Integrated Strategic Planning and Analysis Network (ISPN)

SUMMARY
- The Integrated Strategic Planning and Analysis Network (ISPN) Modernization Block 1 Milestone A/B was approved on July 13, 2004.
- The ISPN Test and Evaluation Master Plan, approved in October 2004, identifies a test strategy that ensures appropriate levels of testing for each of five ISPN software development spirals and supports incremental fielding decisions. A Test and Evaluation Master Plan revision (to update the spiral strategy content based on the approved contract and to add objectives and measures of performance and effectiveness for Block 1) will be complete in January 2005.
- Testing of the first spiral of ISPN Modernization Block 1 will occur in April 2005.

SYSTEM DESCRIPTION AND MISSION
The ISPN (formerly Strategic War Planning System) is an operational information technology planning system for United States Strategic Command. The ISPN modernization provides deliberate and adaptive strategic nuclear planning and develops the capability to accommodate non-strategic nuclear forces and new mission planning and analysis.

For over 30 years, the Strategic War Planning System provided dedicated planning and analysis to create, maintain, and modify the Single Integrated Operational Plan for all land, air, and sea-launched nuclear weapons in the U.S. inventory. In 2003, changes in the Unified Command Plan assigned the United States Strategic Command responsibility for Global Strike, Global Missile Defense, and Information Operations. In addition, the United States Strategic Command assumed responsibility for global command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance. To fulfill these new and evolving missions, ISPN must become capable of both deliberate and adaptive planning, employing the full spectrum of kinetic and non-kinetic weapons. The new planning system must interoperate with other DoD planning systems and facilitate the planning, analysis, and employment of non-strategic nuclear forces.

The ISPN modernization acquisition strategy calls for an incremental acquisition with three blocks. Each block consists of multiple spiral software modifications with a semi-annual implementation schedule in conjunction with the current ISPN operations and maintenance software upgrade schedule. The Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center is the operational test agency for all phases of operational test and evaluation for ISPN. The United States Strategic Command is the fielding authority for the ISPN modernization modifications into the ISPN operational software baseline.
ISPAN modernization is a mission critical computer resource under the Nunn-Warner Amendment and is an Acquisition Category Level 1AM.

TEST AND EVALUATION ACTIVITY

Approval of the ISPAN Modernization Block 1 Milestone A/B occurred in July 2004 without an approved Test and Evaluation Master Plan. Since contract proposals for development of the ISPAN spirals varied significantly, the details of ISPAN testing had to wait until after the selection of the contractor for the modernization contract. Based on an agreed to test strategy and high-level evaluation Critical Operational Issues, the Acquisition Decision Memorandum agreed to an initial Test and Evaluation Master Plan outlining a test strategy with a detailed update to the Test and Evaluation Master Plan occurring 150 days after the ISPAN modernization contract award. The Air Force awarded contracts for Block 1 Modernization August 26, 2004. The Test and Evaluation Master Plan revision to address the contracted spirals content and add objectives, measures of performances, and measures of effectiveness began in September 2004.

TEST AND EVALUATION ASSESSMENT

The unique and critical mission of producing the Single Integrated Operational Plan and related plans must continue during ISPAN modernization. New mission capabilities occur through periodic software upgrades. Therefore, it is necessary that the operational test agency evaluate the upgrade’s impact on existing functionality while assessing the operational effectiveness and suitability of the new capability software.

The current spiral schedule requires completion of all development, developmental testing, combined developmental testing/operational testing, and dedicated operational test and evaluation in approximately six-month intervals. The program office, operational test agency, and DOT&E assess each spiral to ensure the operational test agency conducts an adequate and appropriate level of testing, evaluation, and reporting. To support this schedule, the operational test agency is integrating testers into the United States Strategic Command ISPAN development and evaluation organization in order to accomplish all testing and reporting in a timely manner to support a spiral fielding decision.