

# *Technology Assessment and Development*

## *Discussion*

The Marine Corps maintains a robust Science and Technology (S&T) Program to assess and develop those technologies that can enhance maneuver, firepower, command and control (C2), logistics, training, and education. The S&T Program attempts to harness the technology needed to provide the Marine Forces with the capabilities necessary to perform their specified and implied missions. The end product can then be successfully fielded to meet the requirements of the Combat Development System (CDS).

The process for determining the Marine Corps S&T Investment Strategy is integrated with the CDS. An S&T allocation working group brings together, in one forum, the operational users and organizations that are vital to the development of capabilities. The end product of the process is a collection of prioritized capability deficiencies and requirement.

The S&T Program is composed of two elements: the Applied Research element and the Advanced Technology Development (ATD) element. The Applied Research element is responsible for all efforts short of formal development programs. It seeks solution of specific military problems and attempts to demonstrate feasibility, develop the new technology needed for future systems, and enable improvements of existing systems to meet known and projected threats for the next decade. The ATD elements use a process by which the products of research and development can be transitioned to useful applications. Additionally, the ATD element: defines operational requirements; reduces risk; identifies options, costs, and worth; achieves user/developer consensus; and defines operational utility. It also streamlines the Milestone I Decision and in some cases, may transition directly to a combined Milestone I/II Decision. Both elements support the warfighting experimental process of the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory (MCWL).

## *Marine Corps Position*

The Marine Corps will continue to sponsor an S&T allocation working group to validate S&T requirements. This forum will identify technologies, integrate program feedback from the MARFORs, MCCDC, MCWL, OPNAV, ONR, and HQMC, and leverage ongoing programs from other Services and agencies. This approach will allow the Corps to apply scarce resources to develop or adapt technologies, or do both, for the Marines of tomorrow.