



ENHANCED EXPEDITIONARY



ENGAGEMENT CAPABILITY

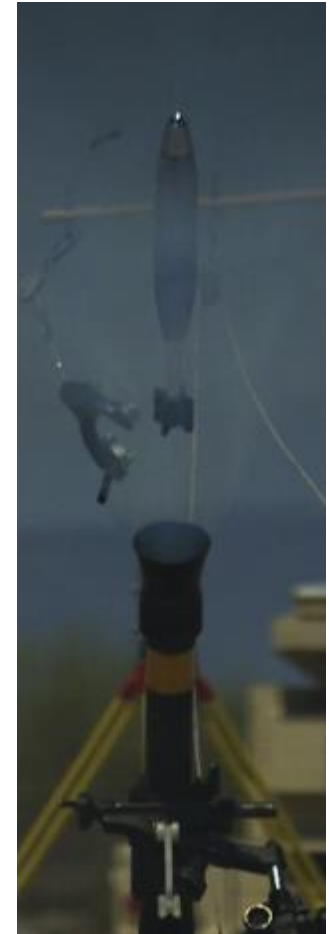
Advanced Capability Extended Range Mortar (ACERM)  
2015 NDIA Armament Systems Forum

**Luke Steelman**

20-22 Apr 2015

- ACERM is a new precision 81mm mortar cartridge intended for USMC Infantry Battalions
  - Compatible with US Army mortars
- Infantry Fire Support envelope can be expanded to full operating area with Organic Assets
  - 81mm Precision Fires to > 15 km
  - Can keep pace with dynamic/mobile engagements
  - Cost comparable to existing precision fire support
- Key enabling technologies afford additional capabilities
  - Urban Target Engagement
  - Foot Mobile Precision Fires
  - Continued Operations During GPS Denial

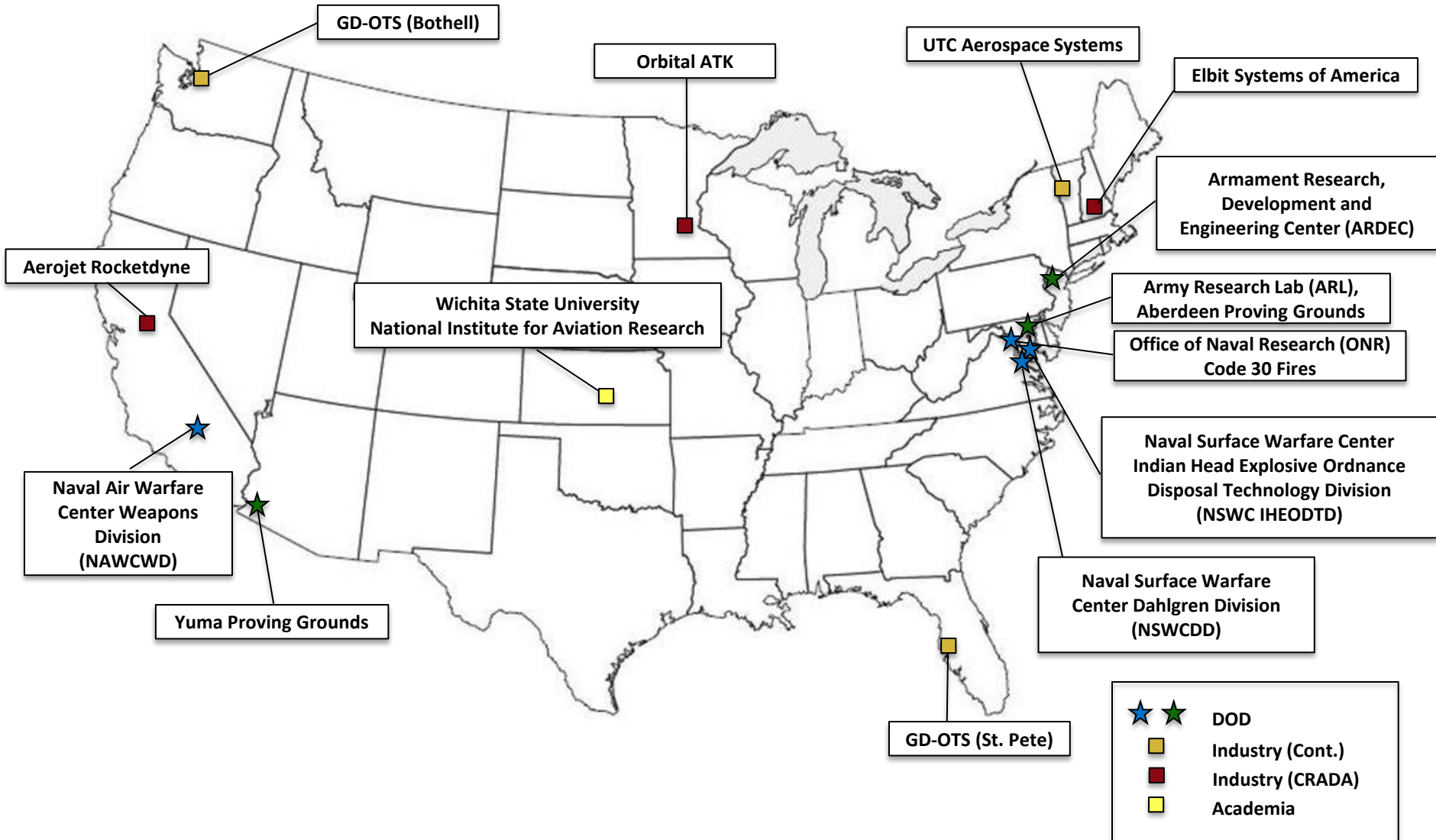
- Sponsor:
  - ONR 30 Fires
- Objective:
  - Demonstrate the “Art of the Possible” in fire support technologies for USMC weapons, through an ongoing series of integrated system firing demonstrations
- Structure:
  - Demonstrate systems to TRL 5-6
  - Transition Systems and/or Technologies to Acquisition or FNC programs
  - One new caliber every 3-4 years
  - Flexible to meet future stakeholder needs



**First up is 81mm Mortar  
Followed by 83mm Shoulder Launched & 60mm Mortar**

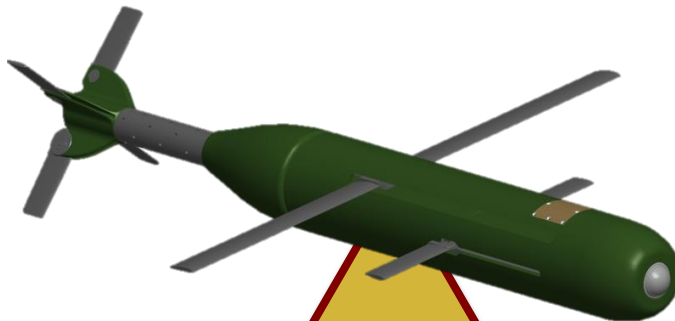
# E3C Development Team

Advanced Capability Extended Range Mortar (ACERM) – 2015 NDIA Armament Systems Forum – 20-22 April 2015



## Advanced Capability Extended Range Mortar (ACERM)

- New 81mm Precision AUR
- Dual Mode GPS + SAL Guidance
- >15km Maximum Range



**Precision for Future Infantry Units for both Mounted and Dismounted Operations**

## Miniature Mission Setter (MMS)

- 2lb Precision Weapon & Fuze Setter
- Logistic Enabler for Foot Mobile Precision



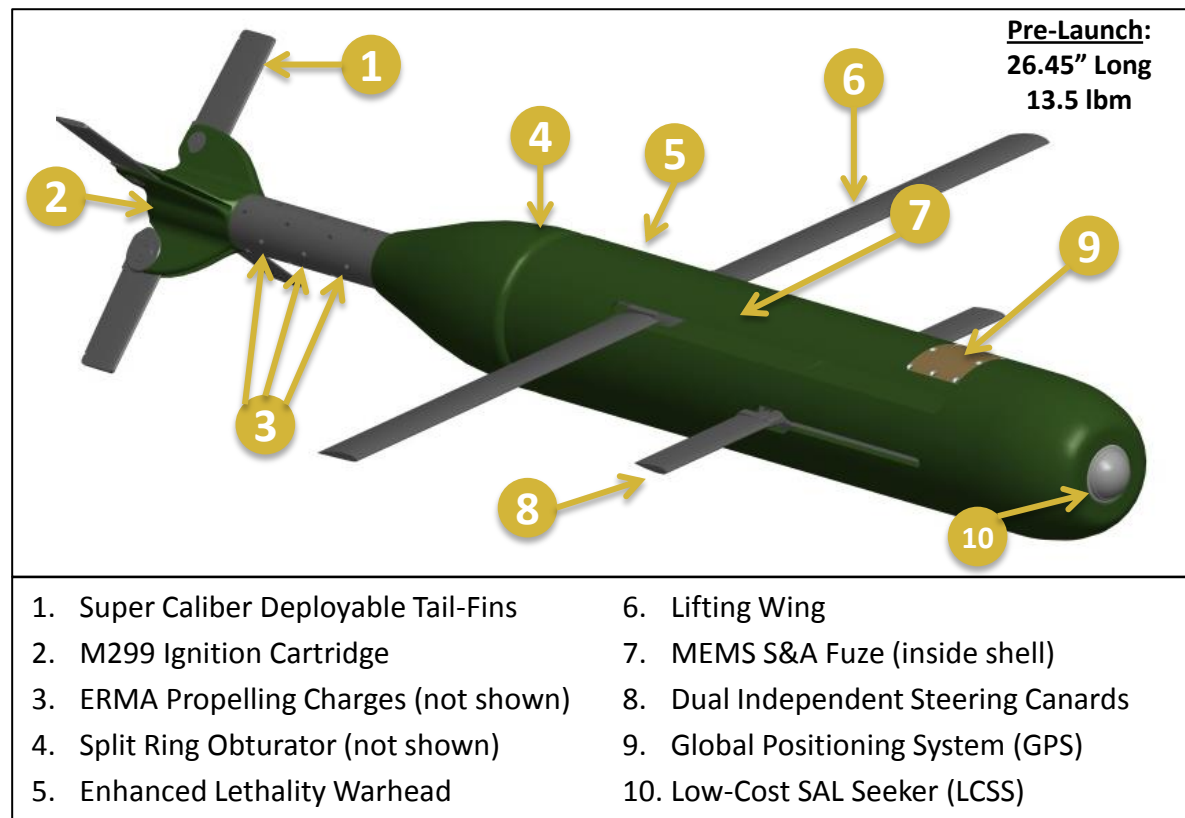
## Low Cost SAL Seeker (LCSS)

- Enables 1m CEP50
- Eliminates TLE
- GPS Denied Precision Fires

# ACERM Cartridge

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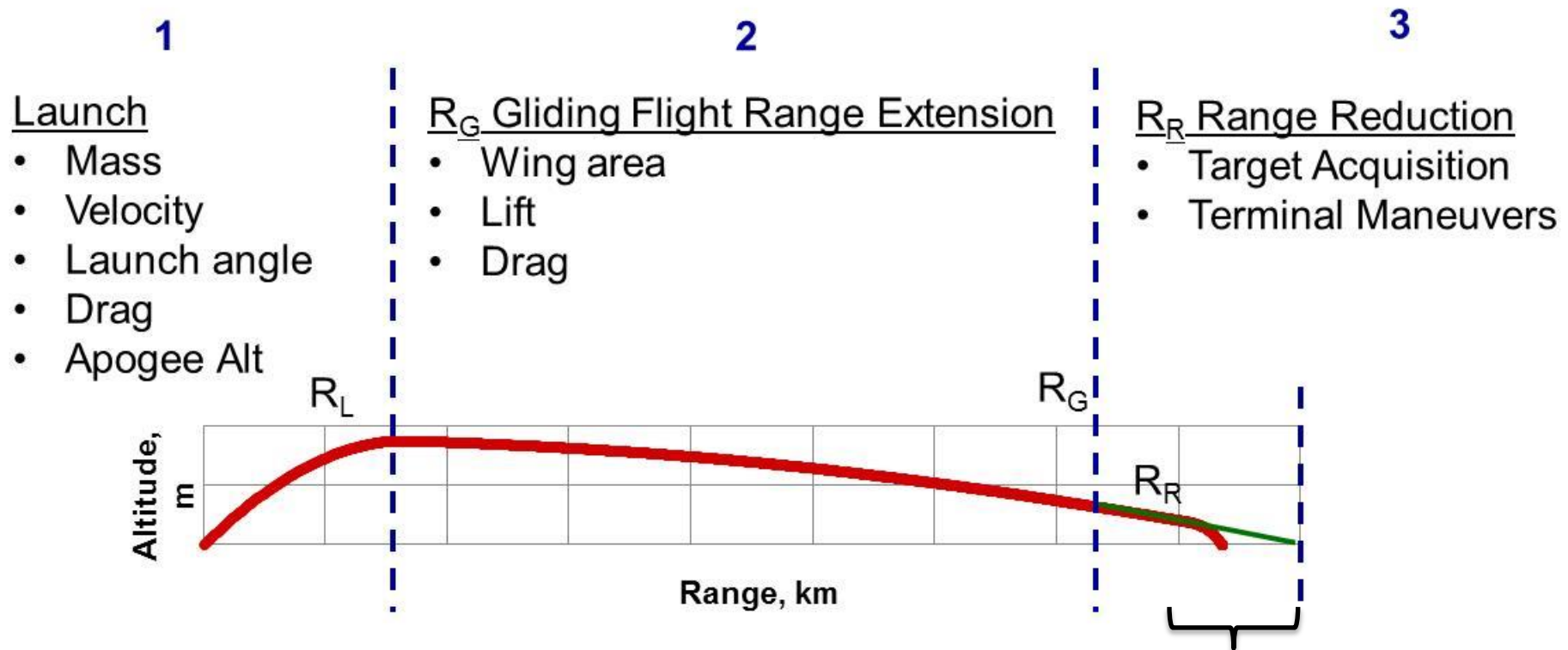
- **New 81mm AUR**
  - Airframe co-developed by NSWCCD, ARL, & UTC Aerospace
- **Ultra Extended Range**
  - 10 km (T), 20 km (O)
  - Aerodynamics only, No rocket motor
- **Precision Delivery**
  - GPS – 10m CEP<sub>50</sub> (T), 5m CEP<sub>50</sub> (O)
  - SAL – 5m CEP<sub>50</sub> (T), 1m CEP<sub>50</sub> (O)
- **Cost Effective**
  - \$15k/unit (T), \$10k/unit (O)
  - Comparable to existing systems



**Extended Range Minimizes Re-Emplacements,  
Keeps Pace with Mobile/Dynamic Engagements**

# Making Range

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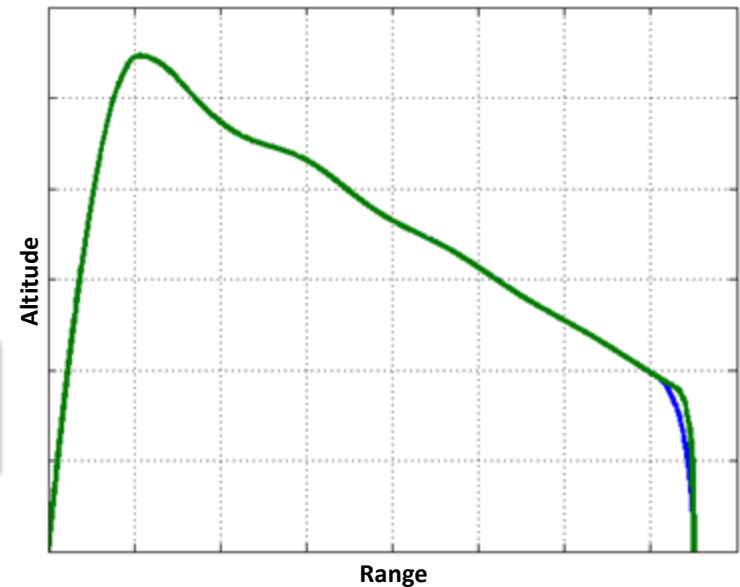
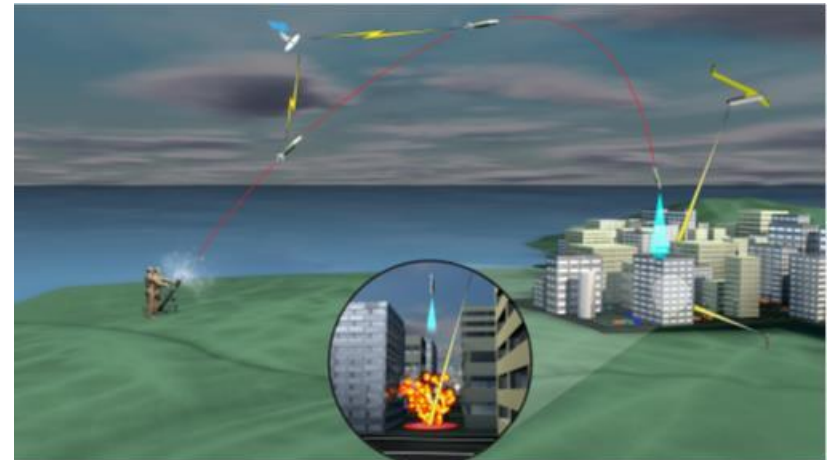


18-21 km Maximum Range  
Based on Latest Wind Tunnel Test



**Glide Architecture Provides >60% of Range Without Need for Supplemental In-Flight Propulsion**

- Structures no longer prohibitive to mortar fires
  - Trajectories shaped for Vertical Insertion
    - Byproduct of lift required for extended range
    - More than sufficient capability for Defilade
  - GPS Guidance (10m CEP50) for Open Spaces
    - Courtyards, Intersections, ...
  - SAL Guidance (1m CEP50) for Tight Spaces
    - Streets, Tall buildings, Alleys, ...
    - Airborne platforms provide best designation geometry
- ACERM is agnostic to terrain type
  - Works in Urban, Mountain, Canyon, & Defilade

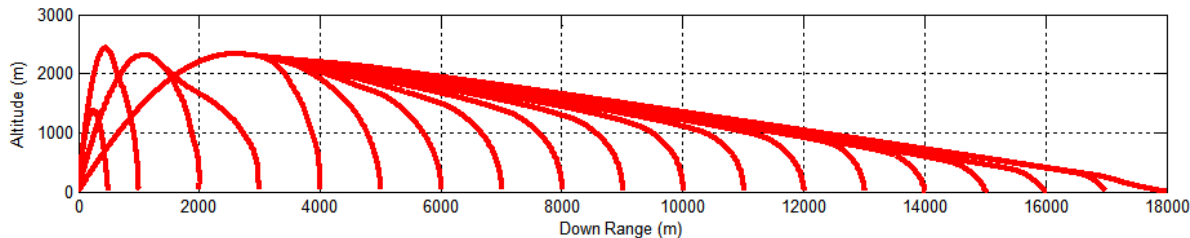


**Allows 81mm Mortar Fire Support to return to Engagements in Urban Terrain**



- Precision + Flight Path Control + Advanced Warhead Technology = Expanded Target Set

- <10m CEP50 reduces need for large warhead
  - Reduced Collateral Damage
- Vertical flight path at detonation
  - Optimal warhead orientation relative to target

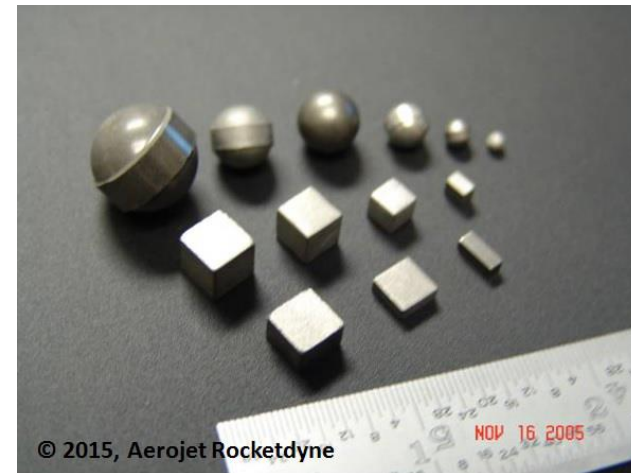


- Increases ECR with less HE than M821/889
  - High Density Pre-Formed Fragments
  - Tuned for delivery accuracy and target set
  - Optional upgrade to Reactive Materials

**81mm Organic Assets Can Service Targets Originally Relegated to Larger Artillery Calibers**



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- Capability beyond traditional GPS Anti-Jam
  - SAL Guidance Mode
    - Any STANAG 3733 designator system
      - PLDR, JTAC-LTD, Fixed Wing, Rotary, UAS, ...
  - Standard 81mm Ranges (< 6km)
    - Mortar aimed for traditional ballistic intercept
    - Future upgrade for extended ranges
      - Upgraded IMU required
  - Even during an MMS Casualty
    - No electronic systems required at mortar to conduct precision missions



Joint Terminal Attack Controller  
Lightweight Target Designator  
JTAC-LTD (AN/PEQ-19)

**Precision Organic Infantry Fires Possible Even During  
Periods of Full GPS Denial**

# Low-Cost SAL Seeker (LCSS)

Advanced Capability Extended Range Mortar (ACERM) – 2015 NDIA Armament Systems Forum – 20-22 April 2015

**Now**

**FY 16**

**FY 18**



**Coming Soon**

## LCSS v2

- STANAG 3733 SAL Targeting Sensor
- 0.5 lb, 6.3 in<sup>3</sup>
- Capable down to 10 mJ/pulse
- External Projectile Sub-System
- Hardened to 10 kgee's
- Est. \$1k unit @ 10k rate
- 19 prototypes delivered

## LCSS v3

- LCSS V2 Capabilities +
- 0.3 lb, 4.0 in<sup>3</sup>
- Internal Projectile Sub-System
  - Optics must be ported
- Embedded Ranging Sensor for Precision HOB
  - 1-20m Selectable w/ 3.5% err.

## LCSS v4

- LCSS V3 Capabilities +
- 0.3 lb, 4.0 in<sup>3</sup>
- Guidance Processor
- Inertial Sensor Suite
- Additional I/O for CAS, Fuze, and Other Guided Projectile Subsystems

**Future Development Will Yield LCSS v2 Capabilities in 80% Smaller Form Factor**

- Man Portable System
  - Enables smaller PGMs and Foot Mobile Precision
  - Weight < 2lbs
  - Originally sized to fit in USMC cargo pocket
- Improved Power Efficiency
  - Direct Contact Interface
  - New Environmentally rugged connector under development
- Android Interface
  - Intuitive and familiar
  - Minimal input required from users.
  - Expansion to host additional apps (mapping, force tracking, mission planning, intel)
- EPIAFS Backwards Compatibility
  - Already generates same data message format
  - Inductive setter output through Legacy Compatibly Kit

**Lightens the Load & Enables Foot Mobile Precision Fires**



**PLUMSS: 40 lbm, 3120 in<sup>3</sup>**



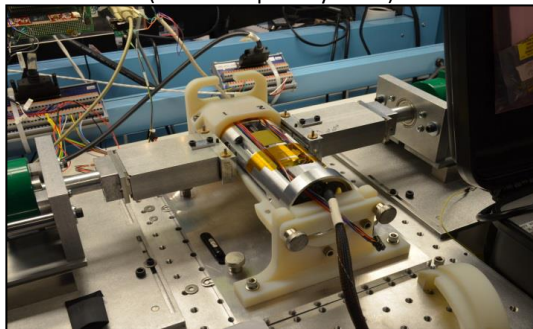
**MMS: 2 lbm, 50 in<sup>3</sup>**

- Current MMS Components:**
- Android Handheld
  - Embedded SAASM GPS
  - Crypto Storage/Handling
  - Rugged Round Connector
  - High Power Battery
  - Radio (optional)

# Demonstration Schedule

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Hardware-in-the-Loop Testing  
(UTC Aerospace Systems)



Live Fire Testing  
(Yuma Proving Grounds)



JTAC-LTD & Skylark I-LE UAS  
(Elbit Systems of America)



FY 14

FY 15

FY 16

Future



Wind Tunnel Testing  
(NIAR, Wichita State University)



Miniature Mission Setter (MMS) Integration  
(GD-OTS)



Live Warhead Testing  
(Aerojet Rocketdyne)

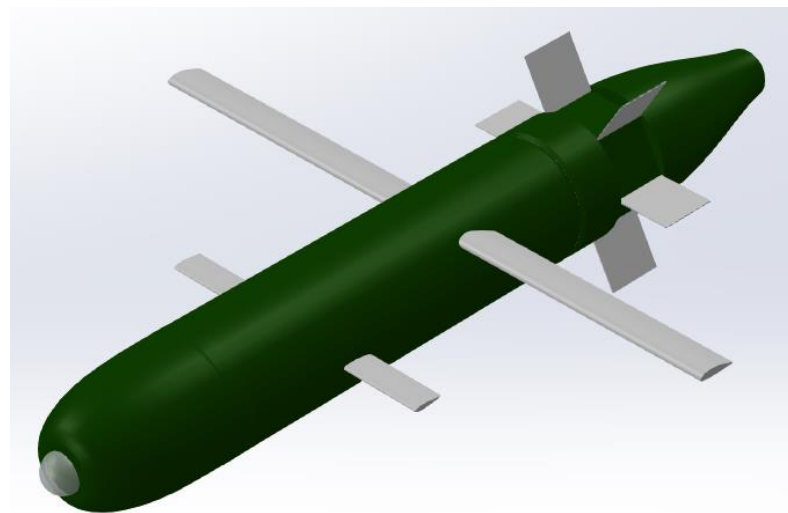
**TRL 6 Demonstrations in FY16**

- Minimal Update to Become UAS Dropped Munition
  - Fuze Arming Environments
  - Fuze Setter Interface → Aircraft Umbilical
  - Remove Launch Energetics
- Creates SDB style capability for UAS
  - 10 – 20 km glide range (altitude dependent)
  - 1m CEP<sub>50</sub> Precision
    - Using onboard SAL Targeting
  - Maintenance of ISR orbit while engaging targets
  - Airborne designation CONOPS for ground launched ACERM

**End-to-End Engagement Capability  
on Single Platform**



- **eXtreme Performance Configuration**
  - 40 – 60 km Maximum Range
    - Long Range Precision from low cost portable launcher
  - TOF to 15 km reduced to 120 sec
    - Increased responsiveness for Organic Infantry Fire Support
  - Multiple Round Simultaneous Impact (MRSI) & Firing Patterns
    - From single 81mm mortar tube
  - Moving/Maneuvering Targets
    - More responsive to dynamic engagements
- **Key Enabling Technologies**
  - Supplemental in-flight propulsion
    - Rocket Motor
  - Discarding Launch Propulsion
    - Improves aerodynamic contour
    - Enables simpler rocket motor nozzle geometry
  - Enhanced GNC & Fire Control
    - Onboard ACERM and MMS



**Looking for Additional Industry Input  
through DOTC Topic ENT-16-01**

- ACERM can expand Infantry Fire Support Envelope with Organic Assets
  - 81mm Precision Fires to >15 km
  - Can keep pace with dynamic/mobile engagements
  - Cost Comparable to Existing Precision Fire Support
- As Part of E3C System
  - Urban Terrain Engagements
  - Continued Operations During GPS Denial
  - Foot Mobile Precision
- Future ACERM Capabilities
  - Air-Dropped Variant for UAS with SDB Style Capabilities
  - Ultra Extended Range (>40 km)
  - Moving Targets
  - MRSI Fires

**TRL 6 Capability  
Demonstrations in FY 16**





- Questions?