

Global Combat Support System – Army (GCSS-A)

Executive Summary

- The Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) completed a Limited User Test (LUT) on Release 1.1 during September and October 2010. Based on the LUT results, DOT&E assessed Global Combat Support System – Army (GCSS-A) as sufficiently effective and suitable to enter into the production and deployment phase. Primary areas of concern from the LUT were lack of full compliance with Federal Financial Management Information Act (FFMIA) and system responsiveness. Corrective actions have been implemented by the Program Management Office (PMO) to address these deficiencies.
- An IOT&E is scheduled to be conducted in October 2011.

System

- The GCSS-A is an information technology system made up of commercial off-the-shelf and non-developmental software and server hardware.
- The core functionality of the GCSS-A comes from the adaptation of a commercially-available Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system. The ERP system integrates internal and external management information across an entire organization, including finance/accounting, manufacturing, sales and service, and customer relationship management, and automates this activity with an integrated software application.
- The hardware component of GCSS-A is limited to the production server at Redstone, Alabama, and Continuity of Operation (COOP) server at Radford, Virginia.
- The GCSS-A program includes the Army Enterprise Systems Integration Program (AESIP) that provides the enterprise hub services, centralized master data management, and cross functional business intelligence and analytics for the Army ERP solutions, including the General Fund Enterprise Business System (GFEBS) and Logistics Modernization Program (LMP).

Activity

- ATEC completed a LUT of Release 1.1 from September 1 to October 29, 2010, with 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR), Fort Irwin, California, in accordance with the DOT&E-approved test plan.
- An IOT&E is scheduled to be conducted on GCSS-A in October 2011. ATEC will conduct the test on the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team/1st Armored Division, Fort Bliss, Texas. The IOT&E will provide information for a Full Deployment Decision. The IOT&E will use live data with representative users conducting day-to-day live operations at their unit locations (both garrison and field).



Mission

Army logisticians will use this system to access information and exchange operational logistics data related to tactical maintenance, materiel management, property accountability, tactical financial management, and logistics planning.

Major Contractors

- ERP Solution Component: Northrop Grumman Space and Mission Systems Corporation – Carson, California
- AESIP component: Computer Sciences Corporation – Falls Church, Virginia

Assessment

- Based on the LUT results, DOT&E assessed GCSS-A Release 1.1 as sufficiently effective to enter into the production and deployment phase. Two areas of concern identified during the LUT were financial compliance and system responsiveness.
 - The 1996 FFMIA requires agencies to implement systems by complying with Federal accounting standards, the U.S. Standard General Ledger at the transaction level, and Federal financial management systems requirements. The Army Audit Agency (AAA) released a report on October 29, 2010, that found GCSS-A did not demonstrate

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the applicable compliance with the FFMIA, and recommended the compliance be demonstrated before the Milestone C decision. Upon further review, AAA determined that the system was not required to be fully compliant until full fielding. The PMO and the AAA have a plan of action to accomplish this compliance.

- GCSS-A users in a tactical environment are expected to use the Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) satellite communication. The LUT user surveys indicate that GCSS-A experienced long delays and time-outs over the VSAT connection. The PMO took corrective actions to address the bandwidth challenges and follow-on surveys show a marked improvement in system responsiveness. IOT&E will include verification that GCSS-A can perform effectively via VSAT in tactical environments.
- The system was not required to have fully mature tactics, techniques, and procedures, training, logistics support, and

reliability before Milestone C. Results of the LUT indicate that the risk to enter IOT&E is manageable.

- U.S. Army Research Laboratory, Survivability/Lethality Analysis Division conducted an information assurance vulnerability evaluation June through August 2010, and the Threat Systems Management Office completed a penetration test in October 2010. The program office completed a limited COOP demonstration on November 18, 2010. Some vulnerabilities were found on the GCSS-A's ability to protect and detect, with immediate action taken by the PMOs to resolve. Additional penetration and COOP testing will be conducted in support of the IOT&E to verify the resolution.

Recommendations

- Status of Previous Recommendations. This is the first annual report for this program.
- FY11 Recommendations. None.