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Microelectronic Spare and Repair Part Status
Analysis of the PATRIOT System

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Prepared by:

Gary A. Maddux

Systems Management & Production Lab
The University of Alabama in Huntsville
Huntsville, Alabama 35899

Prepared for:

U.S. Army Aviation & Missile Command
Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898
Attn.: Mr. Cary Boyd

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PREFACE

This technical report was prepared by the staff of the Research Institute, The University of Alabama in Huntsville. The purpose of this report is to provide documentation of the work performed and results obtained under Delivery Order 101 of AMCOM Contract No. DAAH01-92-D-R006. Mr. Steve Pearce was the principal investigator. Mr. Cary Boyd, Industrial Operations Division, Systems Engineering and Production Directorate, Research, Development, and Engineering Center, U.S. Army Aviation & Missile Command, provided technical coordination.

The views, opinions, and/or findings contained in this report are those of the author(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy, or decision unless so designated by other official documentation.

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Prepared for: Commander
U.S. Army Aviation & Missile Command
Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898

I have reviewed this report, dated 29 July 99 and the report contains no classified information.

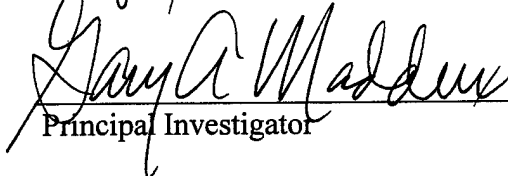

Principal Investigator

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1.0 Introduction

The Industrial Operations Division (IOD), Systems Engineering and Production Directorate (SEPD), Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center (MRDEC), U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command (AMCOM) has the mission and function of providing microelectronic technology assessments, and producibility and supportability analyses for the PATRIOT weapon system. IOD was required to evaluate the impacts of nonavailability of microelectronic parts on the life cycle supportability of the PATRIOT weapon system and evaluate the producibility of the PATRIOT weapon system.

IOD required engineering support in performing microelectronic technology and availability assessments for several hundred items and in assessing the impact of nonavailability on the PATRIOT weapon system. IOD also required engineering support in performing producibility analyses of the PATRIOT weapon system. In order to facilitate the assessment of this system, the Systems Management and Production Laboratory at The University of Alabama in Huntsville Research Institute was tasked to conduct an in-depth analysis as to the life cycle health of the PATRIOT weapon system's component parts.

2.0 Objective

The purpose of the work to be performed under this task order was to provide engineering support to analyze the availability of microelectronics used in the PATRIOT system and to investigate and develop solutions for problem parts. General microelectronic engineering support was required to support special studies involving microelectronic components and obsolescence impacts to systems and subsystems of the PATRIOT weapon system. The implementation of commercial products, processes, and specifications for the PATRIOT system was also to be investigated. Determination of the producibility of the PATRIOT system and/or subsystem was required.

3.0 Statement of Work

The statement of work, as outlined in delivery order 101, was as follows:

3.1 UAH shall analyze the availability of microelectronic parts used in the PATRIOT weapon system. The analyses shall be for PATRIOT microelectronics specifically identified by the Technical Monitor. UAH shall determine and categorize the availability status of the individual components. UAH shall assess the impact of the nonavailability of the microelectronics on system supportability. UAH shall identify opportunities for insertion of new electronic technologies to resolve microelectronic availability and obsolescence problems. The analyses shall be performed using government furnished databases and automated tools such as the Microcircuit Obsolescence Analysis Tool (MOAT) local area network and with the Computer Aided Product Selection (CAPS) information service

which shall be provided by UAH. Other available sources of information shall also be used. Results shall be presented to PATRIOT Project Office personnel, other government elements, and contractors as deemed necessary by the Technical Monitor, through briefings and written reports.

3.1.1 UAH shall define microelectronic component obsolescence assessment methods and analyze current government obsolescence assessment methods. Additional approaches and information sources shall be analyzed and developed. Analysis methods, data sources, criteria and reporting formats shall be documented within all written reports. UAH shall establish routine monitoring of Government Industry Data Exchange Program (GIDEP) and CAPS for obsolescence notifications and impacts to the PATRIOT system.

3.1.2 UAH shall research and analyze PATRIOT weapon system microelectronic component availability data. Commercial and government databases shall be searched for data on microelectronic obsolescence and availability. Alternate sources, part numbers and qualified substitutes for obsolete or unavailable parts shall be identified. Compliance with military standards shall be verified. Specific alternate and substitute parts for those determined obsolete or determined to pose obsolescence potential shall be recommended.

3.1.3 UAH shall assess PATRIOT weapon system readiness, producibility, and supportability impacts resulting from microelectronic obsolescence. Specific component availability and obsolescence problems affecting the PATRIOT system shall be identified. Quantitative statistics to demonstrate the impacts at the system, line replaceable unit (LRU), circuit board and component levels shall be derived. Potential approaches to resolve availability and obsolescence problems and reduction of their impacts on system supportability shall be proposed.

3.1.4 UAH shall identify opportunities for insertion of new microelectronic technologies into the PATRIOT weapon system. LRUs or boards which are candidates for redesign based on their use of obsolete microelectronics shall be identified.

3.1.5 UAH shall support acquisition streamlining by identifying commercial microelectronic components as replacements for military qualified components. UAH shall verify form, fit, and function compatibility. UAH shall verify commercial component availability. Cost comparisons shall be completed. UAH shall investigate commercialization of electronic processes and specifications.

3.1.6 UAH shall investigate the use of the technology insertion program to resolve deficient technical data packages (TDP), eliminate sole source TDPs, and delete Reliability, Availability, and Maintainability (RAM) problems.

Benefits in terms of improved performance, producibility, readiness and life cycle costs shall be demonstrated.

3.1.7 UAH shall purchase the CAPS information service for a one year subscription. The CAPS information service shall be located at the IOD facility at Redstone Arsenal. The subscriptions shall follow the current subscription with no lapse in service.

3.2 UAH shall analyze the producibility of the PATRIOT weapon system and subsystems. The analyses will be performed on parts specifically identified by the government. UAH shall analyze TDP data (listings, engineering documentation and changes thereto) to advise the government if the present baseline and/or detail drawings are adequate for competitive procurement and/or manufacture. UAH shall, during TDP analysis, document any cost reduction opportunities in the TDP, using value engineering methodology as a generally accepted practice of cost analysis. UAH shall provide recommended TDP updates where applicable.

3.3 UAH shall perform an engineering analysis on producibility problems identified during the procurement cycle of PATRIOT secondary items. The analysis will require review of drawings, specifications, and related materials pertaining to the identified problem. UAH shall determine and recommend solutions to the producibility problems and provide rationale to support recommendations. UAH shall, during engineering analysis, document any cost reduction opportunities in the TDP, using value engineering methodology as a generally accepted practice of cost analysis. Results of the analysis shall be prepared and furnished in a written format.

4.0 Assessment of the PATRIOT System

Under this task members of the UAH Systems Management and Production Lab performed a detailed engineering analysis on the component parts of the PATRIOT weapon system. Specifically, microelectronic components were analyzed according to their availability and expected life cycle. To ascertain this information, UAH worked with the electronics industry, the PATRIOT Project Office, and other government agencies.

The results of this task were published in the *Microcircuit Obsolescence Assessment of the PATRIOT* and delivered to IOD under separate cover.

5.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

During the time frame allocated by the delivery order, members of the UAH Systems Management and Production Lab, with the cooperation of representatives from AMCOM Systems Engineering and Production Directorate and the PATRIOT Project Office investigated the life cycle supportability of the microelectronics of the PATRIOT weapon system. Because of the rapidly changing microelectronics industry, it is imperative that this assessment be refreshed on a periodic basis. Only through the diligent monitoring of a complex system can its sustainability issues be properly addressed. It is recommended that the PATRIOT weapon system adopt a proactive obsolescence management philosophy so that the total cost of ownership is reduced over the system's life cycle.