



International Data Links Society List of Top 10 Data Link Issues

Brigadier General Brundidge, challenged the Society, at IDLS2010, to identify the top ten issues that would face the Data Link Community in the future. Lt Cdr Roy Johansson Chairman of the International Data Links Society wrote to Brigadier General Brundidge outlining what we felt the top ten issues were. These are listed below:

Top 10 Data Link Issues:

- **Training.** There is an absence of Certified and validated training from basic to TAC/OP level agreed by the major Data Links nations and organizations. What is the impact of this and how could it be addressed?
- **Information Assurance.** To build trust among participating nations and organizations in a coalition operation. How can nations improve on current information sharing practices?
- **Data Links in new platform types, e.g. UAV's and weapons.** Do we need traditional Data Links for communication for platform to platform? Who will receive this information? Will existing DL technology be sufficient? Will networks be overloaded when multiple UAV's are introduced to a traditional Link 16 network?
- **Increased Bandwidth requirements.** How to satisfy the increased demand for bandwidth when at the same time civilian operators and aviation authorities challenge our traditional military radio spectrum?
- **Beyond Line Of Sight requirements.** Few nations can rely on satellite access with Joint Range Extension (JRE). As not all Nations have a funded Link 22 programme, and Link 11 is time limited, it might cause a lack of interoperability among partner and coalition nations. How can this capability gap be resolved?
- **Integration of the Land domain in to "traditional" DL domains.** How can the land domain be fully integrated into existing and developing Data Links in a joint/combined manner?
- **Management and interference throughout the frequency spectrum.** How can we mitigate against potential threats to military Data Link systems in the spectrum?
- **NATO CONOPS describing coalition means of working and to capture best practice.** What guidance/documentation and best practice is required by the nations from NATO?
- **Dynamic Network Management, a must.** What is the best practice and benefits from optimised dynamic network management for Data Links, including multi link network management?
- **Transition from legacy to new generations of modern Data Links, size and cost of terminals.** How can we transition from our legacy Data Link systems to migrate to a seamless and modern Network Enabled Capability?