Force XXI Battle Command Brigade and Below (FBCB2)/ Blue Force Tracking (BFT)

Executive Summary
- The August 2004 Operational Test Report identified several operational and performance issues which require follow-on testing and evaluation.
- Force XXI Battle Command Brigade and Below (FBCB2) Enhanced Position Location and Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio Systems (EPLRS-SINCGARS) terrestrial performance was assessed in the March 2005 Army Battle Command System Test Event.
- Performance of the FBCB2 terrestrial was lower than observed in previous developmental and operational test events of the FBCB2 (L-band satellite communications) program.

System
- FBCB2/Blue Force Tracking (BFT) is a digital, battle command information system intended to provide commanders, leaders, and soldiers with integrated, on-the-move, near real-time battle command information and situational awareness from brigade to vehicle level.
- Three principal components are the hardware, software, and either a Tactical Internet (Terrestrial FBCB2) or L-band satellite (Blue Force Tracker) communications means.
- FBCB2 provides a capability for developing and distributing orders, friendly locations, operational graphics, combat reports, and free text messages.

Mission
- Commanders, leaders, and soldiers will employ FBCB2/BFT as an information system to gain near real-time situational awareness intended to assist in the accomplishment of their unit mission.
- FBCB2/BFT provides the means for Brigade and Battalion commanders to command when away from the Tactical Operational Center and when interoperating with subordinate commanders and leaders who are also using FBCB2/BFT.

Activity
- FBCB2 terrestrial participated as a supporting system in the 2005 Army Battle Command System 6.4 test event at Fort Hood, Texas.
- The Army Battle Command System 6.4 test event centered around a 4th Infantry Division command post exercise as part of the Joint Red Flag/Roving Sands 2005 exercise. The event did not include maneuvering platforms.

Assessment
- The FBCB2/BFT (L-band satellite communications) program has not identified operational test events to verify corrections to shortcomings identified in the 2004 DOT&E Operational Test Report or to confirm operational effectiveness and operational suitability of the terrestrial (EPLRS-SINCGARS) FBCB2 system.
- The FBCB2/BFT (L-band satellite communications) program and terrestrial (EPLRS-SINCGARS) systems are not yet interoperable or at the same classification level.
- FBCB2/BFT are identified as main legacy components required to interoperate with the Future Combat Systems Modular Brigade Combat Teams.

Recommendations
1. The FBCB2 Test and Evaluation Master Plan must be updated to address integration and interoperability with Future Combat Systems Battle Command and current battle command

networks. It should include a strategy to test information assurance and security functionality.
2. Conduct focused event to test interoperability between the FBCB2 (L-band satellite communications) program, the FBCB2 (EPLRS-SINCGARS) terrestrial, and current battle command components.