

Joint Tactical Ground Station (JTAGS)

Disseminates early warning, alerting, and cueing information on theater ballistic missiles and other tactical events by receiving and processing in-theater, direct, downlinked data from Defense Support Program (DSP) satellites.

INVESTMENT COMPONENT

Modernization

Recapitalization

Maintenance



Description & Specifications

The Joint Tactical Ground Station (JTAGS) supports simultaneous operations in multiple theaters and provides real-time, space-based information to theater combatant commanders.

The JTAGS processor and communications equipment is housed in an 8 x 8 x 20-foot shelter with three external high-gain antennas that receive infrared (IR) data from three satellites. The system is transportable by C-141 and larger aircraft and can operational within hours. During crisis situations, the system deploys in pairs for enhanced reliability.

The current JTAGS system has been approved for a Preplanned Product Improvement (P3I) program that envisions an enhanced mobile missile warning and communications system that will receive and process both residual direct downlinked data from DSP satellites and the new Space-Based Infrared System (SBIRS)

sensors. The JTAGS successor system will also provide battlespace characterization data for enhanced situational awareness.

The Army plans to replace the five fielded JTAGS with the P3I systems beginning in FY12-13. The transition to the follow-on system is expected to occur after the SBIRS geosynchronous satellites are launched and operational. A second block improvement expected to begin in FY13 incorporates data from the technologies developed by the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) and the Space Tracking and Surveillance System (STSS) (formerly SBIRS Low).

Program Status

- **3QFY06:** Completed test and certification of LINK 16
- **4QFY06:** Begin development of JTAGS Software Test Environment (JSTE) and Secure Telephone Unit / Equipment (STU/STE) into JTAGS
- **1QFY07:** Complete integration of Joint Tactical Terminal (JTT) into JTAGS units

- **1QFY07:** Complete RT Logic Versa Module Euro (VME) integration into JTAGS units
- **1QFY07:** Begin Interim Highly Elliptical Orbit (IHEO) and Common Data Link Interface (CDLI/SIPRNET) development for JTAGS
- **1QFY07:** Integration of MIDS into JTAGS
- **1QFY07:** Initiate JTAGS P3I program

Projected Activities

- **2QFY07:** Decomposition of requirements to contract specification complete
- **2QFY07:** Continue development of IHEO, CDLI/SIPRNET, and MIDS integration into JTAGS
- **4QFY07:** Complete integration of MIDS, JSTE, and STU/STE equipment into JTAGS
- **1QFY08:** Initiate TMP system development and demonstration
- **1QFY08:** Complete integration of IHEO and CDLI/SIPRNET
- **1QFY09:** Continue development of JTAGS follow-on capability

ACQUISITION PHASE

Concept & Technology Development

System Development & Demonstration

Production & Deployment

Operations & Support

Joint Tactical Ground Stations (JTAGS)

FOREIGN MILITARY SALES

None

CONTRACTORS

Deployment, Production, and P3I Phase I:
GenCorp (Azusa, CA; Colorado Springs, CO)
System Engineering Technical Analysis (SETA) support:

Mevatec (Huntsville, AL)

Operations and support:

Northrop Grumman (Azusa, CA)

JTAGS P3I:

Lockheed Martin (Sunnyvale, CA;
Boulder, CO)

Northrop Grumman (Azusa, CA)

SETA support:

BAE Systems (Huntsville, AL)

