AVIONICS

Rediffusion

takes F-15

display
initiative
ARLINGTON ~

Rediffusion Simulation Inc
(RSI) has created some new
CT-5A display sequences, in a
bid to supply the USAF's
F-15 simulators with visuals.
"We are helping to define
what the USAF might require
from limited field-of-view
F-15/F-16 visual displays,"
says Dave Shorrock, RRFs
vice-president, marketing
product development. The
USAF will have an oppor-
tunity to evaluate Redif-
fusion's efforts—an example
of which appears on this
page—in the first quarter of
1984.

Shorrock emphasises that
the work is a Rediffusion
initiative, since the USAF has
yet to be convinced that there
is a cost-effective display
system for training F-15
pilots. The USAF's simu-
lators were built by Goodyear,
and lack visuals at present.
Rediffusion's CT-5A is a
computer-generated image
visual display system aimed at
military simulators, and
provides some of the highest
quality pictures available. The
USAF's requirement is for a
cost-effective, limited field-of-
view display, however, so the
aim is to use the minimum
number of channels (i.e.
cathode ray tubes) and limit
what is shown on each.

Unlike airline use of simu-
lators, where the aim is to
eliminate the aircraft from
the training effort, the USAF
operates its F-15 simulators
for "limited part-task
training". This comple-
mentary role of military simu-
lators allows safer part-task
training, which, it says, means
an improved state-of-
readiness.

• The USAF has ordered a
six-degrees-of-freedom RC-
135W operational trainer
from GMI, for delivery in
March 1985. Visuals will be a
Rediffusion-supplied four-
window, three channel SPI
system with rotatable displays
for in-flight refuelling. The
trainer will be leased by the
USAF, with an option to buy.

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Air-to-air target practice for F-15s is one of the sequences Rediffusion has developed for its CT-5A visual di system

Kuwait

opts for
Thomson

PARIS ~

Thomson CSF has won a
FFrl-2 million order to
modernise Kuwait's air
defence network. The order,
says Thomson, was won in the
face of stiff competition,
particularly from Hughes, the
only other company to be in
the final phase of the selection
process.
The contract, financed
entirely from Kuwait's
defence budget, is the biggest
for air defence equipment won
by Thomson so far this year.
The award was made on the
basis of Thomson's "original-
ity" in proposing a solution
for integrating Kuwait's exist-
ing equipment into the more
modern system it wanted, and
because the low-altitude
performance of Thomson's
radar was deemed better than
that of the competition.
Thomson would not discuss
which, or how many air

defence radars were needed by
Kuwait. The radar type is
almost certainly the fixed
location, three-dimensional
TRS2230, which operates at
up to 500km range.
Modernisation of Kuwait's
air defence network will be
completed in three years.
Installation of radar stations
comes first, to be followed by a
comprehensive update of the
command and control system.
Thomson says that the
Kuwait award means it is well
placed to win further orders
from Gulf states.

Big future
for USAF

simulation

NEW YORK ~

A new report from market
research company Frost &
Sullivan predicts that the US
Air Force will spend $3,800
million on flight simulators
and other training aids over
the next five years. The Air
Force comes second only to
the US Army, which will
spend $4,400 million on simu-
lators during the period.

The report notes that the
military simulator market is
dominated by Link, which
currently holds a virtually
unassailable position. But it
says that market entry is
easier at the lower end, where
several companies compete to
supply less complex and
costly training aids. Leaders
in this field are said to be
General Electric, McDonnell
Douglas, Sperry, and AAI.

Six technology trends are
identified in the study;
0 More research into human
factors
9 Increased use of computer-
aided instruction, and
design
Transfer of flight simulator
technology to other train-
ing aids
Development of helmet-
mounted visual systems to
replace the large visual
systems now used
0 More research and devel-
opment into advanced
visual systems
9 Improved maintenance
trainer capability
Copies of the 480-page
report, price $1,300, are avail-
able from Frost & Sullivan
Ltd, 104-112 Marylebone
Lane, London WlM 5FU, or
106 Fulton Street, New York.

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