Force XXI Battle Command Brigade-and-Below (FBCB2)

MISSION

To provide enhanced situational awareness to the lowest tactical level—the individual Soldier—and a seamless flow of command and control information across the battlefield.

DESCRIPTION

The Force XXI Battle Command Brigade-and-Below (FBCB2) forms the principal digital command and control system for the Army at brigade levels and below. It provides increased situational awareness on the battlefield by automatically disseminating throughout the network timely friendly force locations, reported enemy locations, and graphics to visualize the commander's intent and scheme of maneuver.

FBCB2 is a key component of the Army Battle Command System (ABCS). Applique hardware and software are integrated into the various platforms at brigade and below, as well as at appropriate division and corps slices necessary to support brigade operations. The system features the interconnection of platforms through two communication systems: FBCB2–Enhanced Position Location Reporting System (EPLRS), supported by the tactical Internet; and FBCB2–Blue Force Tracking, supported by L-band satellite. The Joint Capabilities Release (JCR) is the next software release and addresses joint requirements, database simplification, Type 1 encryption, a product line software approach and enables transition to the Blue Force Tracking II (BFT II) transceiver allowing a tenfold increase in data throughput.

SYSTEM INTERDEPENDENCIES

Enhanced Position Location Reporting System (EPLRS)

PROGRAM STATUS

- **2QFY08:** Completed 10,000th installation in theater of FBCB2 on Up-Armored High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (UAH). New production installations have been completed, although the Program Manager continues to assist theater units with support.
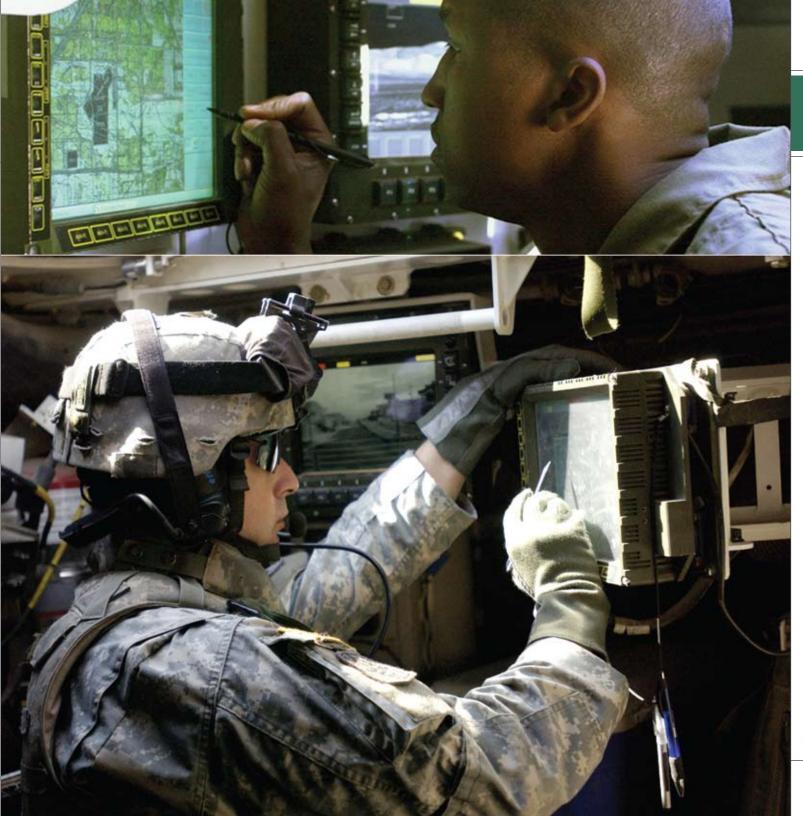- **4QFY08:** Completed 8,000th installation of FBCB2 on Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles, based on the Army's current requirement for 12,000 MRAP vehicles.
- **1–4QFY08:** Completed fielding of 1,942 FBCB2 systems to the Army National Guard (ARNG).
- **1QFY09:** Began system software acceptance testing (SSAT) for Joint Capabilities Release (JCR) software. JCR upgrades FBCB2 version 6.4.4.2 and 6.5 providing Type 1 encryption capability, simplified database builds, use by the Marine Corps for command and control, and transition to the new Blue Force Tracking II network (reduces latency from minutes to seconds).

PROJECTED ACTIVITIES

- **2QFY10:** Begin AIC testing of JCR Software.
- **1QFY10:** Conduct field test of JCR Software
- **4QFY10:** Conduct operational test of JCR Software

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FOREIGN MILITARY SALES
Australia

CONTRACTORS
Software/systems engineering:
Northrop Grumman Space & Mission Systems Corp. (Redondo Beach, CA)
Hardware:
DRS Technologies (Palm Bay, FL)
Installation kits:
Northrop Grumman Space & Mission Systems Corp. (Redondo Beach, CA)
Satellite services:
COMTECH (Germantown, MD)
Field support:
Engineering Solutions and Products, Inc. (Eatontown, NJ)