Defense Satellite Communications System (DSCS)

Provides secure voice and data communications and intelligence transfer to deployed forces worldwide.

DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATIONS

The Defense Satellite Communications System (DSCS) provides super-high-frequency, beyond-line-of-sight communications and a critical conduit for intelligence information transfer. DSCS consists of a geosynchronously orbiting satellite network, fixed enterprise military satellite terminals, baseband, payload control systems, and related equipment. DSCS also provides reachback capability to sanctuary for deployed forces (teleport and standard tactical entry point sites). DSCS modernization efforts provide tactical warfighters with reachback access to Defense Information Systems network services, ensure survivable communications for critical nuclear command and control, and support the Army’s mission of payload and network control on super high-frequency wideband communications satellites.

DSCS is designed to satisfy long-term communication needs of warfighters and combatant commanders, as well as command, control, communications, and intelligence requirements. DSCS provides the equipment that the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command uses to perform its payload and network control mission on wideband satellites. DSCS also provides an anti-jam and anti-scintillation capability for key strategic forces.

The DSCS program includes modernization of enterprise terminals, baseband, and payload and network control systems required to support warfighter use of these satellites. The Department of Defense will begin to launch Wideband Gapfiller Satellites (WGS) to provide warfighters with greatly increased capacity and a new Ka-band capability in December 2005.

PROGRAM STATUS

• 3QFY04 Currently deployed worldwide. Modernization efforts to support WGS and Transformational Satellite continue.
• 4QFY04 AN/GSC-52 modernization program continues to extend life for these terminals to 2015.
• 4QFY04 Installations, deinstallations, and relocations of fixed strategic ground terminals, and baseband continue as required by combatant commanders and validated by Joint Staff.
• 4QFY04 Awarded contract for multiplexer integration and Defense Satellite Communications Subsystem automation system follow-on production, depot support, and post production software maintenance.
• 4QFY04 Completed first article test and system integration test for Global Terrestrial Critical Control Circuit system.

PROJECTED ACTIVITIES

• 3QFY05 Begin enhanced bandwidth efficient modem production deliveries.
• 4QFY05 Complete teleport generation 1 installations for initial operational capability 2.
• 4QFY05 Begin installation of fixed Ka-band terminals.

CONTRACTORS
Satellite Equipment:
ITT Industries (Colorado Springs, CO)
Installation Kits:
Harris Corporation (Melbourne, FL)
DSCS Integrate Management System and DSCS Objective Control System Software:
John Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (Laurel, MD)
Engineering Support:
U.S. Army Information Systems Engineering Command (Fort Huachuca, AZ)
Software:
Northrop Grumman (Orlando, FL)

INVESTMENT COMPONENT
Modernization
Programs:
• Production and Deployment