Visions of the Future: Impacts of Nanotechnology on National Defense

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Major Nanotechnology Enabled Defense Development Domains

- Nanostructured Materials stealth, protection, intelligence, energy systems, hazardous environments, extreme endurance, self healing
- Telecomm / Computing / Embedded Intelligence
- Sensors / Detectors / Surveillance
- Integrated Devices / Robotics
- Transportation
- Aerospace



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Define "Defense" - Nanotechnology as an Emergent

Integrated Solution Platform for Strategic Intervention

- "Virtual" and "Hard" battlefields and threat domains
- Unconventional threats / "granular" urban warfare
- Autonomous realtime threat exposure
- Decentralized defense theaters





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Nanotechnology in Defense Future arenas of Advanced Materials, Integrated Systems, Adaptive Process Morphology

- Zero "time of flight" weaponry / laser, particle beam
- Alternative propulsion systems, microcavitation, gravity manipulation
- Micro-nano satellite "colonies", autonomous vehicles, intelligent swarms
- "Smart" autonomous robots, distributed sensors, intelligences, artificial entities
- Integration of humans and autonomous intelligences
- Self healing / adaptive adaptive materials, systems, networks
- Anticipatory response to hyper-virulent, xenomorphic nano-organisms



Hybrid Lifeforms / Synthetic Organisms Integration of Living Systems

- Beta Cells
- Proteomic Targeting
- Quasi-viral components



Biopathogen Detection – Live Cells as Sensors



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The Emergent Infotech / Biotech / Nanotech / Cognotech Operational Ecology

NBIC Conference Converging Technologies for Improving Human Performance: Nanotechnology, Biotechnology, Information Technology and Cognitive Science NSF/DOC-sponsored report http://www.wtec.org/ConvergingTechnologies



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Most Important Key Features of Nanotechnology

- It is not necessarily about nano-widgets or "tiny machines"
- It consists of an ever expanding collection of interrelated fabrication processes and systems that operate with the controlled manipulation of atoms and molecules.
- Nanotechnology is the gateway to system integration

Primary Objectives:

DARPA - Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

- Keep human soldiers from harm
- Enhance human capacity, assisted enhancement
- Emphasis on "smart" technology instead of "replacement" technology





Soldier of the Future – Define "Soldier"

Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies

http://www.aro.army.mil/soldiernano/







Nanoporous Materials, Selective Membranes "Smart" Skin / Integrated Molecular Sensors





Integrated Human & "Virtual" Operational Ecologies - Future Biometric Immersion





Future Biometric Immersion



Biological Insight to Flight Control

University of California, Berkeley

PROJECTED MILESTONES





Process Convergence

Bits, Atoms, Genes, Neurons







Process Acceleration

Complexity Increase

Process Dynamics of the Emergent Threat Domains

Time Compression Connectivity Increase

DARPA - Nanotechnology Development

- "Traditional" areas of deployment:
- Stealth
- Endurance
- Firepower
- Intelligence





DARPA - Nanotechnology Development

Emergent Domains of Deployment:

- Intelligent, autonomous process management
- Anticipatory, Adaptive, self healing
- System Sentience





DARPA - Primary Development Domains Enabled or Enhanced with applied Nanotechnology

NANOELECTRONICS/OPTOELECTRONICS/MAGNETICS

Network Centric Warfare Information Warfare Uninhabited Combat Vehicles Automation/Robotics for Reduced Manning Effective training through virtual reality Digital signal processing and LPI

NANOMATERIALS "BY DESIGN"

High Performance, Affordable Materials Multifunction, Adaptive (Smart) Materials Reduced Maintenance - halt nanoscale failure initiation

BIONANOTECHNOLOGY - WARFIGHTER PROTECTION

Chemical/Biological Agent detection/destruction Human Performance/Health Monitor/Prophylaxis

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Strategic Imperatives in the "Virtual" Battlefield

Nanotechnology in Defense

- Self healing network ecologies Biological Metaphors in Computing
- Recon bots, defense bots, anticipatory autonomous "hunter/killer" bots
- Artificial life / immune systems / intelligences
- Next Generation Reconfigurable Computing Architectures
- Defensive Banking / Financial Transaction Systems, e-Currency
- Quantum encryption / quantum information networks







Grand Challenge





Autonomous Enhancement Enabled Decision Rendering Process Map



Biological Mimicry

- Biological Metaphors in Computing
- Biologically Inspired Mechanical Systems
- Biologically Inspired Self Assembly / Self Organization
- Artificial Life Instigated forms of Intelligence, Autonomy



Nanoelectronics / Molectronics -Reconfigurable logic arrays, memory fabrics FPGA + Biological / Evolutionary Computation = Self Healing Autonomous System Architecture



- FPGA Architecture is asyncrhonous (not confined by Finn's Law
- Extremely fault tolerant
- Functional identity is in the software, not the hardware
 - Well suited for contiguous fabrication processes



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Reconfigurable Computing Architectures – Gateway to Unique Computational Resources

- Extreme Parallelism speed not the real issue
- Enables evolutionary and biological metaphors in computing
- Extreme process morphology





Input/Output Blocks





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Example Enabling Development Paths

- Enhance "Friendliness" to Novel Materials in "Traditional" Micro-litho Fab Facilities
- Not Necessarily Top / Down vs. Bottom / Up
- Integrated Biological and Non-Biological NanoStructures
- Supra-molecular Synthesis
- Techniques for Patterning Matter
- Chemical Handles for Attachment to Surfaces and Scaffolds 3/27/2010

Example – Carbon Nanotubes Integrated with Organic Molecules / Biological Materials



Molecules as Tools – Not Just Endproducts



Molecular Components

- Nanotubes Carbon, Polymer, various materials
- Dendrimers
- Zeolites
- Organo-metallics
- Structural Proteomics





Complimentary Chemistries in Molecular Components

Integration of organic and in-organic dopants with carbon nanotubes, dendrimers, various molecular structures







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The goal is not just "little things", but system integration Self Assembly > System Integration Complementary molecules Molecular lave 5555555 Self-Assembly Devices

Army

- Interface/Surface Physics, Surface/Interface Chemistry
- Molecular Machines
- Quantum Information Physics
- Physical Behavior of Nanomaterials
- Polymer Nanostructures
- Integrated Systems Development
- Biopathogen sensors, biologically aware materials

The Army Research Office

Empowering the Army with Science

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Air Force

Micro / Nano SatellitesOrganic Nanostructures



- Aerospace Situational Awareness Sensors, energetic particles
- Nanoscale Integrated Electronics in Communications, Computing, Distributed NanoSensors
- NanoPhotonics, Quantum Computing
- Nanostructured Materials in Explosives, Propulsion Systems.
- Zero time-of-flight Weaponry, Beam Propulsion Systems 3/27/2010

Navy

- Nanostructured materials in aerogels, batteries, fuel cells
- NanoOptical materials, photonics, organic LEDs
- Nanostructures in electrochemical systems
- Molecular electronics, nanotubules, NEMs, self assembly
- Enhanced Nanostructured Energetic Materials
- Zero time-of-flight Weaponry
- Spin electronics, quantum information processing





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- Knowledge complexity, scale, and velocity is exceeding human capacity for mission critical decision rendering compressed into ever shortening time scales.
- Development and deployment of complex metasystems of artificial autonomous entities, synthetic lifeforms, and emergent intelligences becomes the acceptable if not mission critical "culture norm" of the near future.
- Perceived boundaries of the "synthetic" and organic, the "virtual" and the real, are becoming enmeshed into an operational ecology continuum.



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