Global Combat Support System - Army (GCSS-A)

The Global Combat Support System- Army (GCSS-A) is a Major Defense Acquisition Program (Acquisition Category 1D) that the Army is restructuring and working like a new start, except there is about $750M of sunk costs in the previous effort. GCSS-A will provide a technologically advanced Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system capable of managing the flow of Combat Service Support (CSS) resources and information for users at all echelons. Processes will be reengineered to adapt to the ERP functionality whenever practical. Additional functionality requirements may be satisfied by a combination of additional commercial off-the-shelf applications, existing government off-the-shelf software, and specific extensions to the ERP package. Every effort will be made to minimize modification of the commercial off-the-shelf core code and the addition of application interfaces.

GCSS-A will assist Army commanders in anticipating, allocating, and synchronizing the flow of CSS resources to equip, deploy/project, sustain, reconstitute, and re-deploy forces in support of the national military strategy. Integrating total asset visibility will allow a better matching of supply to demand, resulting in fewer supplies and equipment requiring movement. GCSS-A will provide maneuver commanders sustainment information concerning supplies across all echelons of employment, from the unit to strategic level. Ultimately, this effort should result in reductions in the logistics footprint. The capability to coordinate maintenance operations among all echelons of support activities, improved accuracy and timeliness of requisitions, and total asset visibility will result in an improved ability to manage readiness. GCSS-A is expected to lead to more accurate trend analysis and improve anticipatory logistics.
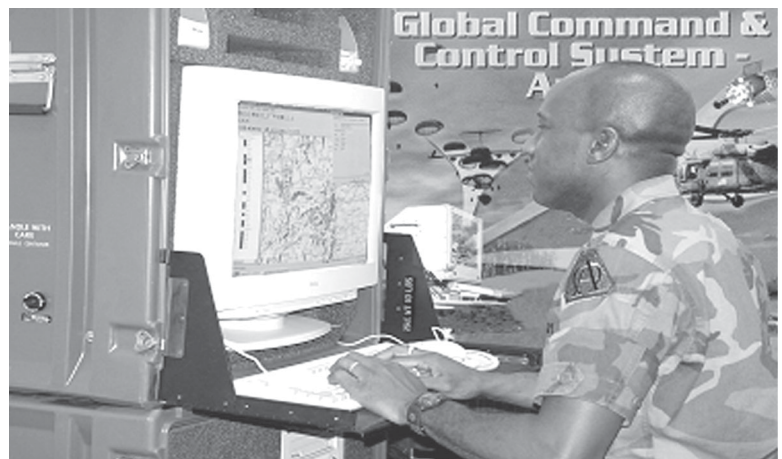
TEST & EVALUATION ACTIVITY
This program is pre-Milestone B. Test activities focused on development of a viable test strategy and the Test and Evaluation Master Plan, as well as early involvement by the Army Test and Evaluation Command in planning for risk reduction testing.

TEST AND EVALUATION ASSESSMENT
DOT&E and the Army are discussing operational test strategies that are aimed at ensuring that the IOT&E will be adequate. Early test activity and benchmarking efforts will need to address the issue of communications bandwidth required by the Guard and Reserve components to successfully implement and use the new GCSS-A system. The Test and Evaluation Master Plan is expected to be submitted to OSD in mid-2004.

The Army is implementing early involvement in the GCSS-A system. Participation in test and evaluation working group meetings since the program's redirection has helped define Critical Operational Issues and Criteria that will be operationally meaningful and measurable for assessing GCSS-A's contribution to operations. Early cooperation in the development and test phase of the GCSS-A Program will provide meaningful assessments for future decisions.

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