



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
1700 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1700

AUG 12 2010

OPERATIONAL TEST  
AND EVALUATION

MEMORANDUM FOR UNDERSECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ACQUISITION,  
TECHNOLOGY AND LOGISTICS

SUBJECT: Air Force Distributed Common Ground System (AF DCGS)

The Air Force Distributed Common Ground System (AF DCGS) is utilized to control airborne intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) collection systems such as RQ-4 Global Hawk, MQ-9 Reaper and the U-2, and to fuse and disseminate the ISR data from these and other ISR platforms for use by air and ground forces. Current Block 10.1 AF DCGS systems provide vital intelligence support in Afghanistan to support ongoing operations.

Although the Air Force considers AF DCGS to be in sustainment, the Air Force is pursuing significant upgrades to increase system capability and enable data sharing with other modern command and control systems. The Block 10.2 upgrade to AF DCGS is intended to implement a web-based, service oriented architecture, allow intelligence analysts in multiple ground stations to work collaboratively, significantly improve information flow, and allow efficient data sharing with joint, coalition and intelligence agency analysts. Net-enabled AF DCGS 10.2 intelligence data processing capabilities are key to the effective operational employment of current and future DoD and intelligence community ISR assets.

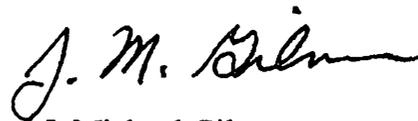
I have reviewed results from AF DCGS 10.2 operational testing. Poor system technical performance precluded completion of the Phase 1 operational test in February 2010. Major system shortfalls included system instability, slow system response times, and an inability to simultaneously receive and exploit full motion video, Global Hawk imagery, and U-2 imagery. Following a corrective action period, operational testing resumed in late March 2010. Continued poor system technical performance led the Air Force 605<sup>th</sup> Test and Evaluation Squadron to determine that AF DCGS 10.2 was not operationally effective and not operationally suitable. The Air Force plans to incorporate some of the few successful AF DCGS 10.2 capabilities into the existing 10.1 system. However, this approach will not provide a joint, net-enabled capability for controlling ISR platforms and sharing the data they collect.

The AF DCGS system is currently on the OSD Test and Evaluation Oversight List for operational test only. Based on the importance of this system to DoD ISR operations, I recommend that USD AT&L consider providing acquisition oversight on AF DCGS as a Special Interest program. This would enable our organizations to provide coherent



oversight for the DCGS family of systems that include two similar programs that are ACAT IAM and on the Major Automated Information System list; DCGS-Navy and DCGS-Army.

My point of contact for AF DCGS is Mr. Patrick Sul. He can be reached at (703) 681-5618, or email, [patrick.sul@osd.mil](mailto:patrick.sul@osd.mil).



J. Michael Gilmore  
Director

cc:  
DDR&E  
DDT&E