



# National Cyber Range

Prepared for ITEA Range Provider Panel Discussion

March 17, 2016



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# National Cyber Range – Background



- Originally developed by Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) in the 2009-2012 timeframe
- Transitioned from DARPA to the DoD Test Resources Management Center (TRMC) in October 2012
- TRMC was charged with “operationalizing” the capabilities for use by the DOD test, training, and experimentation communities



# What is a Cyber Range?



## Traditional "Ranges"

- Physical Environment for:
- Weapon Testing
- Live Training
- TTP Development, ...
- Range Assets Change slowly



## Cyber Range

- Place to Evaluate:
  - Effectiveness of Cyber Defenses
  - Effectiveness of Cyber Weapons
  - Train Cyber Warfighters
- Rehearse Mission
- TTP Development
- Range Assets Change Rapidly

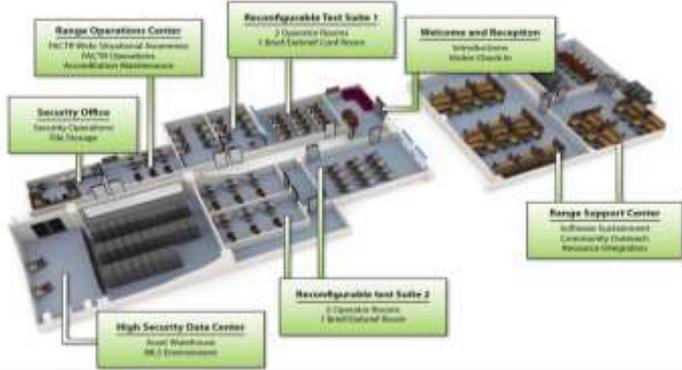


NCR provides a range solution that can span the entire spectrum of cyber test, evaluation & training needs

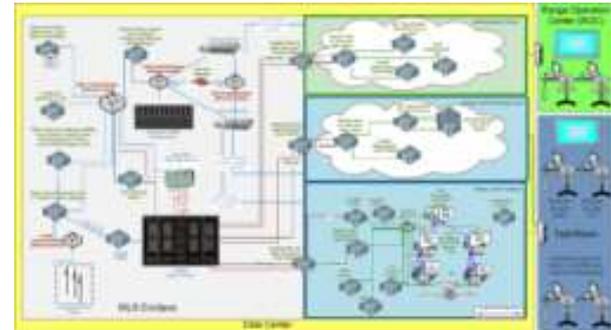
# What is the National Cyber Range?



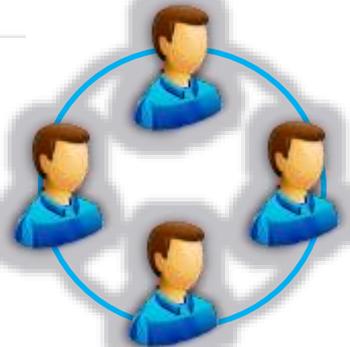
## Computing Assets/Facility (LMCO Orlando, FL)



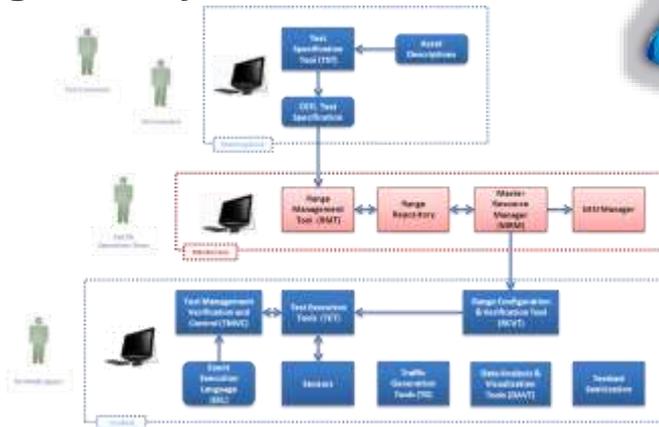
## Encapsulation Architecture & Operational Procedures



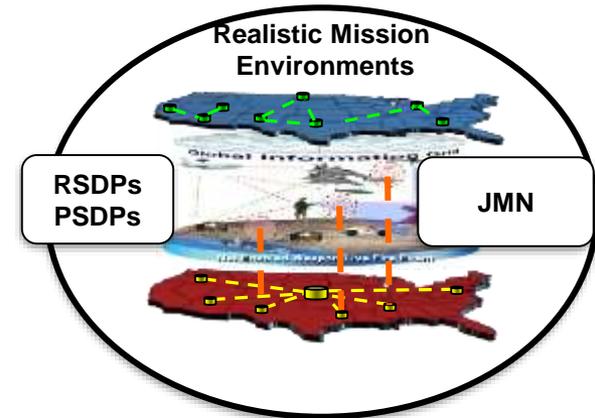
## Cyber Test Team



## Integrated Cyber Event Tool Suite



## Secure Connectivity via JIOR and JMETC

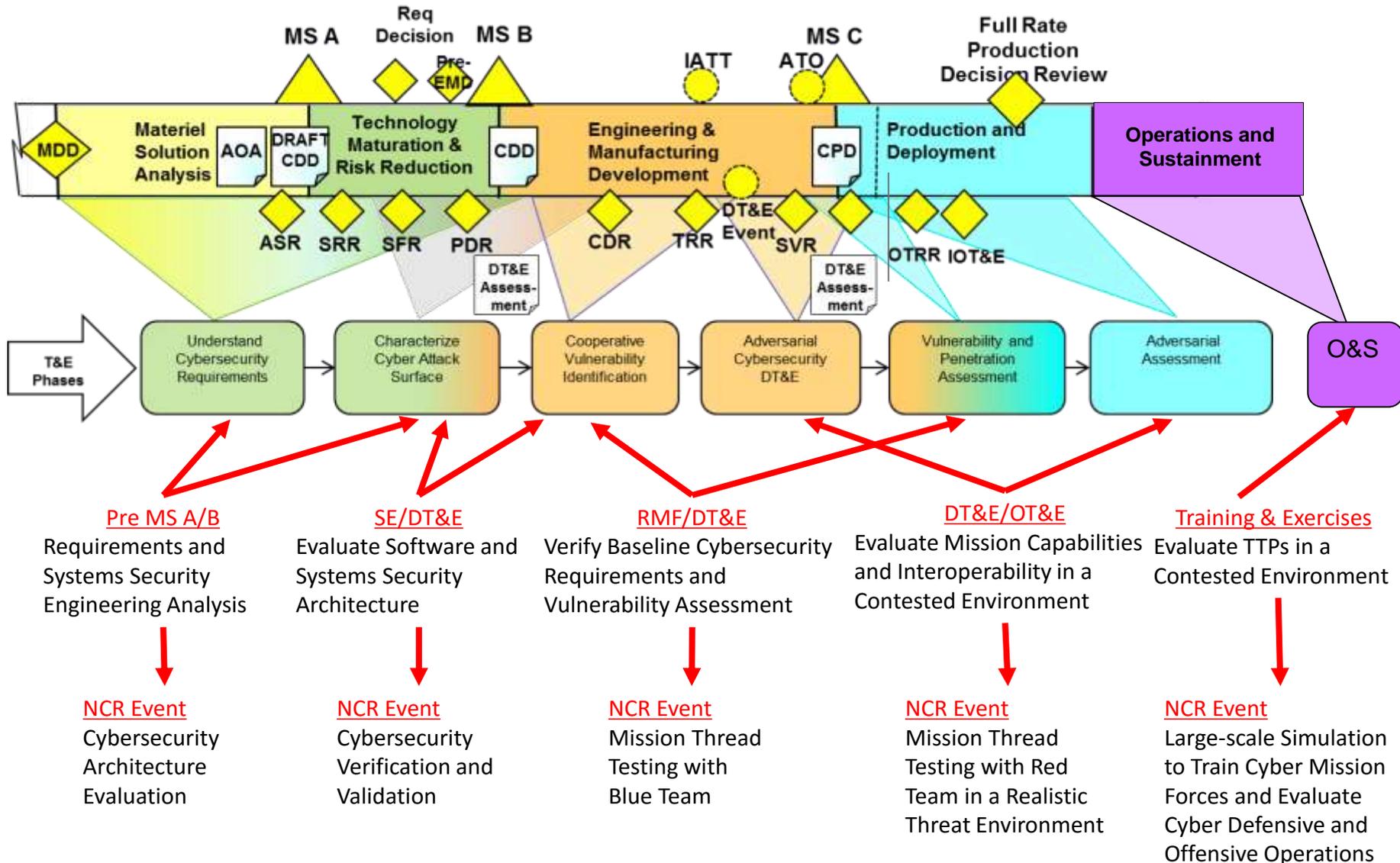


# NCR Key Capabilities



- **Multiple concurrent tests at varying classification levels are supported using a Multiple Independent Levels of Security (MILS) architecture**
  - Accredited for testing up to Top Secret / Sensitive Compartmented Information
  - Currently support up to 4 events at varying classification concurrently
- **Rapid emulation of complex, operationally representative network environments**
  - Can scale up to ~40K high-fidelity virtual nodes
  - Red/Blue/Gray support, including specialized systems (e.g., weapon systems)
- **Automation provides significant efficiencies that enable more frequent and more accurate events**
  - Reduces timelines from weeks or months to hours or days
  - Minimizes human error and allows for greater repeatability
- **Sanitization to restore all exposed systems to a known, clean state**
  - Allows assets to be reused even when they are exposed to the most malicious and sophisticated uncharacterized code
- **Supports a diverse user base by accommodating a wide variety of event types (R&D, OT&E, information assurance, compliance, malware analysis, etc.) and communities (testing, training, research, etc.)**

# When To Use a Cyber Range? Across the Acquisition Life Cycle



# What You Can Do With the NCR (1 of 2)

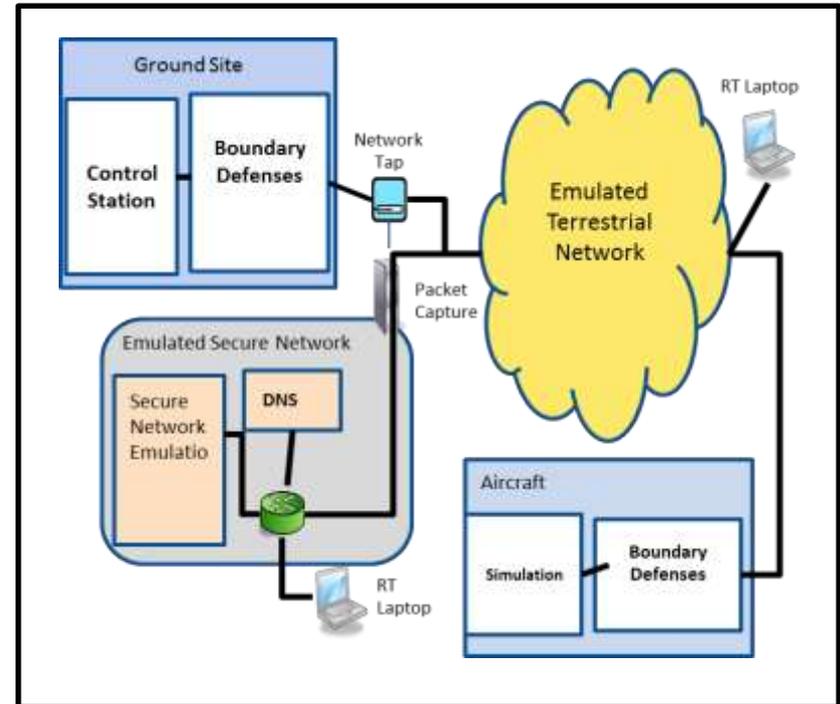


## Question: Will my architecture scale in the field?

- Will it handle the expected user load?
- What are potential issues that can only be discovered at scale (normally only found very late in the testing process)

## What you get:

- Minimize unexpected performance failures late in the DT or early OT process
- Reduce costly rework
- Empirical data to show whether or not the system operates as predicted in a realistic environment



**Will this architecture scale to support the mission?**

Results provide insight into system performance before the design is finalized

# What You Can Do With the NCR (2 of 2)



## Question : How do I generate realistic cyber mission effect within a large scale training exercise safely and securely?

- OCO is destructive
- Cyber weapons and TTPs are often classified at security levels higher than the rest of the exercise

## What you get:

- Realistic operator training
- Repeatability to evaluate relative effectiveness of multiple TTPs
- On-demand, low-cost evolution of the environment to represent salient real-world environments

Be able to use unrestricted TTPs

Operate on realistic and complex network topologies

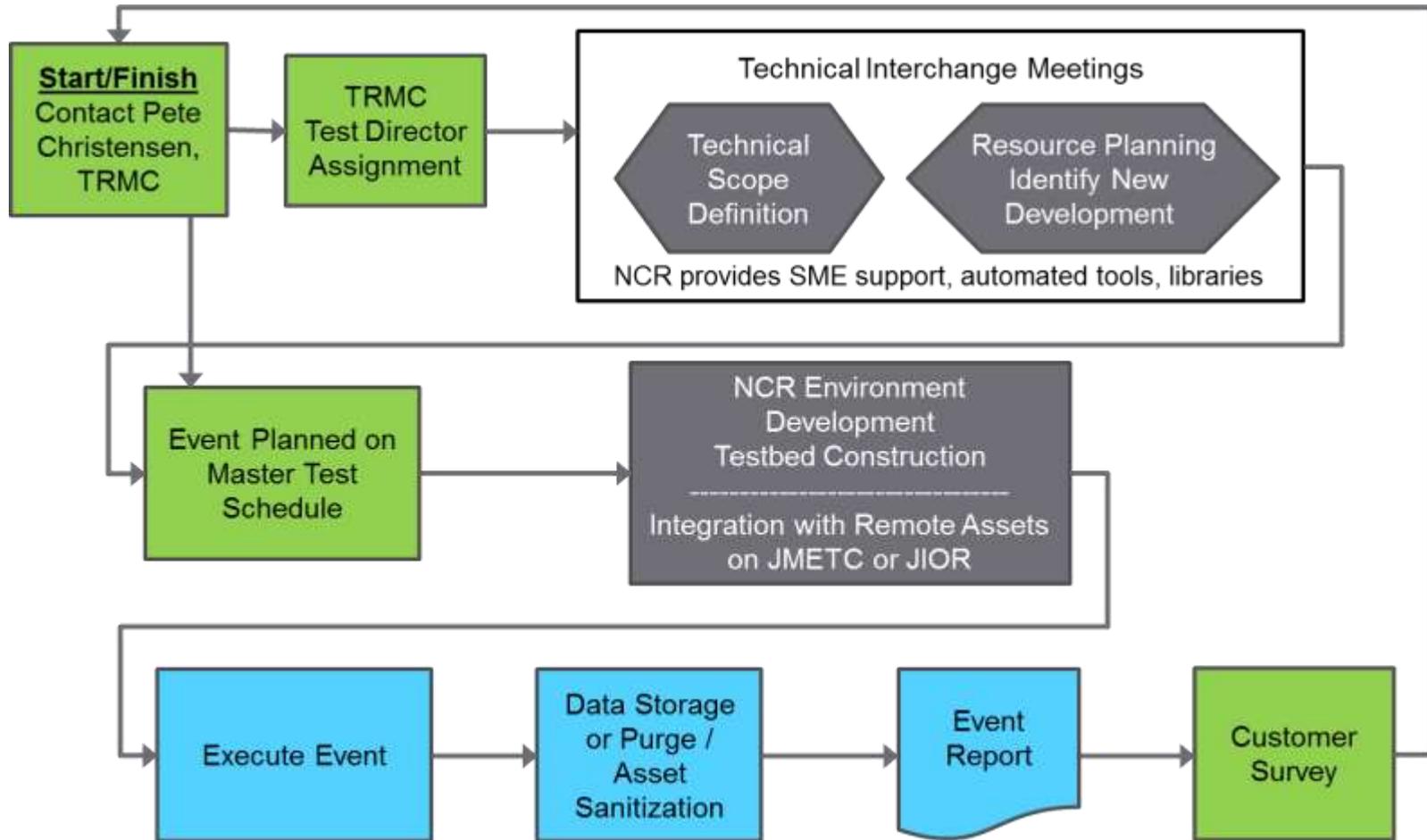


Integrate home base and remote training

Have access to interactive web sites

A safe environment for safely conducting realistic cybersecurity training

# How to get engaged



# Summary



- **Cyberspace threats to DoD systems are proliferating at an unprecedented rate**
  - Leadership has recognized that current cybersecurity testing and training needs further improvements
  - Leadership is placing increased emphasis on the need to consistently incorporate realistic cybersecurity testing and training at all levels and phases
  - Early identification of system vulnerabilities can make them easier and cheaper to fix
- **NCR provides customers with a unique set of cybersecurity test, evaluation, and training capabilities**
  - NCR enables acquisition organizations to conduct system specific cybersecurity test and evaluation events that are tailored to meet program requirements throughout the systems acquisition lifecycle
  - NCR enables operational organizations to conduct realistic cybersecurity training in environments that closely replicate the real world
- **NCR capabilities have been independently validated and have successfully supported a wide variety of cyber events including**
  - Developmental Testing
  - Operational Testing
  - Training/Exercise
- **NCR is institutionally funded and cost effective**
  - Customers only pay for their own personnel, travel, systems under test, special equipment, etc.

