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Title: XM25/ Individual Semi-Automatic Airburst System (ISAAS)

Abstract Text: XM25/ISAAS Overview The XM25, Individual Semi-Automatic Airburst System (ISAAS), is a Counter Defilade Target Engagement (CDTE) weapon that delivers a 25mm programmable high explosive airburst (HEAB) round to explode near or directly on target significantly increasing the hit probability to defeat defilade and point area targets out to approximately 700 meters. The ISAAS includes an integrated, multifunctional, all environment, full-solution target acquisition/fire control system. Independent analysis expects a 600% increase to down range effectiveness. The technology provides the Soldier a leap-ahead capability to defeat defilade targets while significantly reducing collateral damage without the use of a mortar, artillery, or air-to-surface weapon systems. The ISAAS has been identified by the U.S. Army Infantry Center's (USAIC) Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System (JCIDS) analysis as the number one materiel approach to mitigate the Counter Defilade Target Engagement (CDTE) gap (accurate and lethal engagement of defilade at squad level).

Operational Update The Army is currently conducting a forward operational assessment of the XM25 Counter Defilade Target Engagement (CDTE) System in Afghanistan.

Prototypes arrived in theater in Afghanistan in November. Project Manager Soldier Weapons personnel conducted new equipment training with select units and are monitoring the use and performance of the systems during the assessment period.

The prototype weapons are being carried actively on patrols, and in various combat outposts in areas that are experiencing high levels of enemy activity. Soldier feedback at this stage will allow the Army to make engineering refinements to the system and will assist the Army in making future decisions regarding budget, tactics, basis of issue, and other improvements Soldiers want to see in the weapon system.

The next phase for the XM25 program is to build a large quantity of production representative weapons and ammunition in 2011 to deploy into Afghanistan for further combat assessments.

Finally, with testing complete and Army approvals in place, 12,500 systems will be produced and issued beginning in early 2014 - enough to support one per infantry squad and Special Forces Team.

Game Changing Technology "For centuries, combatants have been trained to protect themselves from direct fire by seeking cover behind a rock, tree, wall, trench, or anything that could stop a projectile. Soon this rule will no longer apply. The XM25 removes an enemy's protective cover because it fires a High Explosive Airburst (HEAB) round that can be programmed to detonate at precise distances past the cover and next to the enemy. The HEAB round also has a point detonation capability so whether the enemy is behind cover or in the open, they can be neutralized.

The introduction of the XM25 is akin to other revolutionary systems such as the machine gun, the airplane and the tank, all of which changed battlefield tactics. No longer will our Soldiers have to expose themselves by firing and maneuvering to eliminate an enemy behind cover. Our Soldiers can remain covered/protected and use their XM25 to neutralize an enemy in his covered position. This will significantly reduce the risk of U.S. casualties and change the way we fight.

Finally, the system is less expensive, more precise, quicker to deploy, and causes less collateral damage

than mortars, artillery or airstrikes. This makes the weapon especially valuable in Afghanistan where protecting the lives and property of the civilian population is critical while defeating the insurgency.

For more information on the XM25, you can download a factsheet or read my article, "Nowhere to Hide - A 'Smart' Individual Weapon System for the Soldier," which features information on how the system works in a battlefield scenario."

Program Status XM25 is an Army Soldier weapons program that directly supports on-going operations. Prototype weapons have been fielded for Forward Operational Assessment (FOA) this year and the program has completed Milestone B activity. EMD Development is only planned for 24 months half of which is for qualification activity. Development tasks are mainly devoted to producibility enhancements.

ATK is the Systems Integrator and ammunition provider for the weapon. L3-Integrated Optical Systems developed the fire control system. Heckler and Koch developed the weapon. Production will be on-shore.