

FATS Chooses MÄK VR-Link for all HLA Requirements

When Firearm Training Systems, Inc. (FATS) was looking for an HLA solution to meet the requirements of its small, supporting arms, and distributed mission training customers, they turned to MÄK's VR-Link. FATS provides unsurpassed weapons simulation for law enforcement and military customers in all fifty states, and over thirty-four different countries. To date FATS has fielded over 750 training systems that include the HLA capability. FATS has a business agreement with MÄK that ensures that all FATS HLA capable systems are fielded using the MÄK products.

Expanding the virtual battlefield is an ongoing goal at FATS. Expansion means networking simulators. In 1999, FATS selected MÄK's VR-Link HLA Libraries to support the successful networking of small and supporting arms simulators for the Australian and Canadian Armies, integrating MÄK's software into its core product. Since that time MÄK's VR-Link has been used in over 603 USMC ISMT-Es upgrades allowing the USMC to conduct distributed mission training never before experienced at the Marine platoon and squad level to include forward observers and air controllers.

"Success in Australia, Canada, and the USMC provided FATS with the confidence to offer the use of VR-Link in support of all its future networked training systems. "With MÄK's support, FATS will offer all its future customers the proven HLA product as provided by MÄK. In practical terms, this means that small and supporting arms commanders will be able to conduct combined arms exercises previously unavailable at the tactical level for ground combat. The FATS system is the first small and supporting arms trainer to have successfully completed HLA Compliance Testing. FATS customers, supported by MÄK Technologies, now have a proven HLA solution." Said VP of Business Development, Robert Dare.

VR-Link, MÄK's commercial off the shelf networking toolkit, allows users to easily network simulators using either HLA or DIS. With VR-Link, simulations can be fully HLA compliant while maintaining DIS compatibility. VR-Link's FOM-Agile infrastructure allows a user to build a simulation once, and be used among several different federations. The toolkit's FOM



Mapper Builder automatically generates FOM mapping code that can be used with any VR-Link-based application.