

Dismounted Battle Command System (DBCS)

Executive Summary

- The Army restructured the Land Warrior program to provide the Dismounted Battle Command System (DBCS) capability to leaders in up to 30 Brigade Combat Teams (BCT) and to equip one battalion of a Stryker Brigade Combat Team with Land Warrior capability. There was no test activity this fiscal year for Land Warrior - Stryker capability.
- During a demonstration conducted at Fort Drum, New York, the Dismounted Battle Command System did not enhance situational awareness for dismounted leaders.

System

- DBCS is an early spiral-out from the Land Warrior program.
- It is a communications and tactical awareness system used by dismounted combat Soldiers in tactical operations.
- The system integrates radio, computing, navigation, and visual displays into the dismounted soldier's load carrying equipment.
- DBCS consists of two configurations:
 - The first configuration is a Squad/Team Leader DBCS system (DBCS-T) that provides a hand-held Enhanced Position Location Reporting System (EPLRS)-based radio, self-position reporting, and provides audio cueing to assist the soldier in navigation and threat notifications. The current planned basis of issue is down to the team leader within infantry squads.
 - The second configuration is a Company/Platoon Leader DBCS system (DBCS-P) that uses the squad components

Company/Platoon



Squad/Team



plus the Commander's Digital Assistant (CDA) that adds mission planning/tracking functions, and displays map and aerial photo products overlaid with friendly-force positions.

Mission

- Dismounted infantry units will use DBCS to close with the enemy by means of fire and maneuver to defeat or capture him, or to repel his assault by fire, close combat, and counter-attack.
- DBCS does this by:
 - Enhancing small unit leaders' situational awareness through Blue Force Tracking (DBCS-T and DBCS-P)
 - Providing voice communications between company, platoon, and squads (DBCS-T and DBCS-P)
 - Enhancing collaborative mission planning (DBCS-P only)

Activity

- The Army restructured the Land Warrior program to provide the DBCS to leaders of up to 30 BCTs, and to equip one battalion of a Stryker Brigade Combat Team with Land Warrior capability.
- During August 2005, the Army conducted a demonstration at Fort Drum, New York, to characterize the capabilities and limitations of the DBCS. Soldiers used the system while training for combat missions they expect to conduct during their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan. Feedback from soldier surveys provided the primary basis for characterizing the system.

Assessment

- The demonstration conducted in August 2005 was used to characterize the capabilities and limitations of the current version of the DBCS. Comments from soldier surveys about excessive weight, poor communications, and a number of

- human factors concerns demonstrate that this version of the DBCS is not mature.
- The Army still requires a dismounted battle command capability. This version of the DBCS did not demonstrate the capabilities necessary, and the unit will not take it to Afghanistan.

Recommendations

The Army should:

1. Test the capabilities of a unit equipped with the DBCS against the capabilities of a unit without one.
2. During the test, compare friendly, enemy, and civilian casualties of units equipped with and without the DBCS.

ARMY PROGRAMS