

## A Smooth Transition to HLA at Raytheon

Raytheon Electronics Systems in Tewksbury, Mass. is intimately familiar with DIS technology. The Advanced Modeling and Simulation Technology section has been using DIS for more than four years in a testbed they built for their own testing, as well as for other programs within Raytheon.

One of the uses for the testbed is to build proof of concept systems to determine a program's and product's validity. A typical scenario includes a radar and a tactical operations center (TOC) placed on a terrain database; threats such as aircraft and missiles are generated, and then the simulation analyzes a weapons's effectiveness.

As a result of the DoD's transition to HLA, Raytheon has mandated its simulation organizations to transition all their programs to HLA. The Tewksbury lab, already a VR-Link® customer, is one of the first labs within the company to begin the process, with the testbed transition scheduled for completion by the end of 1997.

Regina DuBord, Software Design and Development Engineer, had researched what it would take to transition the testbed. Rather than do the programming themselves, DuBord's lab was one of the first customers to upgrade to VR-Link v3.0.

*DuBord said, “It would be a major undertaking without MÄK's toolkit. I've studied the options and the toolkit takes care of a lot of things that you'd have to code yourself. **Without it, we'd never be able to finish by the end of the year.**”*

As one of the HLA guinea pig within Raytheon, DuBord has to complete a “lessons learned” document once the transition is finished, for distribution to other parts of the company. Asked how the transition was going, DuBord replied, “So far it looks pretty easy with the VR-Link toolkit.”