

Deliberate and Crisis Action Planning and Execution System (DCAPES) Increment 2B



The Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center (AFOTEC) conducted the Deliberate and Crisis Action Planning and Execution System (DCAPES) Increment 2B IOT&E from February to September 2024 but deviated from the DOT&E-approved IOT&E test plan by not collecting the needed data required to support DOT&E’s evaluation of operational effectiveness, suitability, or cyber survivability.

Following the IOT&E, in December 2024, the Air Force approved the full deployment decision and DCAPE’s subsequent transition to the software acquisition pathway (SWP). The DCAPES program management office (PMO) selected the Joint Interoperability Test Command (JITC) to replace AFOTEC as the DCAPES operational test organization (OTO) for the SWP execution phase.

In July 2025, DOT&E removed DCAPES from oversight. The program is releasing quarterly software improvements with stable development and no major planned upgrades.

SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

DCAPES is used to create, manage, and project weapon systems, logistics, and personnel documentation, enabling the Air Force to deliver air, space,

and cyberspace capabilities to combatant commanders worldwide. DCAPES stores planning and execution information for Air Force functional users in the four main operations planning disciplines: operations, logistics, manpower, and personnel.

MISSION

Air Force mission support personnel use DCAPES for deliberate and crisis action planning by providing users the capability to: (1) receive and analyze operational requirements;

(2) develop, compare, and prioritize alternative courses of action; and (3) prepare documents that support guidance for employment of the force.

DCAPES helps planners:

- Access and transact with joint planning and execution data
- Produce and maintain Air Force inputs to combatant commander's time-phased force and deployment data
- Create and maintain predefined packages of manpower and equipment for use in planning and execution
- Create and maintain postured force elements for joint planners
- Exchange data with other command and control systems
- Manage sourcing, scheduling, and deployment of Air Force military and civilian personnel
- Maintain strength accountability of deployed forces
- Perform feasibility and capability analysis in support of logistics, manpower, and personnel needs
- Develop planning and execution documents

PROGRAM OVERSIGHT HISTORY

DCAPES Increment 2B is an Acquisition Category IAC program that has been on DOT&E oversight since October 2015. The Air Force Service Acquisition Executive delegated the decision authority and source selection authority to Program Executive Officer for

Business and Enterprise Systems in September 2023.

AFOTEC conducted the IOT&E of DCAPES Increment 2B from February to September 2024, to assess its operational effectiveness, suitability, and cyber survivability. AFOTEC deviated from the IOT&E test plan approved by DOT&E. Data collection was limited to surveys. AFOTEC did not administer the surveys to a representative sample of the operational users and mission owners. AFOTEC did not collect the data as described in the DOT&E test plan approval caveats. Therefore, the IOT&E test data were not adequate for DOT&E to provide an assessment of DCAPES' operational effectiveness, suitability, and cyber survivability.

In December 2024, the Air Force approved DCAPES's full deployment decision, and the program subsequently transitioned to the SWP, as planned, per the Air Force's October 2023 memorandum. The DCAPES PMO selected JITC to replace AFOTEC as the OTO for the execution phase of the SWP. JITC is the OTO for Joint Planning and Execution Services (JPES) system, DCAPES's most important interface.

In July 2025, DOT&E removed DCAPES from oversight after the program transitioned to the SWP execution phase. The program makes regular modifications through quarterly software releases following developmental testing. Software development remains stable with no significant planned upgrades.

DOT&E recommends that JITC continue to assess DCAPES releases and coordinate as needed

with JPES testers to ensure that the systems interoperate to support their respective users' missions.