

Defense Medical Logistics Standard Support Automated Information System (DMLSS AIS)

The Defense Medical Logistics Standard Support (DMLSS) program defines and implements a more efficient medical logistics capability for military treatment facilities (MTFs) and deployed field units by radically changing the business processes. The DMLSS Automated Information System (DMLSS AIS) automates the processes. The system integrates the medical logistics systems of the Services and reduces MTF inventories of medical and pharmaceutical items. It supports four major functional areas: materiel management, facility management, equipment and technology, and wholesale operations. DMLSS Release 3 is currently replacing all remaining legacy systems operated by the individual Services except for one Army system, the Theater Army Medical Management Information System.

The Operational Requirements Document was revalidated by the Joint Requirements Oversight Council in August 2001 and the Test and Evaluation Master Plan (TEMP) was updated during 2002. Since the system was first deployed to test sites in 1995, the Navy Operational Test and Evaluation Force (OPTEVFOR), the independent Operational Test Agency, has performed Operational Test and Evaluation (OT&E) on three major releases and some incremental system enhancements. DMLSS AIS Release 2 was fielded worldwide to approximately 110 MTFs. Release 3 is currently being fielded to Navy and Air Force MTFs. No further major releases are planned.

TEST & EVALUATION ACTIVITY

- During 2001, DMLSS AIS Release 3 was installed at three operational test beta sites: Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, Virginia; David Grant Medical Center, Travis Air Force Base, California; and Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. These sites comprise large MTFs that collectively exploit all of the Release 3 capabilities.
- OPTEVFOR conducted Operational Test in the normal operational environment at the three sites January 7-25, 2002. The general concept was to: observe users performing typical actions in an operational environment; distribute user questionnaires and conduct user interviews; and review relevant reports, logs, and other documentation.
- In June 2002, OPTEVFOR performed a limited Verification of Correction of Deficiencies (VCD) at the Navy and Air Force sites.

TEST & EVALUATION ASSESSMENT

As a result of the January 2002 OT&E, DOT&E assessed DMLSS AIS Release 3 as operationally ineffective for the Army and operationally unsuitable for all of the Services. The release was not operationally effective for the Army primarily because critical interfaces with financial systems did not work, significantly hampering fiscal accountability. Because of these failures, DMLSS AIS Release 3 could not yet replace the Army legacy system, the Theater Army Medical Management Information System. The Navy and the Air Force, with different financial interfaces, legacy systems, and procedures, did not have these operational effectiveness problems.



Defense Medical Logistics Standard Support Automated Information System integrates the medical logistics systems of the Services. It automates radically changed business processes that provide better support for military treatment facilities and deployed medical units.

DOD PROGRAMS

In addition to the Army's financial interoperability deficiencies, there were two rather less critical interoperability deficiencies that affected the other two Services and caused DOT&E to judge the release as operationally unsuitable. There were deficiencies in logistic supportability, training, and documentation. Some of the software had not fully stabilized, configuration management exhibited weaknesses, on-line help features were inadequate, and user manuals were not available or planned. In May 2002, the Program Manager (PM) stated that he had corrected the suitability deficiencies and invited immediate verification of his corrective actions.

In June 2002, OPTEVFOR performed a limited VCD. Since resolution of all the Army problems was expected to take considerably longer, this retest was limited to the Navy and Air Force sites. OPTEVFOR determined that there was still one suitability anomaly: an automated Materiel Management Quality Control (MMQC) feature, designed to input quality control warnings and messages into DMLSS AIS, did not always provide the required information. Although the interface itself was fully operational, the outside Army activity responsible for formatting and posting MMQC data was not always performing this task thoroughly and accurately.

The OT&E and VCD for DMLSS AIS Release 3 were adequately planned and executed. The test was conducted as outlined in the approved TEMP and operational test plan. The system is not operationally effective or suitable for the Army, but is operationally effective and suitable for the other two Services as long as the automated MMQC feature is not used.

The PM asked the Army to intensify its efforts to properly format and post the MMQC data so that the messages can be imported into DMLSS AIS for joint use. OPTEVFOR will continue its VCD to verify this. In the meantime, the Navy and Air Force determined that their immediate critical needs for DMLSS AIS Release 3 warranted fielding to their sites before the MMQC process was verified, and this was done with no significant operational or safety impact. DOT&E agreed that these two Services could field the system and simply continue to use manual MMQC procedures until OPTEVFOR verifies that the automated MMQC feature is working correctly.

In November 2002, the PM stated that the remaining Army deficiencies were corrected. DOT&E will work with OPTEVFOR and the Joint Interoperability Test Command to plan for the Army VCD and will continue to provide oversight of DMLSS AIS for any follow-on OT&E of required interfaces or other future DMLSS AIS enhancements. OPTEVFOR plans to complete the final VCD for the Army in January 2003.