

TECHNICAL FIRE DIRECTION SYSTEM

DESCRIPTION

The Lightweight Technical Fire Direction System (LWTFDS) provides the artillery firing battery with the capability to automate technical fire direction while in a degraded or moving status, providing a second check required for safe and accurate fires. Additionally, it increases the responsiveness for special missions, such as “hip shoots” and artillery raids. The LWTFDS automates survey and meteorological functions performed by the artillery community. It utilizes the NATO Artillery Ballistic Kernel (NABK) to compute the technical firing solution for the battery.

OPERATIONAL IMPACT

The LWTFDS is the material replacement for the Back-up Computer System (BUCS) originally fielded in the early 1980s.

Falling under the cognizance of the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data

System (AFATDS), the LWTFDS gives the battery the ability to compute data when the AFATDS is not operational. This occurs during movements, raids, and periods of degraded operation. The LWTFDS will also replace the Back-up Computer System Replacement (BUCS-R), which was an interim device for survey functionality fielded in the late 1990s until the LWTFDS became available.

PROGRAM STATUS

As part of the AFATDS program, LWTFDS does not have an individual acquisition category or milestone. The LWTFDS will be fielded to all artillery batteries, battalion survey sections, and the Marine Corps artillery training detachment at Fort Sill, Oklahoma starting in FY 2005. Initial versions will provide basic functionality. Follow-on software versions will incorporate interoperability with AFATDS, entry devices, and a Gun Display Unit.

PROCUREMENT PROFILE:

Quantity:

FY 04

117

FY 05

93

DEVELOPER/MANUFACTURER

LWTFDS software developer: Raytheon Systems Company, Fort Wayne, IN

LWTFDS hardware developer: obtained from US Government

General Services Administration