

Defense Travel System (DTS)

Executive Summary

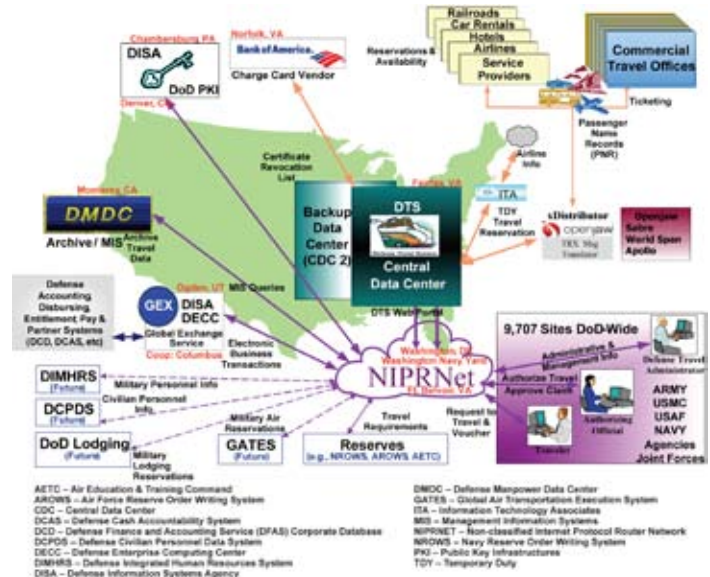
The Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) conducted an OT&E on the Reservation Refresh release from November 2006 to January 2007. ATEC considered the new release operationally effective, suitable, and survivable. In February 2007, DOT&E recommended the new release be placed into the production environment.

System

- The Defense Travel System (DTS) is a Major Automated Information System designed to automate and streamline the DoD travel process, support DoD travel requirements, and reduce the associated cost for the DoD. With DTS, travelers perform many of the administrative tasks themselves.
- DTS integrates commercial travel reservation systems and DoD accounting and disbursing systems using secure networks and procedures.
- Originally, there were two blocks of software development. Block 1 focuses on Temporary Duty travel. Block 2, which was to focus on Permanent Change of Station travel, has been deferred.
- The program manager is developing DTS in releases of increasing functionality. Each Block 1 release was named after a U.S. president. The Monroe release (the final Block 1 presidential release) has been fielded. DTS will continue to use a spiral development strategy during FY08 to develop the remaining functionality that was not included in the presidential releases.

Mission

DoD travelers use DTS as a single interface to process their end-to-end travel requirements via an Internet connection or a



Non-classified Internet Protocol Router Network connection using a Common Access Card with Public Key Infrastructure certification. It offers an automated mechanism for travelers to prepare travel authorizations and vouchers, get the documentation approved, and be reimbursed once their travel is completed.

Activity

ATEC conducted an OT&E on the Reservation Refresh release from November 2006 to January 2007, in accordance with the DOT&E-approved Test and Evaluation Master Plan and Operational Test and Evaluation Plan.

Assessment

- For a Major Automated Information System, operational testers typically conduct an OT&E at selected operational sites with a production system prior to a full-fielding decision. Since DTS is a web-based system, the traditional way of conducting OT&E is not practical. Any new DTS release placed on the enterprise web server for operational testing is in fact already fielded.

- To mitigate risks for such a system, ATEC typically conducts an OT&E in an end-to-end test environment with production-representative hardware and software. Representative users execute operationally realistic test scenarios developed by ATEC. If the test results are satisfactory, the new release is placed on the production server for all users. ATEC then conducts a follow-on operational assessment at selected operational sites to confirm the performance of the new release and to identify opportunities for improvement.
- The test results of the Reservation Refresh release showed that it was operationally effective, suitable, and survivable, with limitations. Even though the DTS Program Management

DOD PROGRAMS

Office resolved all high priority deficiencies identified during the OT&E, some low priority deficiencies that affected the usability of the system remained.

- ATEC plans to conduct an OT&E for a Technical Refresh release in 3QFY08. After the new release is placed into the production environment, ATEC also plans to conduct a follow-on operational assessment at selected operational sites. The Technical Refresh release will install new servers, convert the DTS software code to Java programming language (with an Oracle database), and incorporate additional minor functional enhancements.

Recommendations

- Status of Previous Recommendations. The Program Management Office has taken action on all FY06 recommendations.
- FY07 Recommendation.
 1. The Program Management Office should complete the Test and Evaluation Master Plan update as soon as possible to facilitate the planning and execution of follow-on operational tests and evaluations.