MULTICHANNEL, MULTIBAND AIRBORNE RADIO (MMAR)

The U.S. Air Force's Joint Expeditionary Force Experiment 2010 (JEFX 10-3) was held April 13-23, 2010, at Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR), Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. Planned and executed by the Global Cyberspace Integration Center (GCIC), JEFX is a venue for innovative command and control (C2) and targeting technologies. This year's event focused on improving the U.S. forces' ability to conduct irregular warfare (IW). There were hundreds of participants at multiple sites including a full complement of aircraft evaluating approximately 13 different initiatives. http://www.gcic.af.mil/jefx/index.asp

Thales Communications, Inc. supplied the Multichannel, Multiband Airborne Radios (MMARs) to Ultra Electronics in support of their Tactical Communications Suite (TCS) for Unmanned Aerial Systems under a contract from USAF ESC. The MMARs, as an integral part of the airborne segment TCS, provided networked secure Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP) communications relay and range extension for tactical mobile, fixed, and ground control station personnel.

The MMARs, as part of the TCS, were successfully installed and integrated at Hanscom AFB, MA, onto a Twin Otter aircraft acting as a UAV surrogate, and conducted flight and communications testing over two weeks at the end of March 2010 in preparation for the JEFX 10-3 event.

Upon aircraft arrival at Nellis AFB, NV, the MMARs were again installed and supported ground communications testing from April 9 and flight communications testing from April 14-22. The MMARs provided networked secure communications relay and range extension from ground operators in the NTTR to Operations Center personnel at Nellis AFB and remote locations at beyond line of sight distances. The MMARs successfully supported all of the intended communications operational threads. The constrained scenarios included flights up to 20,000 feet and link distances of up to 40 miles.

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