

Army Acquisition Reform Newsletter



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The Joint Tactical Ground Station (JTAGS) Program An Acquisition Reform Success Story

JTAGS evolved from a series of increasingly complex and highly successful technology demonstrations to a full tactically supported battlefield-ready system within a short timeframe. Although not officially identified as a Fast Track Procurement, the acquisition strategy devised put the tactical system in the hands of troops 4.5 years after inception. The JTAGS Product Office accomplished this rapid development and fielding by the successful implementation of a wide variety of acquisition reform initiatives and practices. Approximately \$85.9M in program costs was avoided through the implementation of acquisition reform measures. These measures included:

- 1) Implementation of a streamlined spiral acquisition strategy that was built on successively complex technology development and demonstration phases each involving testing, user evaluation, and OCONUS contingency support.
- 2) Extensive use of Non-Developmental Item (NDI) / Commercial Off-The-Shelf (COTS) hardware and legacy software.
- 3) Elimination of military specifications and exclusive use of performance standards and specifications.
- 4) Innovative contracting strategies included: an Engineering Manufacturing Development (EMD) contract that used past performance and demonstrated capability as significant factors in source selection, a fixed price Production Option with incentives, Engineering Support Options, Contractor Logistics Support (CLS) Options, and an option for two Navy units.
- 5) Joint service cooperation with the US Navy.

JTAGS pioneered many of the principles now documented in the new DoD 5000 Directives and Army 70-1 Regulation for transitioning from concept exploration to increasingly complex technology demonstrations