

GLOBAL BROADCAST SERVICE

DESCRIPTION

The GBS system is a smart-push/user-pull satellite communication system that provides near-worldwide, high-data rate, one-way dissemination of large information products. Examples of these products include classified and unclassified imagery and video; theater message traffic, joint and service-unique news, weather and morale, welfare, and recreation programming to deployed or garrison forces via small user platforms. GBS will be accessible from 65 degrees north latitude to 65 degrees south latitude.



OPERATIONAL IMPACT

GBS will augment other communications systems and provide a continuous, high-speed, one-way information flow to deployed, mobile, or garrison forces. GBS will support routine operations, training and military exercises, special activities, crisis, situational awareness, weapons targeting, reconnaissance, and the transition to and conduct of opposed operations short of nuclear war. The system will consistently provide the warfighter with information

that allows him to take action inside the decision cycle time of his adversaries.

PROGRAM STATUS

The GBS is a joint program and currently in a pre-Milestone C status. The Marine Corps currently possesses 11 low-rate, initial production GBS receive suites provided by the joint program office. All three MEFs have at least one GBS receive suite and are using them to support exercises and operations within their respective areas of operation. These receive suites are also being used for test and evaluation purposes to assist in defining manpower, training, and concept of operations issues.

The program is currently conducting a technology refresh to upgrade the receive suites with an Internet protocol (IP)-based, commercial-off-the-shelf architecture. This new architecture will provide users with a smaller, lighter, more agile system. The first developmental/operational test on the IP-based system occurred in December 2003, and a follow-up test is scheduled for March 2004. Upon successful testing, the Marine Corps will proceed with its own low-rate initial production procurement decision for eight terminals. A joint Milestone C decision is scheduled for FY 2006 based on subsequent testing. The approved acquisition objective for GBS is 81.

PROCUREMENT PROFILE:

Quantity:

FY 04

40

FY 05

39

DEVELOPER/MANUFACTURER

Raytheon, Reston, VA