

# Dr. John Sokolowski

## APPOINTED INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF VMASC

**John Sokolowski**, the top researcher at Old Dominion University's Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center (VMASC), has been appointed interim executive director of the center. He succeeds **Michael McGinnis**, who is leaving VMASC after three years as its leader to become executive director and chief science and technology officer of the **Peter Kiewit Institute** at the **University of Nebraska**.



Since the fall of 2006, Sokolowski has been a research professor and director of research for VMASC. He is credited with expanding the areas and amount of research being conducted at the center, and he is an author and co-editor of *Principles of Modeling and Simulation - A Multidisciplinary Approach*, the first multidisciplinary textbook in the M&S field.

Sokolowski joined VMASC as a project scientist in 2001 after he retired from the Navy. At the time, he held a bachelor's degree in computer science from **Purdue University** and a master's in engineering management from **Old Dominion University**. In 2003, the **Frank Batten College of Engineering and Technology** awarded him a Ph.D. in modeling and simulation/engineering, the first degree of its kind to be earned worldwide.

His rise at VMASC has been seen as a measure of the center's evolution since 1997 from a humble startup in makeshift quarters to a world-class research, development and instructional operation housed in a specially designed, \$12 million facility. McGinnis called Sokolowski in a 2008 interview "the finest combination of leader, educator and researcher I have ever known."

In announcing the leadership change at VMASC on Thursday, April 23, **Mohammad Karim**, the vice president for research at ODU, said: "John Sokolowski is not only equipped with technical insights of modeling, simulation and visualization but knows far more than many others about how this field will be transitioning in the coming decade to solve real-world problems." Karim said McGinnis' resignation is effective June 9.

Sokolowski became involved in M&S even before he joined VMASC. His last tour in the Navy was as leader of the M&S division of the **U.S. Joint Forces Command**. As director of research at VMASC, he has helped to build expertise "clusters" that focus on transportation, serious gaming, social sciences, computational sciences and artificial intelligence, and enterprise engineering. He also has strengthened the longstanding VMASC initiatives in military/homeland security and medical M&S.

He collaborated on the *Principles of Modeling and Simulation* textbook with **Dr. Catherine Banks**, a research assistant professor at VMASC. The book was published earlier this year.

VMASC is a catalyst for an M&S sector in Hampton Roads, which has an overall economic impact of as much as \$600 million a year, according to a study conducted in 2007. About 60 ODU faculty members and graduate students do research at the facility, which has annual research expenditures of around \$10 million.

McGinnis will be returning to his native state. He was raised in the farming community of Wisner, Neb., before being educated at **West Point** and beginning an Army career. He directed the **Army Training and Doctrine Command Analysis Center** in Monterey, Calif., and was head of the **Department of Systems Engineering** at West Point.

The Peter Kiewit Institute promotes connections between business/industry and the **University of Nebraska-Lincoln's College of Engineering** and the **University of Nebraska-Omaha's College of Information Science and Technology**. The institute's headquarters are in Omaha.



Virginia Modeling, Analysis, and Simulation Center  
1030 University Blvd. • Suffolk, VA 23435

- \* Sokolowski Appointed
- \* McGinnis Farewell
- \* Dr. Choi Departs
- \* VMASC Members Acquire Contracts
- \* ODU Summer Game Camp



## ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

- June 22 - 26: ODU/VMASC Game Development Summer Camp, VMASC
- July 13-16: International Simulation Multi-conference (ISMc'09), Turkey
- July 28 - 31: Senior Medical Leader Seminar (SMLS), VMASC

### A Note from the Editor...

I want to encourage all of our partners in government, industry, & academia to provide us with feedback for our newsletter. If you have any topics that you would like us to address in upcoming issues, please email your comments & input to me at [tknowles@odu.edu](mailto:tknowles@odu.edu).

Thank you for your continued support!  
- D'An Knowles

MAY/JUNE  
2009  
VOL. 27

[www.vmasc.odu.edu](http://www.vmasc.odu.edu)

# U.S. JFCOM Taps Companies FOR CONCEPT AND EXPERIMENTATION SUPPORT

## CONGRATULATIONS TO VMASC INDUSTRY PARTNERS

By Ann Roosevelt | Defense Daily  
Published June 3, 2009

**Lockheed Martin [LMT], SAIC [SAI], General Dynamics [GD] and Northrop Grumman [NOC]** will support U.S. Joint Forces Command's (JFCOM) joint concept development and experimentation directorate under two contracts, each with multiple awards.

**Navy Capt. John Polowczyk**, business manager for U.S. Joint Forces Command, told *Defense Daily* Tuesday that after 18 months of reworking the acquisition strategy, the command is replacing one large contract with two. "There's a lot of hard work that went into this," Polowczyk said. "This is about Joint Forces Command trying to be open and transparent to industry to allow for greater competition."

Five years ago, the incumbent, General Dynamics, was the only company competing for the work, he said. Multiple companies --10 or 12-- competed for these new contracts. The two contracts, core/business sustainment and projects, are indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity multiple award contracts (MAC), which will run for five years if all options are exercised. **Lockheed Martin Integrated Systems, Inc.**, and **General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems** received the two core/business sustainment MAC contracts, valued at approximately \$24.5 million with a total value of each effort over five years of approximately \$130 million.

The three projects MACs were awarded to **SAIC, General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems, and Northrop Grumman Space & Mission Systems Corp.** These contracts are valued at approximately \$49 million each or approximately \$260 million each over five years. The single contract expires July 31. Work under the new contracts begins Aug. 1.

Polowczyk said on any given day under the single contract, General Dynamics may have 50-some subcontractors working, so JFCOM looked for a logical way to break up the work so different companies could compete for it. There's the core business work, the day-to-day effort, and short-term project work where a subject matter expert might be required, or an experimentation plan must be drawn up.

While this acquisition strategy was worked up before the acquisition reform effort in Congress, the command used the tools available to work up the new contracts. "It is absolutely in line with Congress' executive guidance and what the [Defense] Secretary wants," Polowczyk said. "We are creating two multiple awards, not just a single award cost-plus contract. We created two multiple awards into those two buckets to give more opportunities to compete for the work. Instead of it being all cost-plus, we have provisions for fixed pricing the work where it makes sense."

Moving to the new strategy means increased management control and oversight from government and industry, he said. Along with that, the command's acquisition workforce has increased from six certified positions to about 150. Additionally, funds have been set aside for training, and billets were identified.

Polowczyk's office also will track how the strategy matches the goal. For example, there will be metrics to find out how long it takes to get new work on order and track the cost differences between fixed and cost plus work. Additionally, the office will track the quality of the delivered products. As well, the government is going to track how well it is performing.

JFCOM is now in the process of drafting somewhere around 70 statements of work, so there are clear deliverables, "not hours and dollars," so work can begin Aug. 1. In about 18 months, the command should have indications of whether the contracts are meeting expectations, he said. The new contracts should offer "downward pressure on price and upward pressure on quality," he said.

## 2009 GAME DEVELOPMENT Summer Camp

VMASC will host the first ODU Game Development Summer Camp from June 22 to June 26, 2009.



The camp, led by ODU assistant professor **Dr. Yuzhong Shen**, will make computer game development easy and enjoyable for participants, who will develop action

games with the intuitive game development tool Game Maker. They will also learn simple 3D modeling during camp sessions.

The camp consists of interactive lectures and hands-on exercises as well as a game play session each day during which participants can play the latest education and simulation games on Xbox 360, Wii, and PlayStation 3.

The preferred age group is 15 – 18, but younger children with excellent academic records are also accepted.

Please visit the VMASC web site for more information - [www.vmasc.odu.edu](http://www.vmasc.odu.edu)

## Dr. Mike McGinnis BIDS FAREWELL TO VMASC



Serving as the Executive Director of VMASC for the past three years has been a privilege of a life time to serve. Our journey together started in the Fall 2005. During a series of strategy sessions and off-sites we crafted a new vision for the center. The foundation of the vision was creating a culture and environment

that put people first. As I've often said: "It's all about people and people are everything." We also expected and demanded a total commitment to excellence in all areas, and for each of us to follow through on and to keep our promises. We strove to exceed expectations – from producing quality research across the spectrum of modeling, simulations, analysis and visualization to administrative support activities.

Through our actions, we demonstrated consideration, respect and care for each other. We built precious trust relationships. The VMASC family environment was focused on us-we-ours rather than on I-me-my. We stressed being humble, giving credit to others and doing all we could to set our teammates up for success. These became the actions and people we celebrated and recognized. Reflecting back on the past three years, this aspect of working at VMASC gives me the greatest satisfaction.

Our culture, combined with VMASC's established reputation for M&S research became a magnet attracting industry, academia and government organizations throughout Hampton Roads, and beyond, to team with us on research and problem-solving opportunities. Sustainment of relationships over the long-term led to new beneficial partnerships that generated increased research and grant funding, and commercialization and licensing of intellectual property across our seven M&S research clusters.

Upon moving into our new building, we built new labs and created a unique high-technology environment for innovation and learning. As our reputation for quality research and positive attitudes grew, new clients were drawn to us, enabling us to sustain our funding at around \$10M despite very tough economic conditions. Publications shot up. National recognition and awards began to come in. But for me the most important measure of success – the one I used to measure whether or not our vision was becoming a reality – was the continued camaraderie, laughter and excitement I heard and observed during my daily walkabouts.

Now my wife Tracy and I will close this chapter of our lives and begin a new one. We are blessed to have a great job waiting for us at the **University of Nebraska** where I will be the Executive Director of the **Peter Kiewit Institute in Omaha**. **Dr. John Sokolowski** will serve as the Interim Director acting head until the university selects a new executive director. Until then, VMASC will remain in John's very capable hands.

Tracy and I have been blessed to have lived in some great places and to have worked with incredible people. Without qualification or hesitation, the great colleagues and friends we leave behind at VMASC, ODU, Hampton Roads and throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia rank among the best ever.

## One Year With VMASC FRIENDSHIP AND FOCUS STRENGTHENED

By Jongsup Choi, PhD



**The first ever exchange program between VMASC & Korea Institute for Defense Analysis (KIDA) left a meaningful mark for future cooperation between the two prestigious organizations.**

Time warps - not Science Fiction but Real, especially here at VMASC! The year 2008 and the month of August already seem hardened remnants. Though my visit was somewhat short, I feel strongly that it was a great opportunity to explore M&S and Enterprise Architecture. Furthermore, my brief year formed a solid foundation for VMASC and **Korea Institute for Defense Analyses (KIDA)** to build collaborative efforts in the near future.

For example, eight teams of Korean delegates and one DoD team paid valuable visits to VMASC to envision my project. They were **Dr. KIM Koosub (President, Korea Institute for Defense Analyses (KIDA))**, **Gen (ret.) SHIN Keumseok (Director of training Directorate, ROK JCS)**, **CAP CHOI Bongwan (Director of Systems Analysis Division, ROK Naval Forces Dev Command)**, **Dr. KIM Taewoo (Director of Defense M&S, KIDA)**, **COL NAM Seungmo (TRADOC Liaison Officer, ROKA)**, **LTC KIM Hakgeun (ROKAF, JCS)**, **Dr. HAN Namsung (KIDA)**, **Mr. KANG Seongho (Korea-US Science Cooperation Center)**, and **Mr. Brian WILZCZYNSKI (Director of EA&S, ASD/NII, DoD)**.

As result of open communication and visits, KIDA, my mother ship, became a government/academic member of VMASC, which eventually lead to a joint effort between KIDA and VMASC. All visitors agreed to the visions and values of M&S. They were quite impressed by VMASC's accomplishments in such short period of time and its leadership role in the M&S world. I hope that M&S organizations of both countries can exchange ideas and information to enhance their M&S fields through close collaboration. This is a "must do" effort for mutual benefit. I can safely say that VMASC will play a crucial role in bringing about these opportunities, and I am a strong advocate for VMASC's participation in these exchange programs.

Now I return to Korea with valuable experiences and many good memories. I really appreciate the staff's hospitality and support during my stay at VMASC. **Dr. Mike McGinnis**, the former executive director of VMASC, invited me to this wonderful center a year ago and he encouraged me to perform my research. We continued to enjoy the robust friendship we had formed in early school years at the University of Arizona.

I will continue my participation with VMASC as a voluntary international member from Korea. I believe and hope that VMASC will establish world-wide leadership in the field of M&S world with the new interim director, **Dr. John Sokolowski**. God bless you all.