Distributed Common Ground System – Navy (DCGS-N)

Executive Summary

- The Commander, Operational Test and Evaluation Force (COTF) conducted an Operational Assessment (OT-B1) of the Distributed Common Ground System – Navy (DCGS-N) in March 2009 to provide information for Milestone C. DOT&E concurred with the COTF OT-B1 Operational Assessment Report and recommended DCGS-N Block 1 proceed to Milestone C and subsequent IOT&E.
- The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Networks Information Integration (ASD (NII)) authorized low-rate initial production on August 17, 2009.
- COTF commenced an embarked IOT&E (OT-C1) of the DCGS-N Increment 1 on August 20, 2009. Anomalies forced a suspension of testing from August 25 – September 8, 2009. COTF completed the embarked phase of IOT&E during the period of September 9-18, 2009. COTF anticipates publication of the OT-C1 Operational Evaluation Report in December 2009.

System

- DCGS-N is the Navy Service component of the DoD DCGS family of systems, providing multi-Service integration of Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance, and Targeting (ISR&T) capabilities.
- DCGS-N will ultimately be hosted by Consolidated Afloat Networks and Enterprise Services (CANES), but until CANES can be fielded, DCGS-N Increment 1 aligns with the Integrated Shipboard Network System and Sensitive Compartmented Information Networks.
- DCGS-N Increment 1 uses commercial off-the-shelf and mature government off-the-shelf software, tools, and standards. DCGS-N interoperates with the DCGS family of systems via implementation of the DCGS Integration Backbone and Net-Centric Enterprise Services standards.

Mission

- The operational commander will use DCGS-N to participate in the Joint Task Force level joint targeting and joint planning processes and to expose Navy-organic ISR&T data for Joint Forces.
- Operational and force level users equipped with DCGS-N will:
  - Identify, locate, and confirm targets through multi-source intelligence feeds
  - Update enemy track locations and provide situational awareness to the Joint Force Maritime Component Commander based on processing of data from available sensors
  - Support federated Joint Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance exploitation/production

Prime Contractors

- BAE Systems, Electronics, Intelligence and Support (EI&S), San Diego, California
- L-3 Communications, Services Group, Chantilly, Virginia
- Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), Chantilly, Virginia

Activity

- COTF conducted an Operational Assessment (OT-B1) of the DCGS-N in March 2009 in accordance with the DOT&E-approved test plan to provide information in support of a Milestone C decision.
- The ASD (NII) signed the Milestone C Acquisition Decision Memorandum on August 17, 2009.
- COTF conducted IOT&E (OT-C1) onboard USS *Harry S Truman* (CVN 75) while operating at sea. The IOT&E (OT-C1) commenced on August 20, 2009; however, COTF suspended testing six days later when the DCGS-N system server stopped functioning. The Program Office isolated the problem to a procedural problem that allowed the virtual drive to fill with error messages. The Program Office provided revised procedures to the crew. COTF resumed testing on September 9, 2009. COTF completed the embarked phase of the IOT&E on September 18, 2009.

- IOT&E results will provide information for the full deployment decision review for DCGS-N Increment 1, Block 1.

Assessment

- DOT&E concurred with the COTF OT-B1 assessment and recommended that DCGS-N Increment 1 Block 1 proceed to Milestone C and subsequent IOT&E. Although DCGS-N demonstrated sufficient maturity for Milestone C, DOT&E recommended the Program Office develop the capability to shut down DCGS-N within the time supported by the installed uninterruptible power supply prior to shipboard operations. COTF further recommended the Program Office correct performance shortfalls in Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance, and complete the assessment of information assurance and interoperability.
- The Program Office demonstrated resolution of the shutdown sequence problem prior to the commencement of IOT&E.
- The completion of the second period of IOT&E embarked operations demonstrated that the procedural modifications successfully resolved the DCGS-N server problem that had necessitated the earlier suspension of testing.
- The IOT&E results are expected to be published in December 2009.

Recommendations

- Status of Previous Recommendations. This is the first annual report for this program.
- FY09 Recommendations. None.