

Transportation Coordinator's Automated Information for Movement System II (TC-AIMS II)

SUMMARY

- Transportation Coordinator's Automated Information for Movement System II (TC-AIMS II) Block 2 conducted an Initial Operational Test and Evaluation (IOT&E) and a full retest in FY04. The Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC), the lead operational test agency, determined that TC-AIMS II Block 2 is not operationally effective or suitable.
 - The system does not interface with all required systems for the Army and Navy.
 - The system is too complex for the general purpose Army user.
- The Program Office and the User Representative have adopted materiel and concept of operations (CONOPS) changes to address development shortcomings.
- ATEC witnessed demonstrations conducted by the Program Manager and, based on these demonstrations and proposed CONOPS changes, revised its assessment and finds Block 2 to be effective and suitable.



TC-AIMS II Block 2 automates the processes of planning, organizing, coordinating, and controlling unit deployments, sustainment, and redeployments.

SYSTEM DESCRIPTION AND MISSION

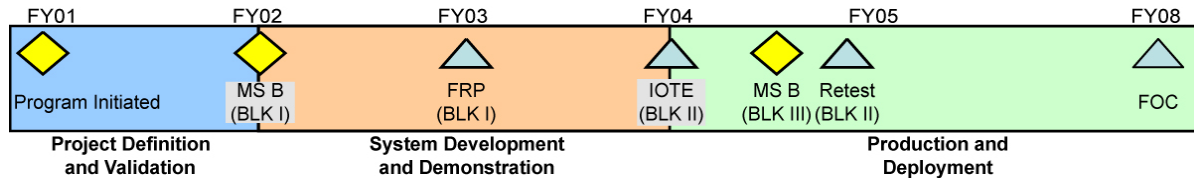
TC-AIMS II Block 2 reduces the buildup time in the movement of materiel and personnel and integrates current Service-unique transportation information systems into a single joint system. TC-AIMS II Block 2 automates the processes of planning, organizing, coordinating, and controlling unit deployments, sustainment, and redeployments. TC-AIMS II Block 2 interfaces with installation, unit, and depot-level supply systems, the Global Transportation Network, and the Joint Operational Planning and Execution System. In its current configuration, the system provides a means for transportation personnel at the unit level to receive the tasking for deployment of their unit, match assigned personnel and equipment to the requirements, provide the information to higher headquarters in a standard deployment format, and then prepare their unit for movement, to include producing shipping labels and tags. Future TC-AIMS II Block 3 enhancements will automate movement control and the reception, staging, onward movement, and integration at the gaining theater. The Program Manager plans an evolutionary acquisition strategy in periodically releasing "blocks" of increasing functionality.

TC-AIMS II has a history of failing to meet standards for operational testing. Block 1 conducted a series of operational tests and retests that culminated in 2002, with an ATEC determination that TC-AIMS II Block 1 was operationally effective, suitable, and survivable for the Navy, but not for the Marine Corps or a large portion of the Army or Air Force. DOT&E concurred, and Block 1 was fielded to the Navy, to U.S. Army-Europe, and to a single Army brigade at Fort Lewis, Washington.

The TC-AIMS II Block 2 acquisition has suffered from the lack of a common unit movement process across the Services and the absence of a single, authoritative user representative. During 2003, the Joint Forces Command became increasingly active in this area, but there is still no joint unit movement process, or even a single process within the Army (the largest user). This has presented the Program Manager with the difficult task of building a single system that is expected to satisfy the separate requirements of all four Services.

ARMY PROGRAMS

TEST AND EVALUATION ACTIVITY



DOT&E approved an updated Test and Evaluation Master Plan and a Block 2 OT&E test plan in July 2003. ATEC conducted Army operational testing at Fort Lewis, Washington, in August 2003 and operational testing for the Navy in October 2003. Results of both tests were unsatisfactory based on problems identified and not corrected from developmental testing and previous operational tests. ATEC extended the first IOT&E to give the Program Manager an opportunity to demonstrate program fixes in November 2003. This additional phase also produced unsatisfactory results.

On review of the operational testing results, the Milestone Decision Authority directed a retest. DOT&E approved the plan for the retest; the Army completed testing in April 2004 and the Navy completed testing in June 2004. As a result of the retest, ATEC determined that the TC-AIMS II Block 2 system is

- Not effective.
- Not suitable for the Army.
- Suitable for the Navy.
- Survivable.

In July 2004, ATEC briefed the test results to the user. The Program Office and user representative identified needed system improvements and workarounds. In September 2004, the Program Office conducted a demonstration of system improvements and proposed CONOPS changes. ATEC subsequently revised its assessment and finds Block 2 to be effective and suitable.

TEST AND EVALUATION ASSESSMENT

The TC-AIMS II Block 2 did not perform favorably during operational testing in 2003, resulting in a retest planned and conducted in 2004. DOT&E approved the plan for the retest. The Army portion of the operational test was conducted with a mobilizing National Guard Brigade at Camp Beauregard, Louisiana, in April 2004, and Navy testing was conducted at Norfolk in June of 2004. These tests were adequate to assess system effectiveness, suitability, and survivability in an operationally realistic environment.

Although the Block 2 system has considerably improved over Block 1, the tests showed a number of critical mission functions do not perform to the threshold standard. The Program Office subsequently conducted a demonstration of some corrective measures to improve operator interface and User-adopted CONOPS changes. The demonstration of these improvements, however, was not part of an approved operational test plan, and was not adequate to satisfactorily redress noted shortcomings.

DOT&E will continue to monitor and assess the TC-AIMS II Block 2 testing, and work with the acquisition community through the Integrated Product Team process.