

Global Broadcast Service (GBS) System

The Global Broadcast Service (GBS) system transmits secure, high-speed, one-way, classified and unclassified imagery, video, and other military information over military and government leased satellites to forces in theater, in transit, and in garrison.

The operational testing of the GBS system conducted in late 2005 was adequate to confirm:

1. The GBS space and transmit segments are operationally effective and suitable.
2. The GBS receive segment is operationally effective when personnel are available to man the receive suite terminals; the intended operating concept was for unattended use.
3. The GBS receive suite of the receive segment is not operationally suitable.

The GBS receive suite terminals were operationally effective, but did not deliver the level of user service and dependability required. Receive suites did not demonstrate the capability required while operated in the “unattended” mode, unless system personnel were available to man them. Sustained operator involvement was required to prevent outages and delays in data reception. The GBS receive suites have proven to be valuable in delivering data and real-time military information during recent sustained combat operations and contingency relief missions.

The GBS receive suite terminals were not operationally suitable. This is because of difficulties experienced with user receive suite reliability, technical order deficiencies, information assurance security changes, system logistics shortfalls, and the need for more comprehensive system training. It was found during testing that the Army modified their receive suites after receiving them from the factory, but this configuration was not integrated into the final program baseline or the technical order system. The integrated system logistics and technical order data for the GBS must be changed to accommodate receive suite terminals modified by the Army. Additionally, common GBS technical data, operational training materials, and logistics must provide operators and maintainers with the tools and guidance they need to accomplish their respective missions. Improved operational suitability will be needed for effective deployment, employment, and sustainment of GBS in the field.

To meet the requirements of operational users, the Air Force should:

1. Correct and retest system performance shortfalls and reliability deficiencies, including the receive suite unattended mode.
2. Standardize and validate the Army-modified transportable ground receive suite equipment configurations, training materials, and technical orders.
3. Complete the updated Interactive Electronic Technical Manual (IETM) for current full-rate production equipment configurations and standards.
4. Complete GBS system security and information assurance corrective measures and actions to meet the established standards of the system certifying authorities.
5. Provide current system documentation, training, and technical order data so that GBS operators and maintainers can properly accomplish their duties.
6. Complete the review and release of the Joint Integrated Logistics Plan to sustain integrated GBS operations and fielding of the system.
7. Conduct scheduled Multi-Service Operational Test and Evaluation to confirm corrective actions for current and emerging features of the GBS full-rate production program baseline.

ANNEX B - CONGRESSIONAL REPORTS