

## **Distributed Common Ground System (DCGS)**

### **Proficiency Code: A**

The Air Force *Distributed Common Ground System (DCGS)*, also referred to as the AN/GSQ-272 SENTINEL weapon system, is the Air Force's primary intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) collection, processing, exploitation, analysis and dissemination (CPAD) system. The weapon system employs global communications architecture to connect to multiple intelligence platforms and sensors. Air Force *DCGS* currently produces intelligence information from data collected by a variety of sensors on the U-2, RQ-4 Global Hawk, MQ-1 Predator, MQ-9 Reaper, MC-12 and other ISR platforms.

#### Operational elements

The DOD *DCGS* spans many mission areas. The operational elements, the basic *DCGS* functions, are tasking, processing, exploitation, and dissemination (TPED). The traditional scope of TPED is larger than that used in the DOD *DCGS*. For example, some consider collection management to be a part of TPED. However, as defined for DOD *DCGS*, collection management is outside the scope of TPED.

#### Operational concept

The DOD *DCGS* enables the support of multiple simultaneous worldwide operations from in-garrison and through scalable, modular system deployments. Externally, the DOD *DCGS* will be interoperable with space borne, airborne, and surface Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) collection assets and intelligence producers; it will be able to access intelligence databases from these ISR resources to optimize ISR capabilities. The DOD *DCGS* will support Joint Task Force (JTF) level campaign planning, targeting, combat assessment, and combat execution.

The DOD *DCGS* will support the combatant/joint force commander (JFC) and below worldwide with critical intelligence for battle management across the spectrum of conflict. Service *DCGS* elements will be equipped for, and capable of, worldwide operations and may be tasked to support any specific combatant/JFC and below to achieve operational objectives. Service *DCGS* forward operating stations (FOS) tasking will be as directed by the supported commander. The Service *DCGS* FOS will accomplish their wartime and peacetime missions while fully deployed, partially deployed, or in-garrison.

To support today's joint and combined war fighter and accomplish tomorrow's JV2020 operational goal, the DOD *DCGS* must convert the voluminous amount of data received from space, air, and surface ISR platforms into useable products. Decision superiority is "... better decisions arrived at and implemented faster than an opponent can react, or in a combat situation, at a tempo that allows the force to shape the situation or react to changes to accomplish its mission."

The DOD *DCGS* provides service, joint, or combined force war fighters with timely intelligence information derived from national, commercial, DOD, and combined force ISR collection; or C4ISR nodes via a variety of point-to-point, broadcast, and Web-based communication networks. Each service *DCGS* FOS shall have the capability of interacting with multi-intelligence databases. The service *DCGS* FOS will be interoperable with a core set of platforms/sensors. This set of platforms/sensors is the “baseline.” Baseline platforms/sensors are those most likely to support the combatant/JFC.