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Linux system picked for ICS subcontract: GDC4 SYSTEMS CONTRACT FOR FCS BATTLE  
COMMAND BOOSTED BY \$75 MILLION

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development and procurement process.

To implement that recommendation, combatant commanders require a role in setting the military's requirements and budget.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, sources say, has used the integrated priority lists and regular combatant commander conferences in Washington to give combatant commanders a higher profile in setting budget priorities. -- *Jason Sherman*

## **Linux system picked for ICS subcontract**

### **GDC4 SYSTEMS CONTRACT FOR FCS BATTLE COMMAND BOOSTED BY \$75 MILLION**

Boeing and Science Applications International Corp. last week added \$75 million to the value of a contract with General Dynamics C4 Systems for command and control systems integration work on the Future Combat System, according to a GD release.

The work will include delivery of the FCS battle command software package, General Dynamics announced April 21.

Currently, the Army Battle Command System is made up of 11 subsystems including Force XXI Battle Command, Brigade and Below, which provides situational awareness; the Battle Command Sustainment Support System, which automates combat service support information; and the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System, which helps coordinate and control fire support.

The FCS battle command package will overhaul that system, redesigning it from the bottom up with a more horizontal approach, a program official told *Inside the Army* in 2004. The Army is planning to roll out the FCS battle command in increments for each of the spirals of that program beginning in fiscal year 2008 and following in FY-10, FY-12 and FY-14.

From GD's perspective, battle command is a component of the Planing and Preparation Services program, a \$156 million effort to support soldiers' ability to communicate and collaborate on battle plans and distribute those plans to other platforms within an FCS unit of action, according to the statement.

In addition to battle command, another arm of General Dynamics, the Advanced Information Systems division, last week awarded a contract to LinuxWorks for the FCS Integrated Computer System.

A spokeswoman for GD AIS would not disclose the amount of the contract or explain why a Linux system was chosen beyond saying that it was the Army's requirement.

The Integrated Computer System is at the core of FCS's network environment. Its primary functions are to conduct processing, information assurance and data storage for the computer network. It is connected to 17 out of 18 of the FCS platforms -- one of the small unmanned aerial vehicles is not linked, the spokeswoman said.

According to a press release from LinuxWorks, the Linux-compatible, open-standards operating system was needed to meet the Army's need for "real-time information and safety-criticality." The software allows developers to easily move between FCS applications, according to the release. -- *Jen DiMascio*

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