Maximum Range, Minimal Size: TCOM 12M™ Tactical Aerostat Provides Military Forces and First Responders with an Affordable Portable Surveillance Solution

Columbia, MD – September 19, 2013 – TCOM, the global leader in combat-proven airborne persistent surveillance solutions, announces the launch of its newest aerostat platform, the 12M™ Tactical Aerostat. The system is designed specifically to meet the needs of the warfighter and first responders who require a compact, affordable persistent surveillance solution that can be transported anywhere, rapidly deployed, and easily retrieved.

This new 12M™ system is the most compact tactical aerostat in TCOM's line of aerostat platforms incorporating design innovations from the company's battlefield-proven 17M® and 22M™ platforms. It is ideally suited for time-critical surveillance missions, when operators need to improve or restore domain awareness in their area of responsibility.

"The 12M™ Tactical Aerostat is an essential tool for anyone who needs reliable surveillance or communications rapidly," stated TCOM President Ron Bendlin. "The compact size and portability allows for quick deployment, and the extended range means that operators are able to obtain actionable information when they need it most."

Like the 17M®, the 12M™ aerostat system is highly versatile and simple to operate. The system can be quickly deployed from a vehicle with minimal manning and is easily transported in a single 7.5'x7.5'x6.5' container. The system's mooring station is built on a versatile base that uses ISO corners to standardize mounting on various platforms or directly on the ground.

With a standard tether length to support operational altitude of 1,000 feet, the 12M™ Tactical Aerostat can accommodate a variety of payloads up to 60 lbs. from communications equipment to video and infrared cameras. It is currently being integrated with the Broadband Meshable Data Link (BMDL) and a stabilized turret camera for specific demonstrations. The BMDL will relay video, audio, and GPS data through a radio system mounted on the aerostat to extend the usable range far beyond that of a tactical, terrestrial antenna. The stabilized turret camera can be controlled by operators on the ground or from the mooring system using a joystick – with a surveillance area greatly enhanced by the operational altitude of the 12M™.

The system is very affordable, with an extremely low hourly operating cost as compared to other manned and unmanned aerial surveillance systems while providing unmatched

persistence from a single platform. Its ease of use, portability, and small operational footprint all add to the value this new system brings to the warfighter or first responder.

"This capability is a force multiplier for the expeditionary forces. I would have liked to have deployed with it when I was forward deployed," stated Lieutenant General USMC, Retired Jan Huly.

A complete 12M™ system will be on display at the Modern day Marine Military Expo (September 24-26, 2013)in Quantico, Virginia where TCOM will fly a fully operational unit and display a road march ready Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement (MTVR) carrying a fully "packed out" 12M™ system.

About TCOM:

TCOM is the global leader in persistent surveillance solutions. For over 40 years, the company's pioneering innovations have defined the persistent surveillance and Lighter-than-Air industries. By blending leading-edge technology, manufacturing, and field operation capabilities, TCOM has provided systems for United States and foreign governments with complete persistent surveillance capabilities. Our systems are in use around the globe including theaters of combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. TCOM's systems include fixed-site deployments, fully transportable systems, and specialized sea-based deployments. TCOM's headquarters is based in Columbia, MD, and the Manufacturing & Flight Test Facility is located near Elizabeth City, NC. TCOM is the only company in the world devoted to cost-effective LTA surveillance solutions with in-house aerostat and airship manufacture, assembly, flight test, and training capabilities. See more at: http://www.tcomlp.com/medianews/news