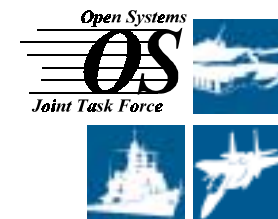




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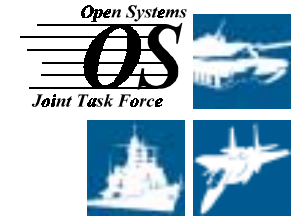
USAF

Avionics Upgrade Process



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Overview



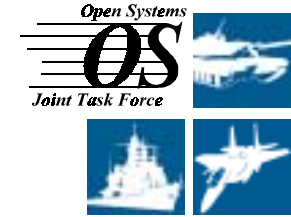
- What is Needed
- Avionics Upgrade Process Problems
- Integration Factors
- Current AF Approach
- What's Ahead
- Summary

A Thumbnail Sketch



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What is Needed



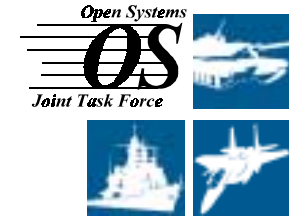
- Eagle Look Report (AF Inspection of Avionics)
- CSAF Direction/Quarterly Acquisition Program Review (QAPR)
- National Research Council (NRC) Report
- Open Systems Application

All point to a need for improvement in Legacy Avionics Upgrade



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Avionics Upgrade Process Problems



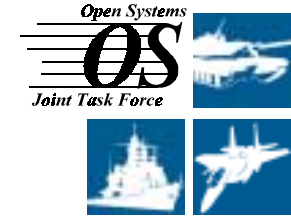
- New paradigm, integrator rather than developer
- No integration of planning for individual modifications
- High Costs: Upgrade versus sustainment
- Application of Open Systems concepts
- Some Success Stories

Solution needs government/industry partnership



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Integration Factors



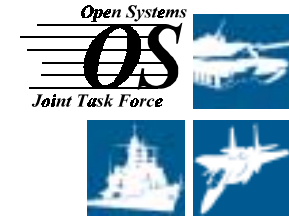
- AVPLEX Study
 - Migration Strategy
 - Open Systems
 - Cost as part of evaluation process
 - User involvement
- Upgradability/Flexibility/Affordability

AF is now addressing these areas



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AF Approach



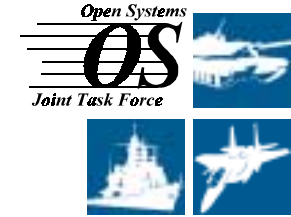
- Evolutionary Acquisition
 - Performance Based
 - Source Selection Changes
- Viable Combat Avionics (VCA) Organization
 - Integrated Change Roadmaps
 - VCA index assessment

Ability to upgrade/change will be key



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What's Ahead



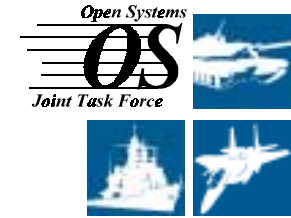
- Execute roadmapping as a way of doing business
- Apply open and modular concepts
- Change Big Three to Big Four
 - Add ease of change to performance, cost, and schedule

Embryonic Stage But Growing



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Summary



- AF appears committed to changing avionics upgrade culture
- Buy-In needed from both government and industry

Way Ahead for USAF Upgrades Appears Bright