

Joint Tactical Ground Stations (JTAGS)

INVESTMENT COMPONENT

Modernization

Recapitalization

Maintenance



MISSION

To disseminate early warning, alerting, and cueing information of ballistic missile attack and other infrared events to theater combatant commanders by using real-time, direct down-linked satellite data.

DESCRIPTION

Joint Tactical Ground Stations (JTAGS) are forward-deployed, echelon-above-corps, transportable systems designed to receive, process and disseminate direct down-linked infrared data from space-based sensors. Ongoing product improvement efforts will integrate JTAGS with the next-generation Space Based Infrared System (SBIRS) satellites. SBIRS sensors will significantly improve theater missile warning parameters. Expected improvements include higher quality cueing of active defense systems, decreased missile launch search area, faster initial report times, and improved impact ellipse prediction.

JTAGS processes satellite data and disseminates ballistic missile warning or special event messages

to warfighters in support of regional combatant commanders over multiple theater communication systems. Five JTAGS are deployed worldwide as part of the U.S. Strategic Command's Tactical Event System. The Army Space and Missile Defense Command Soldiers operate JTAGS, providing 24/7/365 support to theater operations.

SYSTEM INTERDEPENDENCIES

JTAGS improvements are dependent upon successful development, launch, test and certification of the U.S. Air Force's ACAT I, Space-Based Infrared System (SBIRS) satellite program. SBIRS will provide multiple new sensors on orbit, substantially enhancing the ability of JTAGS to improve all aspects of missile warning and battlespace awareness.

PROGRAM STATUS

- **1QFY09–4QFY09:** Worldwide fielding of JTAGS upgrades: Common Data Link Interface (CDLI), Joint Tactical Terminal (JTT), Multifunctional Information Distribution System (MIDS), and information assurance improvements; upgrades to all five JTAGS units and the JTAGS Development Lab

PROJECTED ACTIVITIES

- **4QFY09–4QFY11:** Field JTAGS block upgrades including: communication systems, information assurance, antennas, the addition of a new on-orbit SBIRS satellite sensor (highly elliptical orbit), and Initial SBIRS Geosynchronous Orbit (GEO) satellite capability. Software support, contractor logistics support, and depot operations continue
- **3QFY10:** New JTAGS contract awarded to develop and deliver full SBIRS GEO starrer capability in a desheltered system integrated into operation centers

ACQUISITION PHASE

Technology Development

Engineering & Manufacturing Development

Production & Deployment

Operations & Support

Joint Tactical Ground Stations (JTAGS)

FOREIGN MILITARY SALES

None

CONTRACTORS

Develop, Deploy, Sustain (CLS):

Northrop Grumman Electronic Systems
(Colorado Springs, CO)

SETA support:

BAE Systems (Huntsville, AL)

