GCSS-Army INSIDER
GLOBAL COMBAT SUPPORT SYSTEM - ARMY

PEO EIS
AESIP

JANUARY 2015 VOL 1 ISSUE 1

Our Vision: To spearhead Army Logistics Transformation efforts by providing an auditable enterprise business solution that enables the Army to maintain its decisive combat edge.

LEADER PERSPECTIVES
LTC CHRISTOPHER ROMERO

I am excited to launch the PdM GCSS-Army Insider Newsletter to inform all of our stakeholders about the latest news in the GCSS-Army world.

I am particularly excited because of the many outstanding things happening with GCSS-Army now and upcoming in 2015. Our goal is to keep our stakeholders at all levels of the Army and Department of Defense informed about the program's past, present and future through the distribution of this Newsletter. By understanding who we are and what we're doing, we hope to facilitate the transformation that GCSS-Army brings to the Army. The Army will start to realize the benefits of this transformation this year. We welcome any suggestions that the readers may have about how to make our Newsletter better through the "Contact Us" tab on our web page (www.gcss.army.mil).

From my perspective, 2015 is going to be a pivotal year in our program's history. Our collaborative efforts with the DA G-4, CASCOM, PEO EIS, PM AESIP and other stakeholders will map out our forward path for Wave 2 fielding. With 56% of the Wave 1 fielding effort already complete, we're sustaining the solution and will plan the future of sustaining the full GCSS-Army Increment I. We'll start to execute these plans this year, as well.

Our web page is one of several communications tools we use to keep the Army informed about our project. This newsletter will capture the highlights and is intended to supplement the web page. For all detailed information about GCSS-Army, please visit our web page at www.gcss.army.mil.

THE START
OF WAVE 2 FIELDING

By Jim McDonough, Support Operations Branch Lead, Program Management Division PMO GCSS-Army

The PdM GCSS-Army designed the current two-Wave Fielding Strategy to reduce risk and turbulence to the Army. Wave 1 replaces the Standard Army Retail Supply System (SARSS) and the associated financial management systems. Wave 2 will replace the Standard Army Maintenance System- Enhanced (SAMS-E) and the Property Book Unit Supply Enhanced (PBUSE). Wave 1 fielding started in February 2013 and is still in progress, with completion expected in the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2016. Wave 2 fielding started on a limited basis in October 2014, with the main effort starting in May 2015.

While Wave 1 engaged or will engage about 14,000 Army users, Wave 2 is a much larger effort, involving about 150,000 users. As a result, the PM adjusted the process to prepare Army units to receive GCSS-Army Wave 2 functionality. The Wave 1 process began at D-180 days and involved progress checks at D-120, D-90, D-60 and D-30.

The larger number of users in Wave 2 will necessitate beginning the process at D-240, with progress checks at D-180, D-90, D-60 and D-30. Also, because the numbers of users requiring training is so much higher in Wave 2 than in Wave 1, the PM team has adjusted the modes of delivery for both Lead User and New Equipment Training in Wave 2 to include remote training delivery via Defense Connect Online (DCO) for many users.

As with Wave 1, Wave 2 fielding preparations on the receiving units' parts involves data cleansing, identifying Lead Users for initial training and verifying that all users take the prerequisite web-based training online.

Data cleansing, ensuring that the data currently in SAMS-E and PBUSE is accurate and matches, is more labor-intensive in Wave 2 than in Wave 1. Therefore, receiving unit Commanders must ensure that their unit personnel begin this process early and continue it until the errors are eliminated. Command emphasis on unit preparation is crucial for successful implementation in both waves of the fielding effort.

The PdM team began Wave 2 fielding on a limited basis in October 2014, ensuring that the processes for deployment work well. Once the limited fieldings have succeeded, the PdM team will launch the main Wave 2 effort in the spring of 2015. As with Wave 1, but on a larger scale, multiple Materiel Fielding Teams will simultaneously engage units throughout all Army components in an unprecedented effort that will culminate in completing all of the Wave 2 units by the end of Fiscal Year 2017.

The Increment I fieldings (Waves 1 and 2) represent the largest deployment effort of a management information system at the tactical level in the Army's history. With a total of over 150,000 users and every Supply Support Activity, Resource Management Office, Property Book Office, Unit Supply Room and Motor Pool in the Army directly affected, the GCSS-Army solution will herald major changes in how the Army manages its tactical logistics and financials. The end result will benefit all levels of Command throughout the Army and move the Army closer to its strategic goals of achieving Total Asset Visibility and reducing the logistics footprint.

INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT TEST (IGT)

By Beverly Whitmore, System Architecture lead PMO GCSS-Army

GCSS-Army conducted the program's first independent government test (IGT) from November 3 to 7, 2014 at the Logistics Exercise and Simulation Directorate (LESD), Ft Lee, Virginia. The primary focus of the test was the deployment capability delivered in Releases 11-13 of Wave 2.

The test was driven by the Caspian Sea operational scenario often used for Army professional development. This scenario employed 33 Master Scenario Event Lists (MSEL) containing pre-determined units and equipment. The exercise crossed multiple functional areas, including maintenance, supply, property book, finance, and sustainment-based deployment activities. Unit moves included the transfer of equipment, bench and shop stock, and personnel. Role players performed maintenance, property book and personnel actions.

Once the units were deployed from the home station into the Theater, the role players moved from LESD to the Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelter (DRASH) to continue the test via Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) and simulate real world battlefield communications. On the third day, the units were redeployed back to the home station.

CW5 Cheryl M. Bartley and Mr. Steven Serio evaluate GCSS-Army during the recent IGT at Ft Lee.
(Photo courtesy of Sherrell Satterthwaite, PMO GCSS-Army Designer)

CASCOM Functional Integrated Concept Team (FICT) members performed the duties of Operational Support Activity (OSA), Property Book Officers, Maintenance and Unit Supply personnel, and sustainment staff. The OSA role players included representation from the Corps/Theater Automated Data Processing Service Center (CTASC) Consolidation Center. CTASC personnel sat in on the test event (right-seat-ride). The PMO control cell set the pace by leading the MSEL through a role-based web application specifically developed by GCSS-Army for this event. Each MSEL was triggered by users' completion of the previous task, emulating real world action and requiring the subsequent necessary transactions in GCSS-Army.

Each transactional step was simultaneously recorded in Defense Online (DCO) sessions and broadcast in the control room. Representatives from Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC), Director Operational Test and Evaluation (DOT&E), and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Developmental Test and Evaluation (DASD DT&E) were present in the control room to witness and validate test steps.

After the MSEL was completed, the role player was prompted to fill out a task performance form (TPF). If completing the MSEL had unexpected results, users might be redirected to a test incident report (TIR). At the conclusion of each day, the test participants and observers conducted data authentication guided by the GCSS-Army web application by reviewing each MSEL/transaction result documented in a TPF/TIR to discuss any issues. During this session, the DCO recordings were available for review. Authorized Data Authentication Group (DAG) members voted on each step, and the results were compiled using the GCSS-Army web application.

To view the MSEL results and listen to the DCO recordings, go to https://gcss.army.mil/psitool/req/test/altdstart.asp. GCSS-Army will complete IGT 14 in February 2015. This scenario will also be based on the Caspian Sea. During this exercise, an entire Brigade will be deployed into a mature theater that will include new capabilities introduced in Release 14.

For further information or to "right-seat-ride," please contact us at usarmy.lee.hqda-asa-alt.list.gcss-army-info@mail.mil.

END OF YEAR
RECAP-2014
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MARCH

ACT-IAC EXCELLENCE.GOV

On 24 March 2014, the PM GCSS-Army team received recognition as a finalist for the American Council for Information Technology-Industry Advisory Council Excellence.gov Award in the category of Excellence in Digital Government during a ceremony at the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C.
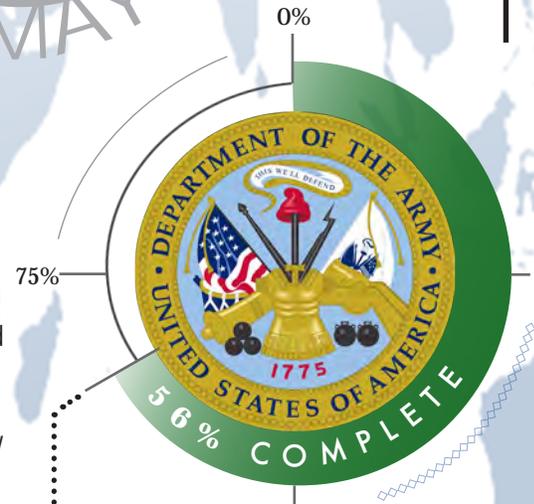
THE GITEC

MAY

On 6 May 2014, the PM GCSS-Army team was honored as the overall winner of the Government Information Technology Executive Council's Project Management Excellence Award during a ceremony at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland.

THE HERO OF THE MONTH

JUNE

In June 2014, Ms. Beverly Whitmore of the PM GCSS-Army team received the Principal Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology Hero of the Month Award.

0%

75%

56% COMPLETE

In 2014, the PM GCSS-Army team successfully completed 56% of the Wave 1 fielding effort to the total Army.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- The Enterprise Resource Planning Integrated Product Team (ERP IPT meetings) are planned for 15 January, 11 February, 11 March, and 8 April in 2015.

- Fielding Group 24 will blackout by 16 January 2015.

- The Worldwide Video Teleconference (DA G-4 GCSS-Army WWVTC) will be held 28 January and 22 April 2015.

- Business Process Council Meetings are scheduled for 25 Feb and 25 March 2015.

- The Independent Government Test (IGT) Release 14 is currently planned for the first week of February and the IGT Release 14.1 is planned for the end of April 2015.