

Warfighter Information Network-Tactical (WIN-T)

The Warfighter Information Network–Tactical (WIN-T) is the Army’s tactical Intranet from theater and the sustain ing base down to the maneuver battalions. WIN-T, which is the Army’s communications network of the future, will replace Tri-Service Tactical Communications and Mobile Subscriber Equipment. WIN-T will ensure the warfighter vertical and horizontal integration through a seamless network. WIN-T supports mobile battle command by integrating capabilities into maneuver platforms that support dispersed operations over increased distances.

WIN-T integrates terrestrial, airborne, and satellite-based transport capabilities into a network infrastructure to provide connectivity across the extended battlespace. Major WIN-T elements are network infrastructure, network management, information assurance, and user interfaces that provide voice, data, and video services to the warfighters. WIN-T supports multiple security levels from unclassified to top secret/special compartmented intelligence. It operates in the tactical environment and is mobile, secure, and survivable.

Key components of the ground layer are the Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS) Cluster 1 radio, the personal communications device, and the secure wireless local area network. The airborne layer will consist of opportunistic commercial or military aircraft and unmanned aerial vehicles or tethered air vehicles with the WIN-T Airborne Communications Node to provide beyond line-of-sight communications. The space layer will include commercial and military satellites such as the Wideband Gapfiller or Advanced Extremely High Frequency satellites to provide reach-back to the Global Information Grid.

The program had dual contractors begin development of the system architecture in 4QFY02. Each contractor team will demonstrate its design in a separate early user test and experimentation event in 3QFY05. A single contractor team will be selected in 1QFY06 to enter a three year low-rate production phase followed by the IOT&E in 1QFY09. The full-rate production decision is scheduled for 3QFY09.

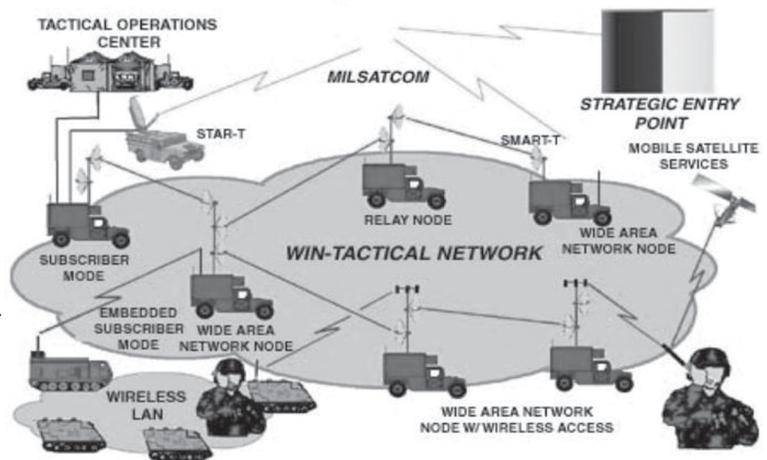
TEST & EVALUATION ACTIVITY

Test activities focused on development of a viable test strategy and coordination of the Test and Evaluation Master Plan, which was signed on July 23, 2003.

TEST & EVALUATION ASSESSMENT

Testers were involved early with the WIN-T program. Participation in test and evaluation working group meetings since the program’s inception has helped define critical operational issues and criteria that are operationally meaningful and measurable for assessing WIN-T’s contribution to operations. This early cooperation improved the quality of both the system development and test program, and provides meaningful assessments for future decisions.

WIN-T is closely connected to both the JTRS Cluster 1 program and the Future Combat Systems program; each depending on the other. The test strategy meets the requirements of the WIN-T program by having the WIN-T testing follow the development and testing of JTRS (a component of WIN-T). The Future Combat Systems IOT&E schedule follows both the WIN-T and JTRS IOT&Es.



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