

Col. John “Buck” Surdu, PhD.

Military Deputy

Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center

U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command

From initiating programs at DARPA to addressing the science and technology gaps on the ground in Iraq, Col. Buck Surdu has seen firsthand the importance of research and development as a sustained enabler to our forces. He will be chairing the Warfighter Topical panel at the 2010 Army Science Conference, Nov 29, and will join us at 10:30 to talk about the critical role that R&D plays in the Army Science & Technology chain, transforming conceptual science into feasible capabilities that meet Soldier needs. He will also discuss three CERDEC-developed technologies that were chosen by Soldiers for recognition at the Army Greatest Inventions Ceremony: REPPS, Wolfhound and CREW Duke V3.

Commissioned at West Point, Surdu began his career in Airborne infantry, serving in the 82nd Airborne Division in Vicenza, Italy. He was an instructor at the infantry officer’s basic course and at airborne school. With a Master’s and PhD in computer science, Surdu has worked in many roles throughout DoD science and acquisition – as a captain at Army Research Laboratory, a program manager at DARPA, professor at West Point, and chief of staff at the Research, Development and Engineering Command.

Surdu served as the Product Manager for the Army’s OneSAF program, which delivered version 1.0 of very complicated software on time and on budget. As a PM at DARPA, he started the Deep Green program and was in the process of starting three other programs when I was reassigned to be the Chief of Staff of RDECOM.

Just prior to his current assignment as military deputy director for CERDEC, Surdu volunteered for a six month stint in Iraq as the science and technology advisor for U.S. Forces Iraq – directly working on the ground to identify gaps and technology insertion opportunities.