

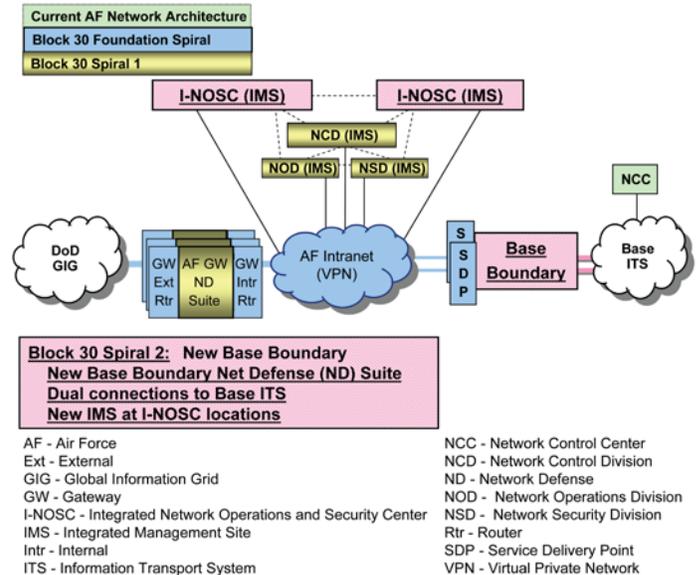
Combat Information Transport System (CITS)

Executive Summary

- The Combat Information Transport System (CITS) portfolio is a family of programs that incorporate a variety of commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) items that must be integrated to perform the required military missions. Significant organizational change is also necessary to successfully implement programs performing centralized network management and defense.
- The Air Force Acquisition Executive, with concurrence from the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Networks and Information Integration, approved plans on June 6, 2009, to improve the effectiveness of the CITS acquisition. The plans divide the program into two Acquisition Category (ACAT) 1A programs (Air Force Intranet (AFNet) and Information Transport System), several ACAT III programs (including the Vulnerability Lifecycle Management System (VLMS)), and other non-acquisition elements such as simple technology upgrades.
- Although the Program Management Office originally scheduled the operational test of VLMS version 1.5 for March 2009, continuing issues with VLMS operations have postponed the start of testing several times. DOT&E approved the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center (AFOTEC) VLMS Operational Utility Evaluation (OUE) plan on August 3, 2009.
- AFOTEC planned to conduct an operational test with AFNet Increment 1 in August 2009. AFNet Increment 1 remained in contractor qualification testing due to the identification of many problems. Operational testing is expected to occur no earlier than March 2010.
- To meet emerging needs, the Program Management Office and Air Force Communications Agency continue to add new programs to the CITS portfolio despite the delays in completing the existing programs.

System

- CITS provides an end-to-end capability to create, store, transport, manipulate, archive, protect, and defend information within the Air Force components of the Global Information Grid (GIG).
- The CITS portfolio is a family of programs that provide COTS based communications infrastructure enhancements, wireless communications and data capabilities, and robust network management and network defense for the Air Force.
- The current portfolio consists of three programs, with other programs in early stages of planning:
 1. Information Transport System (ITS) Increment 2 (formerly Second Generation Wireless Local Area Network). ITS Increment 2 provides COTS-based wireless capabilities to users at over 100 Air Force sites worldwide. The system provides encrypted wireless access via computers and other handheld devices to support flight-line maintenance,



- supply, and medical operations. Limited-range secure wireless access is available via the Secret Internet Protocol Network. The Mobility Management System supports centralized network management of access points and other infrastructure components associated with ITS Increment 2.
2. VLMS. VLMS implements DoD-mandated network security tools using a centralized Air Force enterprise-level management structure. VLMS supports centralized remediation and patching of software security vulnerabilities.
3. AFNet Increment 1 (formerly CITS Block 30 Spiral 1). This is the largest network redesign in Air Force history and provides a centrally controlled interface between Air Force network assets and the rest of the GIG. AFNet Increment 1 consists of 16 gateways worldwide, through which all traffic enters and leaves the Air Force network; it also incorporates centralized network management, monitoring, and defense-in-depth security of all network assets.

Mission

Commanders, operators, and planners will use CITS programs to support joint warfighting operations by leveraging an integrated and interoperable set of capabilities to effectively manage the Air Force enterprise network and maintain asset visibility; to move digital information seamlessly across geographical and logical boundaries; and to support multi-level operations.

Prime Contractors

- General Dynamics Information Technology, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- Northrop Grumman Corporation, San Antonio, Texas

AIR FORCE PROGRAMS

Activity

- The Air Force Acquisition Executive, with concurrence from the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Networks and Information Integration, approved plans on June 6, 2009, to restructure the CITS acquisition program into two ACAT 1A programs (AFNet and ITS), several ACAT III programs (including VLMS Spiral 1.5), and other elements as simple procurements or technology updates.
- AFOTEC is the operational test agency for CITS and will conduct an OUE for VLMS Spiral 1.5 and an OUE for AFNet Increment 1 in FY10.
- AFOTEC planned to conduct an operational test with AFNet Increment 1 in August 2009. However, contractor qualification testing identified numerous problems. Operational testing is expected to occur no earlier than March 2010.
- The 46th Test Squadron conducted a series of Qualification Test and Evaluation (QT&E) events on VLMS Spiral 1.5 in FY09 at each of the Integrated Network Operations and Security Centers. QT&E tests will continue until the system (hardware, software, processes, procedures, and personnel) meet the entrance criteria established for the AFOTEC VLMS 1.5 OUE.

Assessment

- Significant changes in Air Force Network Operations organizational structure and personnel roles are required to implement both VLMS and AFNet Increment 1. In line with DOT&E's recommendation last year, the operational user has become very active in the development of Key System Attributes, Air Force Network Standard Operating Procedures (AFNETSOPS), and Technical Orders. However, the fielding

of CITS COTS products continues to outpace the ability of the user community to develop the necessary documentation and to have the right personnel in place to operate the products.

- The Program Management Office has yet to provide the test community with an executable, integrated program schedule for each product.
- The Program Management Office and Air Force Network Integration Center (AFNIC) continue to add new programs to the CITS portfolio despite the significant delays in completing existing programs.

Recommendations

- Status of Previous Recommendations. The Program Management Office, Air Force Acquisition Executive Office, and AFNIC adequately addressed the previous recommendations.
- FY09 Recommendations.
 1. The Air Force Acquisition Office should place a priority on staffing the CITS Program Management Office with additional trained acquisition personnel to support the expanded portfolio.
 2. The CITS Program Management Office should develop master schedules for all CITS programs to facilitate critical path analysis and better test planning.
 3. The CITS Program Management Office should increase oversight of contractor qualification testing and ensure not only the hardware and software are delivered, but that the other essential fielding elements (training, personnel, operational concepts, etc.) meet the timelines to support developmental and operational testing.