

# Global Combat Support System – Army (GCSS-Army) World Wide Program Update 22 April 2015

## MEETING ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

<b>Date</b>	22 April 2015
<b>Time</b>	0900-1100
<b>Co-Hosts</b>	Deputy Chief of Staff, G-4 (DCS, G-4) and the Director for Army Budget, Assistant Secretary of the Army, Financial Management and Comptroller (ASA (FM&C)).
<b>Scribe</b>	Ms. Tillman/Mr. Larrabee/Mr. Brewer, G-46
<b>Organization Briefed</b>	Program Manager (PM) Global Combat Support System-Army (GCSS-Army), HQDA G-4, National Guard Bureau, USARC, ASA FM&C, Combined Arms Support Command (CASCOM), and 11 <sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR), 8 TSC
<b>Purpose</b>	The purpose of the session is to provide logisticians and resource managers a status and road ahead on the GCSS-Army program.

## OVERVIEW:

To access recording, first please log onto DCO at <https://connectcol.dco.dod.mil> then click the following link to access recording: <https://connect.dco.dod.mil/p5ci0bd9mej/>

Briefing charts can be downloaded from: <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/files/44547786>

## Topics Discussed

**Opening Comments:** LTG Perna, DCS, G-4 (0:05:05)

- GCSS-Army Update
  - ✓ GCSS-Army Program Update - LTC Romero, PM GCSS-Army (0:05:05)
  - ✓ Deployment Update - Mr. Whittington, GCSS-Army (0:05:10)
  - ✓ Supply/Property Book Changes for Units Converting to GCSS-Army – CW5 Wahl/CW5 Blake/CW5 Consiglio (0:25:10)
  - ✓ USARC FG 3 and 4- Mr. Sorbo, USARC (0:38:55)
  - ✓ National Guard Bureau Update - Mr. Epps, NGB (0:45:30)
  - ✓ Future Releases and Continuous Evaluation Update – Mr. Barisano, GCSS-Army (0:57:50)
- FY 2015 Year End Preparation - Mr. Simard, ASAFM&C (1:07:05)
- CASCOM Update
  - ✓ USAREUR Preparation for Wave 2 - Mr. Black (1:12:55)
  - ✓ 8 TSC (USARPAC) Battle Rhythm and Lessons Learned -COL Shirley, 8 TSC (1:19:50)
  - ✓ JTRC Update - CW3 Harris, CASCOM (1:27:05)
  - ✓ NTC Lessons Learned - COL Reudi, (1:35:20)
- Around the Horn/Comments - Mr. Dougherty, G-46 (1:41:30)
- Closing Remarks - LTG Perna, DCS, G-4 (End)

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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In partnership with ASA(FM&C), G-4 co-chaired the GCSS-Army WW Program Update. GCSS-Army Wave 1 fielding is 68% complete. The program update has been reengineered to be more forward-looking and focusing on what needs to be done to reduce stress on units during blackout periods and fielding effectiveness and efficiency challenges. A major goal of the GCSS-Army WW Program update is to identify challenges, issues and gaps while remediating and improving the sharing of unit fielding experiences & lessons learned across the Total Force. The USAREUR and USARPAC presented their respective campaign approaches to the challenging fielding complexities and clearly demonstrated that leader involvement does make a difference. USARC, NGB, CASCOM, USAREUR, USARPAC, JRTC and NTC all agreed and provided updates. All encouraged cross exchange of lessons learned, and voiced strong field support to maintain and sustain command momentum during fielding and implementation processes. Fielding of Wave 2, fielding group (FG) 2 is reported complete, with the next Wave 2 FG scheduled to go into blackout during May. The DCS G-4 intends to personally conduct a Wave 2 fielding After Action Review (AAR) with FORSCOM G4 and 82nd Airborne Division. Future updates plan to pull in larger numbers of units scheduled for future fielding's in order to enhance GCSS-Army synchronized communications. The GCSS-Army WW Program Update has been highly successful in its design to inspire and energize the cross exchange campaign plans and lessons learned actions that will benefit units undergoing fielding and operational status transition.

### Detailed Meeting Discussion, Topic Talking Points:

1. LTG Perna, G-4 and MG Horlander, Director, Army Budget, ASA(FM&C) co-chaired the GCSS-Army WW Program update. Senior staff leaders, logisticians and resource managers participated. A total of 22 sites joined via the global video teleconference and another 173 joined via DCO. LTG Perna thanked everyone for participating. He appreciated the field participation in the event. He said GCSS-Army is the most important thing we are doing logistically in the Army. GCSS-Army will be a game changer once fully implemented. The benefits will truly be seen once on the ground. Soldiers have to be well trained and leaders need to understand the system. Leaders need to be fully engaged to make this happen. If something is not right need to let it be known so it can be fixed.

2. LTC Romero provided highlights of where they are with the program. Wave 1 is 68% fielded. They are in blackout with Fielding Group (FG) 27. They fully expect to go live during this week which will take them to 71%. They rolled out with limited fielding for Wave 2. They completed FG2. FG3 is on track for blackout on 21 May. He explained what blackout means. Blackout means maintenance and property book are off-line and unable to do automated transactions, but the Wave 1 warehouse and finance piece will remain operational. They had a major release of 14.1. He talked about sustainment training and the importance of shortening the blackout downtime where feasible. The message to the field on training was to start early and start now. They will continue to share feedback and lessons learned from the field. All action items for this briefing are identified in enclosure 1.

a. Mr. Whittington, GCSS-Army, provided deployment update. FG2 is live and on track and they working FG3. They conducted internal FG2 AAR on 1 April. A unit level AAR will be conducted in May. The data conversion, validation issues were discussed. Going forward to unique sites a mock data runs will be conducted to eliminate problems. G-4 asked that future sessions discuss how to fix the blackout time period. Mr. Moore, CASCOM, said blackout is a challenge and his team is working the blackout issues. All action items for this briefing are identified in enclosure 1.

b. CW5 Blake, G-44S, provided update on the serialization policy supply changes. Currently Army's ERP serialization affects all elements of GCSS-Army. Serialization is a process and step approach based on characteristics and business logic because they can't field the hold at the same time. An adhoc Review Team was stood up to review policy. CW5 Consiglio, G-44S, briefed the property book portion of serialization. He stated serialization data will follow if process is not acknowledged. BOMs will be updated only through the authoritative data source.

c. Mr. Sorbo, USARC, provided an update on the Army Reserve (AR) Wave 2 FG2 and FG3. He provided the ups and downs for the 94th Training Division. One year scheduled battle rhythm seems about right. They have too much downtime during validation - agree blackout period can be shortened. The AR units not meeting suspense for templates. D-120 site visits (access administrator training, classroom survey, MOA completion, template review, SLOCs assigned) critical to fielding process for all AR units.

d. COL Walton, NGB, open with comments that the fielding is going well. Senior leaders are on board. They will capture lessons learn. Mr. Epps briefed their unique challenges and lessons learned for FG2 and concerns for FG3. Of particular note is the challenge of the dual persona issues. The NCARNG (FG3) is the first units to be impacted by dual persona roles. The NHARNG (FG4) will be the first state to fully fielded GCSS-Army Wave 2. Mr. Swan, OBT, said this is an excellent example of the dynamic structure challenges we are facing across the Total Force.

e. Mr. Barisano, GCSS-Army, provided an update future releases and continuous evaluation. Release 14.1 was released on 18 April 2015 and focused on 4 main areas (Enhanced, Asset Visibility, Maintenance and AIT). Release 14.2 will be released on 18 July 2015 and will focus on three main areas (BI/BW, Ammunition Property Book and Maintenance).

3. Mr. Simard, ASA(FMC), provided update on FY 2015 Year End preparation. They are working on process improvements for Year End Close from the lessons learned from last year. They will have a consolidated Mock Year End with GFEBS, GCSS-Army and DFAS in Kingstowne from 27 August-30 September 2015. Working Federated process improvement. Cancelling year process between the ERPs have been established. They are working with units on Unmatched Transactions handling. These processes between the ERPs will be tested in the Mock Year End. They are looking at ways to mitigate transaction problems early-on. Units can continuously monitor finance activities, order early and front load ZPARK with a "Wish list" to preposition orders prior to blackout.

#### 4. CASCOM Updates:

a. Mr. Black, USAREUR, briefed their campaign strategy for fielding Wave 2. He covered their lessons learned from Wave 1. During Wave 1 they did back-to-back fielding's, they chose not to do the same for Wave 2. Key preparations are communication, reaching out to other organizations and focus on early sustainment training. They developed a snapshot for leaders to show where they are on their schedule. This allows them to make an analysis to leaders on training in case they need switch units out.

b. COL Shirley, USARPAC, provided 8 TSC's battle rhythm and lessons learn in preparation for Wave 2.

c. CW3 Harris provided status update on JRTC. Key point was GCSS-Army can operate in a mixed mode environment (Wave1 and 2, SARSS-1 and SAMS-E). The 1/82 IBCT conducted pre-combat checks before coming to JRTC. They synchronized ZPARK and release strategy for non-duty hours.

d. COL Reudi, 916th SB, provide NTC update. They are on the 5th GCSS-Army Wave 1 rotation. All rotations have been successful thus far. Areas for improvement needed were (1) establish appropriate management permissions at BCT S4/SPO level to cancel requisitions (2) VSATs arriving NMC need to be pre-checked. The PDSS brief will include pre-checks on VSATs, and (3) the RTU need to better understand to use the HDT option early and often.

5. Mr. Dougherty, G-46, conducted closing comments from the outlined organization. Mr. Moore said the team work has been great. COL Johnson, FORSCOM, will continue to share lessons learn. Raulerson, G-46, said expect to see a more forward looking GCSS-Army WW with distant fieldings, starting with FG9 and lessons learned. Ms. Miller, ADCS, G-4(S) commented that anyone writing down a plan to do a ERP implementation would not initially field to a brand new unit: however, (1) 1/82 IBCT signed up for it; (2) to date they are successfully maneuvering through it; and, (3) they are capturing lessons learn in a mixed environment. The 1/82 IBCT is doing a remarkable job on this difficult task and she offered her personal thanks to their team for taking this task on.

6. LTG Perna provided closing remarks. He thanked everyone for attending and appreciated the campaign approach during these sessions. This is a team effort and it's going to take a we solution. He wants key points from the USARC, NGB, USARPAC, USAREUR, JRTC and NTC briefs in this week's update. The Warrant Officers are the key to success and got to make sure they are in the process. All action items for this briefing are identified in enclosure 1.

8. Point of contact is Sylvette Tillman, (703) 614-4044, sylvette.a.tillman.civ@mail.mil.

## Enclosure 1: Taskers

#	Topic Briefing	Action	Action Office/ Lead	POC	Suspense
201504-01	Program Update (Chart 8)	Provide G-4 an interim update on webpage clean-up.	PM GCSS-Army	LTC Romero	6 May 15
201504-02	Program Update (Chart 8)	Post all fielding dates to webpage so they are easy to find.	PM GCSS-Army	LTC Romero	6 May 15
201504-03	Program Update (Chart 8)	Establish mythology to prioritize customer feedback and lessons learned given the anticipated increase in customers' to be fielded.	PM GCSS-Army	LTC Romero	30 May 15
201504-04	Program Update (Chart 8)	Schedule AAR with 1/82 IBCT (NTC RTU 15-06)	G-46	Mr. Dougherty	30 May 15
201504-05	Program Update (Chart 8)	Provide G-4 a roadmap of all GCSS-Army – related institutional education/training in TRADOC (e.g., BNCOC/ANCOC)	CASCOM	Mr. Thurston	6 May 15
201504-06	Deployment Update (Chart 10)	Add the Fielding Schedule chart in backup charts for future GCSS-Army WW Updates/BPCs.	PM GCSS-Army	Mr. Whittington	Ongoing: Future updates
201504-07	Deployment Update (Chart 12)	Provide G-4 an update on how/ways to reduce the conversion blackout period	PM GCSS-Army	Mr. Whittington	30 May 15
201504-08	Future Releases & Continuous Evaluation (Chart 22)	Provide G-4 deep dive on Mobile Defense Solutions (MDS)	PM GCSS-Army	LTC Romero	6 May 15
201504-09	USARPAC 8 TSC Lessons Learned (Chart 40)	Schedule meeting with ADCS, G-4(S) and ASA(FMC) to discuss ZPARK; provide update to the field.	G-46	Mr. Hinman	16 May 15
201504-10	NTC Lessons Learned (Chart 45)	Put the word out to units to get their VSATs ready for Training Center deployment (NTC/JRTC, etc).	CASCOM	Mr. Thurston	16 May 15

## Enclosure 2: DCO Question and Answers

Attendee Asking	Question	Answer	Organization that Answered
Joseph Sarama	How are we affiliating UII data for serialized equipment	We capture UII data at the same time as we create the serialized Equipment record in GCSS-Army (conversion or found on post) or at the Enterprise level (for new or depot repair / refurbishment). The UII, if not captured already at the national level, must be scanned (not human readable) from the 2D barcode mark on the equipment or shipping documents.	Billy McCain, PdM, GCSS-Army
Douglas Thomas	Regarding the LCMCs updating the component hand receipt, has this been discussed and vetted with the LCMCs? This will add to the workload and involves using a new system (GCSS-Army, at least until there is an interface) as most folks use LMP.	This has been incorporated into AR 700-127 and socialized with the AMC (LCMC). LCMC's will continue to use the LMP program, LPDS is the throughput of data to GCSS-Army.	CW5 Consiglio, HQDA G-44
Joe Pearson	What is the plan for fielding to PEOs/PMs? And which Wave (timeframe) this will happen.	At this moment no, though the program is in the process of identifying UIC's not previously captured for training.	Billy McCain, PdM, GCSS-Army
Clifton King	Within GCSS-A (Property) will there be a code build in for TRADOC Training Aids (vehicles that's used for training but are Reportable by MMDF)? When doing the PBUSE/SAMS-E scrub upload they come back as errors on property/maintenance match.	CASCOM is working a solution to be able to identify/categorize equipment as Training Aids IAW AR700-138	Billy McCain, PdM, GCSS-Army
3d ESC, Log Automation	Are the systems running on CSS VSAT/CAISI	Yes	Billy McCain, PdM, GCSS-Army

3d ESC, Log Automation	Is there a deep dive critical task list for Deployments posted on the GCSS-A website?	If you are asking, is there a conversion check list, yes, it is on the website ( <a href="https://gcss.army.mil">https://gcss.army.mil</a> ) under the fielding center tab, along the left hand side	Billy McCain, PdM, GCSS-Army
Joseph Sarama	Is there a work around for uploading and downloading multiple SN's for initial issue of equipment?	Relative to a work around for uploading and downloading multiple SN's for initial issue of equipment. GCSS-Army and LMP have been working on an automated Total Package Fielding business process for initial fielding, including serialization data. This is dependent upon new DLMS messages that are being processed currently with an estimated June timing. LMP will push these transactions to GCSS-Army including a materials requirements (SSA and Shop Stock) list and property book Equipment. The development and testing work is anticipated to begin this Summer. As far as a workaround are concerned, all items should be receivable via AIT in all 3 areas.	Billy McCain, PdM, GCSS-Army
Cassandra Custis	Would like to know if a unit has derivative uic's would there be a problem with the transition from PBUSE to GCSS Army with the equipment that was under these UIC's?	If the UIC is active/valid in DRRS-A then there is no problem. If the UIC is not active/valid then the property will roll up to the next AA UIC in the hierarchy.	Billy McCain, PdM, GCSS-Army