

Meeting Defense Information Needs for 65 Years

A Profile of the Defense Technical Information Center

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Technology advances so rapidly that the world must continually adapt to remain relevant. Having the right information at the right time is key to adaptability. In the case of our nation's warfighters, adaptability can mean the difference between life and death. The Department of Defense's science and technology, research and development, and test and evaluation communities are the driving forces behind the warfighter's technological edge. Providing essential technical research, development, testing, and evaluation information, rapidly, accurately, and reliably to support our customers is the mission of the Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC®).

Bratten is a writer-editor in DTIC's Marketing and Registration Division. Prior to joining DTIC, she was an editor for an education association. **Schwalb** is DTIC's public affairs officer. She has worked for a U.S. senator and was a speechwriter at the Government Printing Office.

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What is DTIC?

The premier provider of science and technical information (S&T) for the defense community, DTIC collects, stores, and disseminates authoritative DoD scientific, research, and engineering information. The center provides controlled access to S&T information; supports S&T specialized subject areas; offers up-to-date electronic information using various technologies, including Web 2.0 tools; and makes available customized training in searching DTIC databases and marking documents.

DTIC creates and hosts more than 100 official DoD websites, several of which specifically support the director of defense research and engineering (DDR&E). DTIC Web hosting includes full-service Web support, an established and secure Web architecture, and customer assistance.

In 2004, DTIC was established as a DoD field activity within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics and reports directly to DDR&E. As a DoD field activity, DTIC is one of several organizations whose work reaches across all segments of the defense department.

Registering for DTIC

DTIC offers its information services to a diverse population within and outside the defense community. Beyond the public domain, however, DTIC customers are required to register to ensure the dissemination of sensitive information is not compromised. Registering for DTIC services is open to all military, DoD civilian, DoD contractors, federal employees, and federal contractors. Examples of registered DTIC customers include congressional staff, faculty and students at military schools, information professionals/librarians, small business owners, and security managers. You can register if you have a Common Access Card. If you do not have a CAC, you can still register by creating a user ID and password to login to DTIC Online Access Controlled.

"If you have a business relationship with DoD or DTIC, we have a registration system that can filter your accessibility and steer you to the information that you are authorized to receive," said R. Paul Ryan, the administrator of DTIC.

For more information on the registration process or to register visit <www.dtic.mil/dtic/registration/>.

The DTIC Suite of Services

DTIC Online

DTIC Online is the gateway to unclassified, unlimited S&T information—approximately 50 percent of DTIC's collection. DTIC Online also includes access to DoD congressional budget data and research and development descriptive summaries, and provides tools such as Ask a Librarian and MultiSearch.

Anyone, anywhere can browse the public information available on DTIC Online, even without being registered.

DTIC Online Access Controlled

Portions of DTIC's collections carry security classifications up to the SECRET level, including information about research performed, sponsored and cosponsored by DoD. Registered customers can access unclassified, limited information through DTIC Online Access Controlled. This site provides all the search capability of DTIC Online plus access to research and engineering (R&E) resources; unclassified, limited technical reports; the Total Electronic Migration System; S&T planning documents; and much more.

"One of the things we want to provide is complete access to a lot of information with a single sign-on capability, so you don't need 16 passwords for 16 systems," commented Ryan.

Registered customers can personalize their home page on DTIC Online Access Controlled by adding or deleting shortcuts and selecting and arranging portlets (Web-based application hosted in a portal). Financial information, the Militarily Critical Technology List, the R&E database, the S&T planning tool, and academic search tools are just some of the portlets available for customers to place on their home page. Such personalization gives customers quicker access to the information that meets their needs.

Access to material marked SECRET is available through DTIC Online Secret Internet Protocol Router Network (SIPRnet).

Information Analysis Centers

Information Analysis Centers (IACs) are research and analysis organizations chartered by the DoD and operated by DTIC. IAC experts help researchers, engineers, scientists, and program managers get the information they need, when they need it. DTIC manages 10 IACs that enable quick access to S&T information worldwide. Basic searches (up to four hours of research) are free to DTIC registered customers. If you require more in-depth research, IACs can support you without your organization incurring common procurement cost. According to Ryan, "IACs answer questions—real-life, everyday specific questions. They do more in-depth analysis of much larger types of problems that might take months or years to research. IACs offer the full power of DoD's scientific and technical information resources to the defense community."

Meeting Your Collaboration Needs

DoDTechipedia

DoDTechipedia.mil, a wiki application, is a secure online system designed to increase communication among DoD scientists, engineers, program managers, and operational warfighters. This tool enables defense personnel to collaborate on technological solutions, reduce costs, add capability, and avoid duplication. The DoDTechipedia vision is to aid in the rapid development of technology and the discovery



of innovative solutions to meet critical capability needs and gaps. Some of its features include a live forum, a quick registration process using a CAC, a “sandbox” for users to practice posting and editing content, acronyms/definitions, technology areas where discussions about S&T investment areas or enabling technology take place, interest area pages for DoD personnel and DoD contractors to work together on challenges and solutions, blog capabilities, hyperlinking of terms, and the ability to upload attachments. Launched in 2008, DoDTechipedia boasted more than 11,000 users in June 2010.

DoDTechipedia was awarded the Government Computer News award for “Outstanding Information Technology Achievement in Government” in 2009. Additionally, the wiki was highlighted on the White House website in the Open Government Initiative/Innovations Gallery.

Currently, DTIC hosts DoDTechipedia Limited and DoDTechipedia Classified.

DefenseSolutions.gov

Imagine a website that allows innovative thinkers to suggest and submit products, help the United States, and, ultimately, make ground-breaking ideas reality. DefenseSolutions.gov, located at <www.defensesolutions.gov> is that site. It is a portal through which cutting edge companies, entrepreneurs, and research organizations that



have not considered doing business with DoD in the past can offer potential solutions to defense problems.

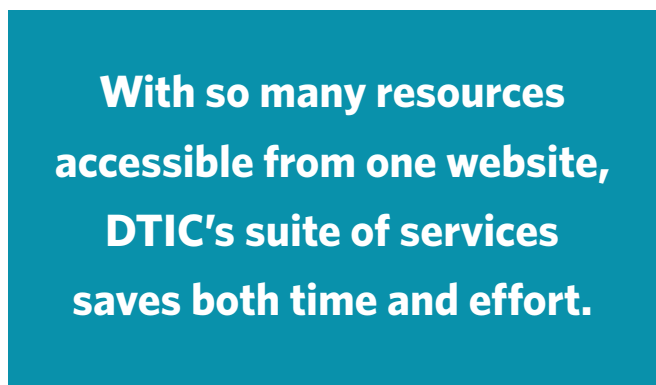
The DDR&E Rapid Fielding Office posts technical areas, or “themes,” seeking vital ideas, suggestions, and solutions to DefenseSolutions.gov. Ideas selected for further consideration have the potential to be awarded quick funding for development or prototype production and to be integrated with other defense technologies or programs. Not only is the proposal process streamlined, but the response from high-level experts reviewing the submitted ideas is given within 30 days. Any proprietary information is protected under various statutes, including the Freedom of Information Act, for five years.

The first technical area posted on DefenseSolutions.gov was “Battlefield Forensics,” which pertains to the DoD applying criminal forensic capabilities and technologies typically used in law enforcement to meet national security and counterterrorism needs. Registration to access the site is not required. Innovators can sign up to receive e-mail notification as the themes change.

Aristotle

Launched in March 2010, Aristotle is a professional social networking site for the DoD S&T community. It provides a secure environment for scientists, engineers, researchers, and program managers to network, create, and collaborate with other experts in the S&T community. Not only can you network with other individuals, you can also link to topics, projects, and documents. Aristotle provides situational awareness of the larger DoD S&T community.

This powerful application helps S&T professionals do their jobs more efficiently and effectively. You can organize and share information and collaborate with colleagues around the world on projects; gather, prioritize, and utilize information; and keep up-to-speed on developments in areas vital to your work. In addition to the security provided by the requirement to sign on with a



DTIC Online Welcome Screen



registered CAC or using a user ID and password, you can assign permissions to everything you create in or upload to Aristotle.

Why Not Just Google® It?

If the information is out there, can't any Internet search engine find it? The answer is no. Commercial search engines cannot access all of DTIC's databases, and certainly not any information that is controlled or marked as classified.

"We're trying to educate people that limiting searches to the general Internet is not the most productive way to do research," said Ryan. Commercial search engines cannot crawl the "deep Web," which is where most S&T databases reside.

The MultiSearch function, found on DTIC Online, accesses the deep Web. It is a federated search surveying more than 50 sources worldwide, some of which are federated themselves, which means that they spider out to other deep-Web databases. MultiSearch ultimately queries more than 400 sources, including Science.gov, World Wide Science, and Scitopia, and it is all real-time data. These multi-faceted search features allow for fast information without the hassle of opening up endless Web pages.

Meeting Your Needs for 65 Years

DTIC has been in the information business for 65 years and is a recognized leader in information- and knowledge-management innovations for the defense community. With so many resources accessible from one website, DTIC's suite of services saves both time and effort.

MEETING YOUR INFORMATION NEEDS

Available on both DTIC Online and DTIC Online Access Controlled:

- Technical reports collection with more than 2 million S&T documents
- Congressional budget data available within days of its release from Congress.

Available on DTIC Online Access Controlled only:

- Research summaries collection, including over 300,000 descriptions
- Independent research and development database with more than 172,000 descriptions of R&D projects conducted independent of DoD funding
- Access to DoDTechipedia, DoD's S&T wiki, which enables S&T professionals to collaborate to help warfighters
- Aristotle, DoD's professional networking tool, which provides a secure environment to network, create connections and collaborate with other experts in the federal government S&T community
- Congressional budget queries, allowing resource managers to locate and respond to budget changes
- Biomedical research database, containing federally funded biomedical research, testing, or training program information
- Defense S&T planning, providing latest planning documents describing major technology areas and programs
- Lab demographics, offering demographic information on in-house civilians
- Dialog NewsEdge Service, keeping users up-to-date with important news while online
- ProQuest Research Library Complete, a periodical indexing service providing search and retrieval for articles from over 2,575 periodicals.

In the 21st century, advancement calls for the collection, analysis, and distribution of information quickly, accurately and reliably to effectively yield solutions—that is information agility, and DTIC sets the standard. From civil engineers to biologists, security experts to program managers, librarians to acquisition professionals to warfighters in-theatre, DTIC customers can access multiple resources, both within DoD and worldwide, with a single sign-on, regardless of the computer's operating system. This is information at your fingertips—literally—from anywhere in the world.

DTIC ensures the preservation and availability of S&T research and information over the long term, no matter what agency is reorganized, what website shuts down, or which authors lose their documents.

For further details on the information in this article or to register, go to <www.dtic.mil> or call 800-225-3842.