

Inside the Pentagon

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an exclusive weekly report on Defense Department programs, procurement and policymaking

from Vol. 24, No. 23, June 5, 2008

YOUNG PLANS WIKIPEDIA-LIKE DATABASE FOR DOD-LED S&T EFFORTS

The Pentagon's research and engineering directorate will develop a Wikipedia-like database of all ongoing science and technology development work within the services and the Defense Department to foster a more joint approach to the S&T enterprise, DOD's procurement chief said this week.

Despite \$10 billion in defense funding invested in science and technology development for the current fiscal year, Pentagon acquisition czar John Young said the department still lacks a clear database that allows researchers from the services' main research labs to see what technologies are being developed throughout DOD.

The new project is designed to provide such visibility to military researchers. It will also allow those personnel to be able to "link up" with R&D elements across the Pentagon, in order to collaborate on current and future development work, he said during a June 3 Navy symposium in Arlington, VA.

Young has tapped defense research and engineering's plans and programs director Alan Shaffer to create the Wikipedia-like database.

"I personally believe that every program manager will take a few minutes and put in some comments into the Wikipedia about the programs that they are trying to do and the problems with what they are doing," Young said.

He added that other research entities within and outside DOD would also be able to access the database, fostering a more interagency approach to S&T programs.

The new database would also help remedy some of the communication and coordination stovepipes that arise among various service organizations working similar technology development efforts, he said.

Young said Defense Secretary Robert Gates recently asked him about the specifics of a certain technology development program. Unable to answer Gates' question off the top of his head, Young saw the need for the S&T Wikipedia.

"I needed a [Wikipedia] tool to answer some of those questions," Young said. "But the real benefit of this tool is to let people who are actually doing the work . . . link themselves with each other and do what is right for the taxpayer." — *Carlo Muñoz*