Within the training community at large, a revolution has taken place over the past decade. Advances in Virtual Reality (VR) technology have created an environment in which traditional training pedagogies, which focus on static, one-size-fits-all approaches, are being supplanted with broad-scale, dynamic, interactive, and multi-modal approaches to learning. Two key factors driving these changes include recent technological advances and the need to support the user in assimilating increasingly vast, often-times complex quantities of information. Understandably, there is an inherent tension between current state of the art technologies, and user demand. Bounding this complex state of affairs is the need to develop, validate, and update models of training. Add to this the desire for a degree of standardization and it becomes clear that applying VR technology to training is not as straightforward as simply developing high fidelity environments, displayed on cutting-edge hardware. The degree to which these various concerns must be addressed is guided, to a large extent, by the needs of the specific community. Nowhere are these issues more apparent than in the military, whose demands for providing comprehensive training, across a broad range of skill levels, at a moment’s notice, can no longer be adequately met by traditional training technologies or current training pedagogies.

This panel will cover these issues from the perspective of how they impact the military. Topics to be covered include:

- Assessing current and future roles for VR: 1) Where are we now? 2) What is the 10-year vision? 3) What is the 20-year vision?
- Realizing that individual military branches follow different training philosophies, how is it possible to develop commonalities between training philosophies, design recommendations, and acquisition and implementation protocols?
- Since technology and training methodologies are developing at a rapid pace, how can the two continue to support each other? How might a comprehensive user-centric design philosophy support more traditional techno-centric approaches?
- How can these technologies be inserted into existing training structures so that they will support training, rather than simply forcing new requirements on users?

Organizers
Ms. Stephanie Lackey, NAVAIR Training Systems Division
Lt. Joseph Cohn, PhD, Naval Research Laboratory

Panelists
Capt. Michael Lilienthal, Special Asst. to Deputy Undersecretary of Defense (S&T)
Lt. Cdr. Dylan Schmorrow, PhD, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency
Denise Nicholson, PhD, NAVAIR Training Systems Division
Richard Schaffer, Lockheed Martin Information Systems, Advanced Simulation Center
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