HQ USPACOM Consolidated Responses to the Final Report of the Defense Science Board Task Force on Fulfillment of Urgent Operational Needs

1. The establishment of a Rapid Acquisition Fielding Agency (RAFA) as a parallel process to the current deliberate acquisition process is an appropriate change to current organization – and AT&L is the appropriate "home".

2. Each part of the urgent need process needs to be rapid – rapid contracting, rapid delivery, rapid testing, and rapid CONOPS/TTP development – all occurring in parallel.

3. In addition, solutions to urgent needs must not only be rapid, they must also be acquired in enough quantity for operational sufficiency.

4. It is important to recognize that not all "urgent" needs are "persistent" needs, and not all need to become part of the enduring procurement process – sometimes the need to procure or support will go away at conclusion of a given operation.

5. Testing in a rapid acquisition process needs to incorporate a "good enough" standard. This standard needs to be clearly understood up front and the performance envelope must be clearly documented for the end user (warfighter) to ensure understanding of employment limitations.

6. Competitive prototyping and demonstration is a good concept for rapid analysis of alternatives and competitive selection.

7. Care should be taken when establishing funding. Rather than cannibalizing programs that currently operate effectively, funding should come from programs and processes that have resisted the changes needed to meet warfighter needs – reinforcing success, not dismantling it.

8. Do not agree with including the commercial sector in the fielding / logistics support process – this needs to be government based and drive to a more expeditionary approach for government support to fielding rapid solutions. Do not create a stovepipe single source logistical support chain.

9. Consideration should be given to create a single urgent needs program at all levels that would ultimately feed into the OSD level urgent needs agency. The report proposes changes that, while effective, will not change the requirement for the COCOM to manage the prioritization / visibility issues associated with multiple urgent needs programs.