GCSS-Army Wave 2 Training Strategy

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GCSS-Army Wave 2 will impact every Command, unit supply room, field maintenance activity and property book office in the Army, for a total of 140,000 users. GCSS-Army will replace the Property Book Unit Supply Enhanced (PBUSE) System, the Standard Army Maintenance System-Enhanced (SAMS-E), the Standard Army Maintenance System Installation Enhanced (SAMS-IE), Materiel Management Workstation (MMWS) and the Fleet Logistics Management System (FLMS), and bring all functionality into a single, integrated common operating picture. This transformation effort is the most significant in the history of the Logistics Information Systems (LIS).

GCSS-Army fielding utilizes the Wave approach. Wave 1 was Supply Support Activity (SSA) centric and focused on the SSA as the “axis” of our fielding event, integrating financials while branching out to all supported customers. Wave 2 is Property Book centric and modernizes over 2200 property books, their unit supply and all supported maintenance activities.

Wave 2’s conversion strategy minimizes the fielding complexity with 240-day data preparation and organizational change management prior to blackout. The strategy includes monthly site calls or visits, monthly data preparation checks and user training.

Resource constrained environment

The program team has completed 33 percent of Wave 2 units. Current resource constraints prevented the program team from completing Wave 2 fielding with the original allotment. Going forward, we modified our approach to training and fielding. The modified training delivery strategy leverages online Web Based Training to complement onsite activities.

The New Equipment Training (NET) delivery strategy will involve a hybrid approach that combines “boots on the ground” Instructor Facilitated Training (IFT) with involved and interactive online Web Based Training (WBT) designed to cover all user populations across 3 COMPOs.

The plan has three parts to address each component:

1. Part 1 involves the Active Army (COMPO 1) and provides:
   a) Familiarization WBT
   b) Lead User Training sessions
   c) Trainer guided events (New Equipment Training (NET), Data Validation, Post Go Live Activities (PGLA), and Over the Shoulder (OTS) support.
   d) Help Desk Support

2. Part 2 involves the Army National Guard (COMPO 2) and provides:
   a) Familiarization WBT
   b) Lead User Training sessions
   c) Trainer guided events (Data Validation, PGLA)
   d) Virtual OTS support (30 days)
   e) Help Desk Support

3. Part 3 involves the United States Army Reserve Command (COMPO 3) and provides:
   a) Familiarization WBT
   b) Lead User Training sessions
   c) Trainer guided events (Data Validation, Post Go Live Activities (PGLA)
   d) Virtual OTS support (30 days)
   e) Help Desk Support

The target implementation for this strategy is Fielding Group 21. This revised training delivery strategy is intended to complete the remainder of Wave 2 fielding requirements within a significantly constrained resource environment.
Overview
The Systems Engineering Division provides direct engineering support to the GCSS-Army program. This support includes systems engineering/ integration, cybersecurity engineering and Information Assurance (IA), and technical fielding. The SE Division assists the program through all of the development lifecycle phases (plan, design, development, test, field and sustain) of the GCSS-Army system implementation. The SE Division is a Government-matrixed team comprised mainly of personnel from the US Army Information Systems Engineering Command’s Fort Lee Engineering Office (USAISEC FLEO) with support from two PMO-contracted SAP consultants. The SE Division is also responsible for overseeing the GCSS-Army system integrator’s Systems Engineering and Technology Teams’ work efforts and product deliverables. The SE Division is organized into three subordinate branches to provide the support necessary to facilitate efficient system development, security compliance, and improve system performance. Here are the main functions within each Branch:

Systems Integration Branch
The Systems Integration Branch Engineering Division oversees the operations management of the GCSS-Army Development, Test, and Production computing environments at the Redstone Arsenal data center. This supervision involves over 200 servers and systems. The Systems Integration Branch also oversees the landscape management and operations at the system’s COOP site. Responsibilities at the data centers include hardware refresh, hardware and software upgrades, and managing system operations and staffing. This branch also manages the system integrator’s work efforts on the GCSS-Army specific client-side software requirements and implementation. The Systems Integration branch is the GCSS-Army lead for the planning, design, and execution of migrating all of the GCSS-Army system landscapes from their current data centers over to Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) data centers. This migration is currently scheduled to be completed by September 2018. The team works closely with DISA, Program Executive Office for Enterprise Information Systems (PEO EIS), and the other Army Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) programs on this effort. The Systems Integration branch also assists the program’s Technology Division in supporting system and software release testing and provides resources to lead the program’s Risk Management and Configuration Management activities.

Cybersecurity Branch
The Cybersecurity Branch is responsible for maintaining the system security posture and compliance with DoD and Army cybersecurity requirements. This branch oversees the system integrator’s security work efforts and is responsible for the implementation of the DoD’s Risk Management Framework (RMF). The team develops and maintains the cybersecurity documentation supporting the certification and accreditation efforts (to maintain the system’s Authority to Operate (ATO) and a subsequent Certificate of Networthiness (CoN)). Note: work is in-progress on the migration from the Defense Information Assurance Certification and Accreditation Process (DIACAP) process to the new DoD RMF.

Fielding SE Support Branch
The Fielding SE Support Branch supports the GCSS-Army fielding efforts (currently fielding Wave 2) by providing systems engineering (SE) support for each GCSS-Army fielding team (one systems engineer per team). This branch serves as the fielding SE lead for coordinating the SE support schedule, travel, and on-site activities for the fielding SEs. Major activities include site surveys, documenting system connectivity, ensuring end-user workstations can connect to the GCSS-Army system, installation and set up of wireless network devices, and assisting in training classroom set up. In FY15, GCSS-Army fielded to 150+ units and organizations, with the Fielding SE Support Branch (in-house and supporting US Army Information Systems Engineering Command (ISEC) engineers) assisting at all locations. The team is responsible for the final testing of client-side software to ensure that the GCSS-Army specific software loads and operates on the latest Army Gold Master (AGM) baseline. In addition, the support branch ensures that the software performs as the system integrator has configured it. This branch is the technical “face” to the end-user community for the GCSS-Army program.

Focus on the Product Baseline
The Systems Engineering Division and its three branches’ responsibilities focus on the design, technology, implementation, deployment, and performance of the GCSS-Army product baseline. The SE Division touches many aspects of the program, including Risk and Configuration Management. The division is involved in every phase of the program’s development lifecycle to ensure that the system meets its technical requirements, maintains an up-to-date hardware and software baseline, and remains in compliance with current DoD and Army cybersecurity requirements.

The SE Division continues to support the high visibility system auditability efforts, preparing GCSS-Army for a continuous series of mandated audits that will occur through FY17. The SE Division also serves as the lead and administrator for the GCSS-Army Host Based Security System (HBSS) implementation for all of the GCSS-Army system landscapes and the implementation of the ArcSight system monitoring tool.
GCSS-Army
GLOBAL COMBAT SUPPORT SYSTEM - ARMY

WAVE 2 IS HERE!
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- UNIT SUPPLY MANAGEMENT
- MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT

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TAKE WEB-BASED TRAINING
PROVIDE COMMAND EMPHASIS
PLAN EARLY FOR DATA CLEANSING

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