

Cost-effective simulation for Royal Armoured Corps

“We chose Ergo because of their proven ability on the CBT project. In STDF, they have provided a practical solution that answered our challenge to deliver increased capability and efficiency savings simultaneously. They represent excellent value for money and we have the utmost confidence in both their equipment and their support structure.”

CADT (Courseware Advisory Development Team) at the Armour Centre



Key Benefits

- Efficiency savings surrounding live firing exercises
- Helps reduce costs in logistics, ammunition and subsistence
- Ability to practice technical gunnery in tactical scenarios
- COTS hardware that is easily reconfigured to suit other vehicles
- Enables Troops and Platoons to practice at their own pace

The regiments of the Household Cavalry (HCAv) and Royal Armoured Corps (RAC) are descendants of the famous Cavalry Regiments who rode into battle on horseback as heavy or light horsemen; and of the Royal Tank Regiment who manned the first tanks during the Great War.

The demonstrably multi-tasking RAC soldier and his exceptional battle-proven equipment are a winning combination and make for modern soldiering at its most exciting.

History of partnership

Historically, for 10 years Ergo has supplied end-user device hardware to both RAC and Armoured Infantry (AI). High performance Ergo desktops and laptops enable Computer Based Training (CBT) at both training schools and field army units – all delivered with security and stability of product range as standard.

The Courseware Advisory and Development Team (CADT) at the Armour Centre says: “Ergo have always delivered effective equipment with excellent levels of support. We feel confident working with Ergo to deliver high quality IT equipment to both schools and unit training wings.”

Efficiency savings

The UK MoD has been undertaking a strategic change in IT based training, from low-level CBT to Simulation Synthetic Environment (SSE) training. A key driver to this transformation is efficiency savings surrounding live firing exercises and a desire to reduce costs in logistics, ammunition and subsistence. Balancing the movement of whole regiments with ongoing operational demands is a pressing demand and also presents a set of logistical challenges that are not easily overcome.

To assist in providing a solution to these challenges, Ergo built on the existing strong relationship with HQ Director Royal Armoured Corps (HQ DRAC) to conceptualise the Synthetic Training Development Facility (STDF) at the AFV Gunnery School, Lulworth. The vision was to create a platform to demonstrate gaming based SSE applications that could deliver simulated live-fire training for both “Technical Gunnery” and low-level tactical training in a classroom environment.

CADT continue: “We want to simulate Troop / Platoon level tactical scenarios in the classroom, as reductions in live training offer a limited opportunity to practice these skills using

Cost-effective simulation for Royal Armoured Corps

armoured vehicles. In addition, the ability of the trainer to practice technical gunnery as an integral part of such tactical scenarios, gives an enhanced training capability that greatly exceeds that of the current Combined Arms Tactical Trainer (CATT), albeit on a smaller scale."

Crew Simulation Trainer

Following a successful demonstration of the capability at Lulworth, HQ DRAC wish to upgrade all existing CBT classrooms throughout the RAC and AI to give units this capability within their own barracks. As part of the upgrade planning, HQ DRAC have identified a concern over the physical security of the "high end" PCs themselves. Consequently, Ergo have engineered a highly innovative and practical solution to this problem. This is the "secure desk" into which the elements of the PC are fixed. In addition, the computer monitor and ancillaries may remain connected, but can be folded away, to allow use of the classroom and desks for conventional instruction. Also, by the addition of a bracket to mount "tactile" turret controls and switch boxes, the desk becomes a Crew Simulation Trainer (CST). This offers best-of-breed Commercial Off The Shelf (COTS) hardware that can be reconfigured to suit different vehicle training requirements.

CADT add: "Currently the STDF is used to demonstrate crew integration exercises on multiple platforms using the VBS2 serious game. However, work is being done to accurately replicate the turret functionality of Challenger 2, to enable technical gunnery using VBS2.

The first practical application of this will be a synthetic Annual Crew Test (Revised) (ACT(R)) for CR2 crews, incorporating "Judgemental" serials. It is the flexibility to offer a wide range of both gunnery and tactical training, on multiple platforms, at a fraction of the cost of traditional methods that makes Ergo's solution so compelling."

VBS2 driven cost savings

Built from the ground up to be optimised for VBS2 technology, the CST enables simulated training exercises that can offer cost savings of up to 75% when compared to the equivalent live firing exercise.

CADT conclude: "What Ergo's solution means in practice is that Troops and Platoons can practice elementary tactical manoeuvres at their own pace, in a classroom environment, thus being best prepared to get maximum benefit from live training, if and when available. They can incorporate the correct techniques of shooting into their tactical training and also rehearse "mission specific" scenarios prior to deployment. This represents a huge increase in capability at a relatively low cost."

"We chose Ergo because of their proven ability on the CBT project. In STDF, they have provided a practical solution that answered our challenge to deliver increased capability and efficiency savings simultaneously. They represent excellent value for money and we have the utmost confidence in both their equipment and their support structure."



OEM Hardware Solutions
Networking Infrastructure Solutions
Desktop Platform
Information Worker Solutions

