

Distributed Common Ground/Surface Systems (DCGS)

SUMMARY

- Air Force Distributed Common Ground/Surface Systems (AF DCGS) has initiated development of Block 10.2. Current schedules reflect the Initial Operational Test and Evaluation (IOT&E) of AF DCGS Block 10.2 in 1QFY06.
- Army DCGS (DCGS-A) is preparing for Milestone B. Current schedules reflect the IOT&E of DCGS-A Increment 2 in 4QFY08.

SYSTEM DESCRIPTION AND MISSION

The DoD DCGS is a family of 20 systems — 19 of which are already in the field — that receive, process, exploit, and disseminate intelligence in support of a Joint Force Commander. DCGS objectives include receiving imagery at ground and surface systems from national and tactical sensors and exchanging intelligence between ground and surface systems using common components and compliance with Department of Defense standards. The Joint Chiefs of Staff-approved Capstone Requirements Document identifies the architectural requirements for the family of systems. The United States Joint Forces Command is the user representative for the family of systems. The AF DCGS and DCGS-A are both developing or are planning to develop new capabilities as block upgrades or increments.



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AF DCGS initiated the development of Block 10.2. The program office intends to conduct the IOT&E in 1QFY06. The Air Force expects to complete the documentation of capabilities for the future Block 20 by the end of FY04. The Army and Navy plan to adopt the AF DCGS Block 10.2 network infrastructure.

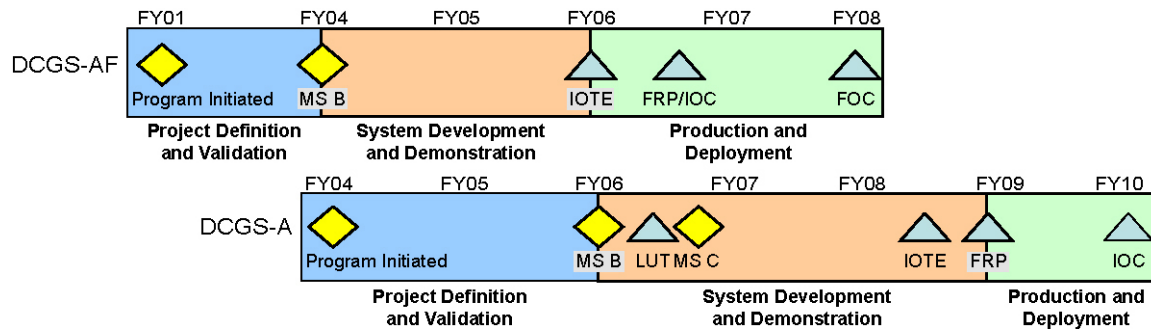
The DCGS-A is the Army's single integrated intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance ground processing system. There will be three types of DCGS-As: fixed, mobile, and embedded. Fixed DCGS-As will locate in rear, sanctuary locations such as a theater regional operations center. Mobile DCGS-As include single or multiple vehicles that operate with forward-deployed units. The embedded DCGS will be a software capability hosted on Future Combat System platforms, Aerial Common Sensor aircraft, and other platforms. The program is developing DCGS-A in two increments:

- Increment 1 integrates current force systems.
- Increment 2 is the objective system that will complement the Aerial Common Sensor and the Future Combat System.

The Army Test and Evaluation Command is responsible for the operational test and evaluation of DCGS-A. DCGS-A Increment 1 will not undergo operational testing; however, current program schedules show the IOT&E for DCGS-A Increment 2 in 4QFY08.

AIR FORCE PROGRAMS

TEST AND EVALUATION ACTIVITY



The Joint Interoperability Test Command submitted the Capstone Test and Evaluation Master Plan for Service and Agency signatures.

The Joint Interoperability Test Command collected certification data for the Tactical Exploitation System and the Joint Service Imagery Processing System-Navy during the United States Joint Forces Command combined Joint Task Force Exercise 04-2 on the East Coast. The Joint Interoperability Test Command is preparing test reports for the interfaces tested.

The Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center resumed responsibility for the AF DCGS operational test and evaluation and completed an initial test design briefing for the IOT&E of AF DCGS Block 10.2.

TEST AND EVALUATION ASSESSMENT

The Joint Interoperability Test Command established interoperability certification programs with 19 of the 20 systems that are members of the DCGS family, but only 5 of the 19 fielded systems have been granted interoperability certifications for some or all of their critical interfaces.

The combined Joint Task Force Exercise 04-2 provided the first opportunity to accomplish an operational assessment of a joint network of Service DCGS systems operating in accordance with a joint concept of operations. Lack of participation by all Services limited the assessment to interface certification.

The Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center initial test design has improved the likelihood of conducting an adequate IOT&E of AF DCGS Block 10.2 in FY06.