



# RIST PRIZE 2012 CALL FOR ENTRIES

**David Rist Prize:** The Rist Prize recognizes the practical benefit sound operations research can have on “real life” decision-making and seeks the best implemented military operations research study from those submitted in response to this **2012 Rist Prize Call for Entries**. This call solicits abstracts with letters of endorsement for recommendations from studies or other operations research-based efforts, e.g., analyses, methodology improvements, that influenced major decisions or practices. Entries for individuals or teams submitted in response to this call will be eligible for consideration for the Rist Prize. There are two cash prizes that may be awarded: \$3,000 for first place (i.e. Rist Prize winner) and \$1,000 for honorable mention. To be considered:

- ❖ An unclassified abstract and letter of endorsement for the recommendations from the study must be submitted to the MORS office and postmarked no later than **Monday, 6 February 2012**.
- ❖ The abstract cannot be longer than 3 pages (8.5” by 11”, single sided, 10 point type minimum, .75” margins all around minimum.)
- ❖ The letter of endorsement must be signed by an official at a Flag/General officer, Government SES, or company VP level (or equivalent) from the organization using the results of the analysis. The letter of endorsement must address as a minimum:
  - ❖ The importance of the problem
  - ❖ The contribution of the insight or solution
  - ❖ The impact of the result of the analysis

Please send the unclassified abstracts and a letter of endorsement to [RIST@mors.org](mailto:RIST@mors.org), include a complete MORS Abstract Disclosure Form 109 A/B. All forms and instructions are located on the website, click on the Rist link. [www.mors.org](http://www.mors.org)

From those entries submitted, the judges will select 3-5 finalists on or about **Friday, 24 February 2012**.

If selected as a finalist:

- ❖ A mentor will be assigned by MORS.
- ❖ An annotated briefing must be prepared and submitted no later than **Thursday, 26 April 2012**. (Classified submission information and a MORS Presentation Disclosure Form 712 A/B are available online) All presentations will require a Disclosure Form 712 A/B.
- ❖ The finalists will be invited to present that briefing at the 80<sup>th</sup> MORSS on **Monday, 11 June 2012**, in Colorado Springs, CO. Each finalist will be allotted one (1) hour to present—which includes time for questions and answers. This session will be open to all MORSS attendees. At this session, judges will ask questions as appropriate. Following this session, the judges will select the Rist Prize winner and the honorable mention.

The Rist Prize winner and honorable mention will be announced at the 80<sup>th</sup> MORS Symposium plenary session on the morning of **Tuesday, 12 June 2012**.

## Rist Prize Criteria

To be eligible, an individual or team must submit a presentation that at a minimum meets the following:

- ❖ Be an original and self-contained contribution to systems analysis or operations research that has been implemented
- ❖ Provide recognizable new insight into the problem or its solution
- ❖ Have impact on major decisions
- ❖ Be used by a client organization and have letter(s) of endorsement from a GO/SES/Executive in the client organization so stating. Client organizations are defined as a Government agency or Laboratories, Industry activity, Academic Institution, or other user of the results of operations research.

Eligible study presentations are judged according to the following criteria:

### Professional Quality

- Problem definition
- Citation of related work
- Description of approach
- Statement of assumptions
- Explanation of methodology
- Analysis of data and sources
- Sensitivity of analyses (where appropriate)
- Logical development of analysis and conclusions
- Summary of presentation and results

### Contribution to National Security Operations Research and Major Decisions

- Importance of problem
- Contribution to insight or solution of the problem
- Power of generality of the result
- Originality and innovation
- Contribution of the study to the decision