United States Army's Strategy Management System: Powered by Spider Strategies

This year's Spider Strategies User Conference will include a presentation of the US Army Strategic Management System (SMS) by an executive from the office of the Secretary of the US Army. This presentation will highlight how the US Army's Strategic Management System, powered by Spider Strategies, is used to improve performance within an enterprise that has a yearly budget of $140 Billion. SMS allows strategic focus to be aligned across the myriad and diverse commands and organizations of the Army. SMS communicates strategy from the Secretary of the Army to all levels of responsibility, and links resource expenditure to strategic performance to enable timely decision making. SMS is intended to reinforce a culture of performance, increased accountability and continuous improvement.

The Army Strategic Management System is being developed from the underlying premise that strategic outcomes, sometimes referred to as the Army's Transformation Strategy, are derived from a series of carefully linked and coordinated actionable programs and initiatives, implemented by Army organizations and commands around the world. These programs and initiatives have resources dedicated and objectives established in terms of cost, performance and schedule outcomes. Leadership for those outcomes is clearly identified and monitored using SMS software. These programs and initiatives, referred to as Critical Tasks within the SMS methodology, are normally derived from the Army's statutory requirements under Title X, U.S.C., which revolves around the Constitutional requirement to provide trained and ready forces when and where required.

These Critical Tasks include the missions to recruit, organize, supply, train, service, house, equip, sustain and administer the forces and capabilities that are provided to Combatant Commanders in support of our Nation's security and defense strategies.

Critical Tasks, which are the building blocks of strategic initiatives, are further disaggregated to their component pieces at which they are expected to produce a single, identifiable outcome: recruit soldiers for the Active Component; refurbish a Brigade Combat Team's worth of Stryker vehicles; build Unaccompanied Personnel Housing at Fort Hood; and so forth. This process ensures that desired outcomes can be measured in terms of cost, performance and schedule.

The SMS software will facilitate monitoring of cost, performance and schedule outcomes for the tasks identified within each strategy map. In an era where every taxpayer dollar is important, it will also demonstrate the risk associated with decisions to reallocate dollars or manpower, where each resource decision has cascading effects upon strategic outcomes. SMS can identify and monitor the performance of those tasks that are essential to the attainment of the Army Secretary and Chief of Staff visions for Army Transformation, and can portray the results in a format appropriate to the decision maker needing the information.

Spider Strategies' new Corporate Management Suite is the engine for the Army SMS software. This guarantees the full compatibility for data exchange between all Army facilities using CMS for tactical performance management and SMS for enterprise strategic performance management.

For more information about this year's keynotes and agenda, please visit: http://www.spiderstrategies.com/events/2006Conference/agenda.html

For more information on the 2006 Spider Strategies User Conference, or to register, please visit: http://www.spiderstrategies.com/events/2006conference/