



An officer and a gentleman

In late 2007, the UK Ministry of Defence awarded the lead role of system-of-systems integrator for its Future Rapid Effect System to a joint Boeing-Thales UK team. Jonathan Bailey serves as deputy director, Boeing Defence UK.

PETER ASHBY-HAYTER PHOTO

Meet Jonathan Bailey, head of FRES program in the United Kingdom

By MADONNA WALSH

Jonathan Bailey's life has been anything but dull. The quintessential Englishman—with a cool and composed demeanor—is a retired British Army major general, an award-winning soldier and an author.

Following his name are such acronyms as MBE (Member of the British Empire) for services in Rhodesia, and CB (Companion of the Order of the Bath) for services in Kosovo. He holds a doctorate from Cranfield University's Defence College of Management and Technology. His articles and books on military history and strategy include "Field Artillery and Firepower," "Great Power Strategy in Asia 1905-2005" and "Contemporary Operations, Reflections On And Of Empire."

So, with Bailey's credentials, it was no surprise the Boeing Defence UK team was eager to have him join them as they

pursued the system-of-systems integrator role with partner Thales for the UK's Future Rapid Effect System.

The aim of the FRES program is to provide the British Army with a network-enabled and highly deployable medium-weight armored vehicle force that will complement the UK's existing heavy and light forces. FRES will have utility across the spectrum of conflict, supporting peacekeeping and peace enforcement operations, providing a rapid intervention capability and providing support to major combat operations.

Upon retiring from the British Army in 2005 after 33 years of service, Bailey hadn't planned to continue working in the defense industry. He pursued areas in higher education, worked as an industry analyst and continued writing.

So why did he change his course and join Boeing as a leading member of the capture team for the FRES program?

"I wanted to be part of something that grows; I felt working at Boeing to deliver equipment needed by soldiers in the field was the best use of my time and abilities," he said. "I found the FRES competition exciting, the Boeing-Thales approach in-

teresting, and overall I thought it would be satisfying to be a part of a start-up program with unlimited potential and Boeing's enormous resources."

It was a good choice. In late 2007, the UK Ministry of Defence awarded the lead role of system-of-systems integrator to the joint Boeing-Thales UK team. Bailey is serving as deputy director, Boeing Defence UK.

"From the beginning, it never entered my mind that we would lose," Bailey said. "There was never any room for doubt. Now that we've been selected, we're challenged with delivering, and that's just what we're going to do."

Bailey sees Boeing's role in FRES as a foothold for Boeing's expansion of its organic capability in the UK and European defense markets. "Applying our integration skills, providing support services on existing programs, and establishing long-term teaming partners will position Boeing in the UK to better meet the requirements of the MoD's Defence Industrial Strategy as they look 10, 20 and 30 years into the future," Bailey said. "We're presented with a great opportunity here in the UK. Why stop now?" ■