

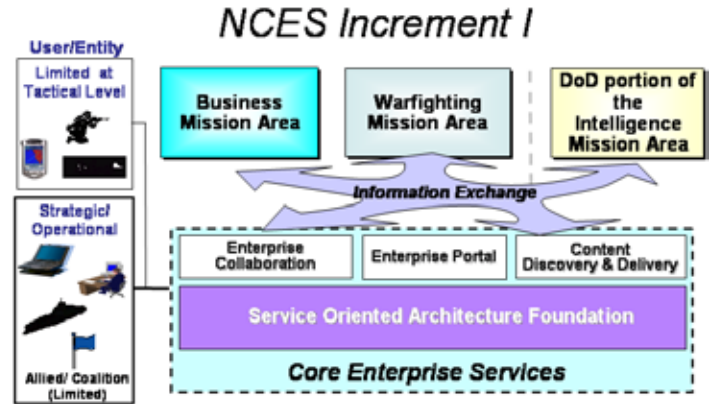
Network-Centric Enterprise Services (NCES)

Executive Summary

- DOT&E approved the Test and Evaluation Master Plan, developed in support of the program's Milestone B decision, in June 2006.
- DOT&E issued a memorandum endorsing the use of a risk assessment process to determine the level of testing required for each commercially managed service. This risk assessment process is normally used for upgrades to systems introduced after the full fielding decision.
- Although there is progress on the test plan, developing a means of testing rapidly evolving, commercially managed enterprise services has proven more difficult than anticipated. Difficulties include:
 - Lack of operational success criteria in the Network-Centric Enterprise Services (NCES) Concept Development Document
 - Evolving information concerning the collaboration service from the vendor and program office
 - Lack of clearly identified user representatives in the role of combat developer

System

- NCES is a suite of capabilities that support automated information exchange across DoD on both classified and unclassified networks. These capabilities include collaboration, discovery, and subscribe tools.
- The warfighting, intelligence, and business communities access NCES capabilities either directly or through a portal that controls access by the use of public key infrastructure profiles. NCES will extend selected services through the Internet to state, local, and authorized coalition users by the end of Increment 1.
- NCES collaboration tools provide all registered users the ability to hold meetings and exchange information by text, audio, and video.
- The discovery capabilities (content, people, services, metadata, publish/subscribe) allow producers of data to post information, alert others to the presence of new information, and evaluate the relevance of the data to their current roles and activities.
- NCES includes security and management capabilities that integrate with, and rely upon:



- Network operations management capabilities supporting enterprise service/network management
- Information assurance/computer network defense
- Content staging/information dissemination management
- Increment 1 services are available to all operational and tactical users that connect to a Defense Information System Network (DISN) point-of-presence. Future increments will expand and refine services to operational and tactical users in bandwidth-restricted, intermittent, and disconnected environments.
- NCES capabilities are intended to be commercially available products managed under a series of Service-level agreements.

Mission

- Joint Force Commanders will use NCES to enable shared understanding, interface with other decision makers, orient forces, assess the situation, and synchronize operations.
- NCES is intended to facilitate information superiority and accelerate decision-making and net-centric transformation by enabling the secure, agile, robust, dependable, interoperable data sharing for DoD warfighter, business, and intelligence users.
- NCES supports DoD's vision of a net-centric environment through the creation of core services developed to interoperate with Programs of Record/Community of Interest developed services, which allows the warfighter to use these capabilities no matter where operations are conducted.

Activity

- DOT&E approved the Test and Evaluation Master Plan, developed in support of the program's Milestone B decision, in June 2006.

- The test plan is under development for the operational test portion of Early User Test 2 scheduled for November 2006. The focus of this test is the collaboration service.

DOD PROGRAMS

- A multi-Component Mission Thread Working Group, lead by Joint Forces Command and the program office, provided the combined test team with an operational mission context to use for the collaboration service testing.
- DOT&E issued a memorandum endorsing the use of a risk assessment process to determine level of testing required for each commercially managed service. This risk assessment process is normally used for upgrades to systems introduced after the full fielding decision.

Assessment

- The development of a streamlined means of testing rapidly evolving, commercially managed, enterprise services has proven more difficult than anticipated.
- Several challenges impact the development of an adequate test design. They include the lack of operational success criteria in the Concept Development Document, evolving information concerning the collaboration service from the vendor and program office, and the lack of clearly identified user representatives in the role of combat developer.
- Although the commercial sector also uses the selected collaboration service, unique DoD Component network

management contracts and policies affect the ability to use the collaboration service across the Enterprise. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Networks and Information Integration, the Components, and the program office are working to solve these issues. This directly impacts the ability to operationally test the collaboration service in a realistic mission environment in which Component units link in from the various networks that make up the Enterprise network.

Recommendations

- Status of Previous Recommendations. No FY05 report was submitted on NCES.
- FY06 Recommendations.
 1. The Milestone Decision Authority should establish user representative(s) for the NCES program.
 2. The user representative(s), in conjunction with the Services, Agencies, and Combatant Commands, should identify operational success criteria that relate NCES-provided service capabilities to mission or task accomplishment.