

## Global Combat Support System - Army (GCSS-A)

### SUMMARY

- In January 2004, the Global Combat Support System-Army (GCSS) entered the Blueprinting (engineering) phase of Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) development.
- ERP is a software engineered process that streamlines operations and management.
- In June 2004, the Defense Acquisition Executive (DAE) approved the recommendation to consolidate GCSS-Army and the Product Lifecycle Management Plus (PLM+) as one Acquisition Category ID program.
- The consolidated program will have a single Program Manager, but separate funding lines for GCSS-A and PLM+.
- The Milestone B decision review is expected at the completion of the Blueprinting phase in 3QFY05.



*The decision to adopt an enterprise resource process requires significant change to Army-wide logistics policy, regulation, doctrine, and tactics, techniques, and procedures.*

### SYSTEM DESCRIPTION AND MISSION

The GCSS-A is a restructured Major Defense Acquisition Program, Acquisition Category ID program. The GCSS-A is a major program in the Army's Combat Support/Combat Service Support transformation. GCSS-A will be implemented from the Major Command down to the tactical units. The GCSS-A program has two components: a functional component titled GCSS-A (Field /Tactical), and a technology enabler component titled Product Lifecycle Management Plus (PLM+). GCSS-A modernized the current tactical logistics Standard Army Management Information Systems to incorporate logistic management modules using common operating systems and graphic user interface.

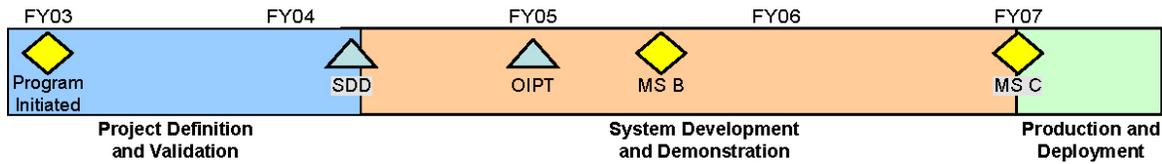
GCSS-A will help Army commanders anticipate, allocate, and synchronize the flow of Combat Service Support resources. Integrating total asset visibility will allow a better matching of supply to demand, resulting in fewer supplies and less equipment requiring movement. GCSS-A/PLM+ will be a web-based system that includes lightweight mobile applications to perform essential functionality for limited disconnected operations to enable near real time logistic management. The sustaining base will maintain GCSS-A system components and data. The capability to coordinate maintenance operations among all echelons of support activities will improve accuracy, timeliness of requisitions, and total asset visibility.

The Army concept is to achieve these results through execution of ERP. ERP is a process change that refines techniques to increase efficiencies and it:

- Takes an enterprise approach to integrate business processes.
- Optimizes enterprise elements like supply, property, finance, and human resource management to work in a solution set.
- Provides consistent information for timely decision making and performance measurement.

# ARMY PROGRAMS

## TEST AND EVALUATION ACTIVITY



This program is in the pre-Milestone B Blueprinting (engineering) phase. During the Blueprinting Phase, the program office will identify which current systems can be replaced by ERP. The decision to adopt an enterprise resource process requires significant change to Army-wide logistics policy, regulation, doctrine, and tactics, techniques, and procedures. The test community is discussing a test strategy that includes training, cutover activities, and system validation to develop an adequate Test and Evaluation Master Plan (TEMP).

## TEST AND EVALUATION ASSESSMENT

GCSS-A will require a robust deployable communications capability to provide reach back to a centralized data repository. GCSS-A (Field/Tactical) must be capable of operating in a web-based environment. Operational test strategies are being developed to ensure that the IOT&E will be adequate to test changes in doctrine and tactics, techniques, and procedures. Early test activity and benchmarking efforts will need to address the issue of communications bandwidth required by active duty and reserve components to successfully implement and use the new GCSS-A system.

The Army plans to submit the GCSS-A TEMP in 2QFY05 for approval.

GCSS-A will be evaluated for the complete ERP solution scope, change in management and training, knowledge transfer strategy, business practices, methodology, and field sustainment. DOT&E has worked closely with the test and evaluation working group since the program's redirection and has played a critical role in defining critical operational issues and criteria's that will be operationally meaningful and measurable for assessing GCSS-A.