the-science from current literature, analysis of current needs and training gaps, and practical application. Example topics include adaptive training, training system integration and interoperability, training applications of AI/ML, individual and collective team training, learning engineering, innovative training strategies, and competency-based training and assessment. Descriptions of implemented solutions' effectiveness supported by quantitative and/or qualitative data are encouraged. Emerging technologies of interest include extended reality (XR), semi-automated training and assessment generation, mobile training, distributed training across time and space, and training techniques that deal with rapidly changing or austere conditions. The subcommittee is interested in all phases of training system development including planning, analysis, design, development, deployment, evaluation, and lifecycle maintenance.

POINTS OF CONTACT

I/ITSEC 2025 PROGRAM CHAIR

Dr. Kelly Hale | Draper

617-820-8298 | khale@draper.com

GENERAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION

National Training and Simulation Association

703-247-9480 | dlangelier@NTSA.org

EXHIBITOR/SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION

703-247-9473 | sburch@NTSA.org