Minutes of the Joint Mission Planning System (JMPS)
Maritime Warfare Area Users Requirements Group (WAURG)
13–17 September 1999

Day 1

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Lance Hoyt of Computer Systems Center, Inc. (CSCI) at 1230 hours. Mr.Hoyt reviewed the agenda, conducted introductions of the CSCI staff and asked each attendee to introduce him or herself. He also covered administrative issues concerning available phones, refreshments, and available facilities.

The PMA-233 Program Manager for the JMPS Version 2, Mr. B.J. Ramsay, welcomed all participants to the Maritime WAURG Conference. He stressed the importance of the user representative's inputs to the process of identifying all necessary user requirements for the Maritime Warfare Area. The conference is designed to collect all vital information on JMPS requirements necessary to meet the automated mission planning needs of the Maritime Warfare Area community. He again stressed the importance of user inputs to the requirements gathering process. An additional administrative issue was addressed. PMA-233 is providing the lunch meal at no cost to the participants so when travel vouchers are filled out, the lunch meal must be marked as provided by the government.

Next, LCDR Dave Gay, JMPS System Engineer, presented a briefing on the JMPS program. He also emphasized the importance for user inputs. He explained that JMPS version 1 is already in development and will provide basic flight planning capability and is leveraged off already existing mission planning tools. With the help of the WAURG, additional capabilities will be added to JMPS version 2 and subsequent versions of JMPS, until full flight, mission and force level planning capabilities are available. JMPS will eventually provide a collaborative mission-planning environment where mission-planning data can be shared between different platforms. JMPS is being developed from Navy Portable Flight Planning System (N-PFPS); a system already in use and well received by Fleet users. Mr. Paul Bielewicz, from PMA-233 presented a brief demonstration of the JMPS functionality. He demonstrated how JMPS is a windows environment with commonly used functionality to make the system as user friendly as possible. It is also a component based system architecture that will allow for a cost effective way for individual components to be added or modified without causing major changes or rework to the core system. Major Bennett, also from PMA-233, presented an unscheduled briefing on N-PFPS. He covered the history of N-PFPS version releases and what will be delivered, in the near future, to the Fleet. Mr. Ramsay stated that the latest version of N-PFPS is available and anyone wishing a copy need only ask.

Following a short break, Mr. Lance Hoyt presented a briefing explaining the User Requirements Capture Process. The process is broken into 5 steps. The first step is Research and Analysis. During this step documents are located and imported into the Dynamic Object Oriented Requirements System (DOORS), a tool to manage and track requirements. From these source documents, statements related to mission planning

requirements are identified, marked as requirements and linked back to the source document. Step two is Task Decomposition. Desired mission planning tasks are systematically grouped together. Step three is User Requirement Statement Generation. During this step the user community becomes an integral part of the process by reviewing the TDD for accuracy and completeness. New tasks are identified and supporting documents are amended to support the new tasks. The next step is Fleet Verification. The final step is Requirements Validation. The program sponsors conduct this step. They will review the WAURG recommendations, rank the requirements, present them to the Joint Requirements Board (JRB) and deal with any funding and scheduling issues. What is expected from the process is a complete list of prioritized user requirement statements.

The day's final presentation was a familiarization of the TDD by Lance Hoyt. He stated that the TDD is a representation of the "Big Picture" for JMPS version 2 and beyond. The TDD will adequately and formally document user requirements and achieve validation of those requirements. This approach will establish a formal model; set rules, establish traceability and allow for process review and improvements. The reason to do it this way is the need for a repeatable process, a method to identify commonality, users having the opportunity to participate in the process and eliminating past mistakes. Five rules to remember about the TDD are: the TDD is not a flow chart, no task is repeated in the diagram, try and think in general terms, the lower level tasks are not necessarily 100% decompositions of the upper level task, and at this point the process is only interested in user requirements. Changes to the TDD will be made by use of the JMPS Task Decomposition Worksheet. The remainder of the day was spent reviewing the TDD for familiarity in preparation for day two activities.

One action item was identified. LCDR Twomey from the H-60 community stated that the surface personnel provide a great deal of support to their flight operations and should be included in the requirement process. AI #1 was assigned to Mr. B.J. Ramsay to contact the appropriate people for inclusion into the process.

Day 2

At 0800 Mr. Lance Hoyt convened day two of the conference. He explained that day two and part of day three will be a review of the individual task areas within the TDD. Each sub group within the Maritime Warfare Area will review the TDD for mission planning tasks that are missing, incorrect, or incomplete. It was further encouraged to add tasks if in question. Tasks can be removed later if found to be unnecessary. Questions were raised about current systems that are already being used in the Fleet. Tasks that are currently in use should be reflected in the Maritime Warfare Users Requirements Group's TDD for several reasons. Firstly, if the needs for those tasks present in the current system are to be included in JMPS the requirements must be identified in the JMPS Program documentation. It was also recognized that support for the current system might be eliminated and those tasks will be required in the JMPS functionality.

Explanations of the current tasks identified in the TDD were covered to give further clarity to the fleet representatives. Each platform group will hopefully arrive at a prioritized list of all the lower tier tasks and evaluate each task on the level of importance that task has to their specific mission planning process. Each group will present their findings to the entire Maritime Warfare Area group. At the conclusion of the individual review processes the entire group will perform a final across-the-board review and vote as a group on the priority and importance of the lowest tier tasks identified on the TDD. The intent is to end with a complete list of tasks necessary for mission planning in the Maritime Warfare Area. It is further anticipated that the list will help identify commonality as well as reflect the importance of each task to each of the individual platforms. This information will be helpful to the program managers in dealing with cost and schedule issues.

Mr. Lance Hoyt reminded the representatives to fill out the critique sheets and not to wait until the end of the conference. The critique sheet is designed to improve the process for future user group conferences but that changes can be made now to improve the process being implemented for this group as well.

All formal presentations were completed at 1445 hours. The remaining time was spent reviewing the TDD tasks.

Day 3

The conference convened at 0800 with opening remarks from Mr. Lance Hoyt. Recommended changes to the TDD were presented by each of the represented platform groups. LCDR Adams from PMA-290 presented the recommended changes from the P-3 community followed by Lt. Tatusko representing the S-3 platform. Next came Lt. John Marks representing the H-53s. LCDR Towmey completed the presentations and represented the H-60 community. Because of the unique relationship between the H-60 mission and its close coordination with its supporting surface ship, several new areas were added to the TDD stressing the need for close coordination and communications between the H-60 and their mother ship.

During the presentations a spirited discussion developed concerning the breakout of entries in the Emissions Planning Area of the TDD. Mr. Lance Hoyt suggested that the issue would require additional in length discussion and requested the discussion be deferred until after all the platforms finished with their respective presentation. Following the individual briefs the various platform representatives did arrive at a consensus. The agreed upon changes will be made to the TDD and each platform affected will make corresponding additions to the CONOPS.

The rest of the morning session was dedicated to the review of source documents and the preparation of new entries to those documents, user requirement statements and additional task updates.

The impact of Hurricane Floyd is starting to be seen. Several of the Fleet representatives are moving up their departure times based on the anticipated arrival of the affects of the hurricane and will not participate in the full conference.