

Combat Service Support Control System (CSSCS)

The Combat Service Support Control System (CSSCS) is the combat service support (CSS) node of the Army Battle Command System (ABCS). CSSCS supports combat commanders in determining the sustainability and supportability of current and planned operations. CSSCS collects and processes selected combat service support data from Standard Army Management Information Systems and other automated information systems and manual inputs from using units. CSSCS software tools maintain combat information, generate reports and orders, and provide analytical tools to support commanders and their staffs from maneuver brigade through echelons above corps. Commanders at each echelon can tailor the amount of information tracked within their organization. Within the ABCS, the CSSCS is the capstone decision support system for command and staff matters associated with CSS operations.

The CSSCS completed its Initial Operational Test and Evaluation (IOT&E) and began fielding of Version 3 following a Milestone III acquisition review in 1998. Since then, the CSSCS program focus has been fielding Version 3 and development of the Version 4 functionality, the initial integration of CSSCS into the Army Battle Command System baseline. Version 5 will further enhance and refine the capabilities needed by CSS commanders and their staffs at all echelons, provide the potential for direct Joint Interface, and provide an interface with the approved simulation system (dependent upon simulation development/ schedule). Version 5 objectives include the incorporation of artificial intelligence decision support modules, shared database technology, and complete transition to the Defense Information Infrastructure Common Operating integrated ABCS environment.

TEST & EVALUATION ACTIVITIES

The CSSCS participated as a supporting system in ABCS developmental testing (the Maneuver Control System System Stress Tests and Field Test 5) leading to the Force XXXI Battle Command, Brigade and Below, Maneuver Control System, and Integrate System Control Version 4 IOT&E in April 2003. The Army has indefinitely postponed this IOT&E due to preparations for anticipated real-world operations.

OSD disapproved and returned the CSSCS Test and Evaluation Master Plan (TEMP) to the Army in June 2001. The program began revising the TEMP in November 2002 to resolve OSD concerns and devise a new test program.

TEST & EVALUATION ASSESSMENT

The CSSCS participation in ABCS developmental testing revealed that the CSSCS must still implement the joint common database and associated database updates to fully integrate into the ABCS architecture. The integration of CSSCS remains limited to messages and client applications for the ABCS Version 6 series of software.

The CSSCS requires an updated TEMP to describe their planned testing for ABCS Version 7 and to start defining an appropriate level of testing for the objective Version 5 capability.

The ability to evaluate the ABCS components as individual programs is becoming more difficult as the Army continues to integrate the software and foundation products that comprise these systems, as well as integrate the information into the Common Tactical Picture. An assessment of operational



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effectiveness and suitability is no longer limited to what the system provides within a single functional area (logistics support for CSSCS), but now expands to what the integration of that information, with other functional areas, provide to the commander's ability to prosecute the mission. Testing with all the ABCS components present is required to assess operational effectiveness and suitability. The Department should begin to look for Capstone acquisition, development, testing, and fielding strategies to more effectively and efficiently support, fund, and synchronize the ABCS programs.