

Joint Tactical Ground Stations (JTAGS)

INVESTMENT COMPONENT

Modernization

Recapitalization

Maintenance



MISSION

Disseminates 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

In this Publication

Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD)

Other Major Interdependencies

U.S. Air Force's ACAT I, SBIRS satellite program.

PROGRAM STATUS

- **1QFY09–4QFY09:** Worldwide fielding of JTAGS upgrades: Common Data Link Interface, Joint Tactical Terminal, Multifunctional Information Distribution System, 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, on-orbit SBIRS satellite sensor (highly elliptical orbit), Initial SBIRS Geosynchronous Orbit (GEO) satellite capability, software support, contractor logistics support, and depot operations continue
- **2QFY11:** Initial SBIRS GEO testing begins to demonstrate capabilities
- **4QFY12:** Initial SBIRS GEO certification at an operational site

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)

