

# DISA COMSATCOM SCOOP

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**01.16.11 – 01.19.11**  
**Pacific Telecommunications Council (PTC) 2011: Connecting Life**  
 Honolulu, HI  
<http://www.ptc.org/ptc11/>

**01.25.11 – 01.27.11**  
**West 2011**  
 San Diego, CA  
<http://www.afcea.org/events/west/11/introduction.asp>

**01.25.11 – 01.28.11**  
**Iridium Conference**  
 New Orleans, LA  
<http://www.iridium.com/>

**02.01.18 – 02.03.11**  
**Commercial Satellite and Gateway Operations Working Group (CSGO)**  
 Tampa, FL

**02.08.18 – 02.10.11**  
**CABSAT - MENA**  
 Dubai, UAE  
<http://www.cabsat.com/>

**02.22.18 – 02.25.11**  
**Pacific Theater Wideband SATCOM and Teleport Working Group**  
 Honolulu, HI

**03.15.11 – 03.17.11**  
**Satellite 2011**  
 Washington, D.C.  
<http://www.satellitetoday.com/events/>

**04.11.11 – 04.14.11**  
**NSS - National Space Symposium**  
 Colorado Springs, CO  
<http://www.nationalspacesymposium.org/>

*DISA does not formally endorse any non-DISA events. These events are provided for information purposes only.*

## CENTER CHIEF'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the first issue of the COMSATCOM Scoop of the new fiscal year! Several organizational changes have taken place since the last issue and I would like to share them with you. The Satellite Communications Program Management Office (SATCOM PMO), formerly a part of the Program Executive Office – SATCOM, Teleport, & Services (PEO-STs), is now the Commercial Satellite Communications (COMSATCOM) Center with COL Michelle Nassar as Chief. The Center now falls under the Director of Network Services (NS), Ms. Cindy Moran. PEO-STs, still managed by Mr. Bruce Bennett, transitioned to PEO-Communications (COMMS) and also falls under NS.

The COMSATCOM Center still serves its same purpose – to provide commercial satellite services whenever and wherever needed to the Department of Defense and other government agencies. However, we have an addition to our team – the Enhanced Mobile Satellite Services (EMSS) Activity Division. The three key divisions that fall under the COMSATCOM Center are: Acquisition Division, Services Division, and EMSS Activity Division.

As the team is adjusting to new personnel and new chain of command, we anticipate more changes to come as we approach our Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) move date which is 3QFY2011. In April the COMSATCOM Center will move from the Skyline facility in Virginia to its new home at Fort Meade, Maryland. As we prepare for the move we will continue to provide the best service we can to ensure seamless COMSATCOM support to the Warfighter.

This is evidenced by the progress we have made in the additional Future COMSATCOM Services Acquisition (FCSA) Schedule 70 awards, the Military Sealift Command's (MSC) Next Generation Wideband (NGW) commercial satellite communications infrastructure and service award; and continued progress in refining the Broadband Global Area Network (BGAN) architecture way-ahead.

In this issue, you will read about the changes within the COMSATCOM Center and the continued efforts to provide great customer service. You will read an introductory article on the newly added EMSS Activity Division and the services they provide through the COMSATCOM Center, such as the Mobile Satellite Service (MSS) and the Distributed Tactical Communications System (DTCS). Additionally, we provide an update on the FCSA Transition with two commonly asked questions: "When will the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) release the first requirement on FCSA?" and "I have a requirement on DSTS-G now. How will transition work?" As always, we include our quick tips and in this issue, responses to user BGAN transport inquiries.

Please visit our website on the topics you read about. We would like to hear from you, so please provide us feedback on the newsletter so we can better serve you. We hope you enjoy this issue!

## FCSA TRANSITION UPDATE

We are still in the midst of transitioning the Defense Information Systems Network (DISN) Satellite Transmission Services—Global (DSTS-G) and Inmarsat requirements to the Future Commercial Satellite Communications Services Acquisition (FCSA) General Services Administration (GSA) vehicles. Here are some answers to commonly asked questions...

### When will Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) release the first requirement on FCSA?

- Transition efforts are progressing, though some of the new DISA provisioning procedures still need ironing out. That said, the first Schedule 70 requirement was released on GSA eBuy on 29 Nov 10. DISA still anticipates transitioning up to 50 task orders prior to mid-February of next year. Bottom-line: users' services

will not be jeopardized by these schedule impacts. Some task orders will have to be recompeted initially on DSTS-G Bridge contract; this is only an intermediate solution prior to those requirements transitioning to FCSA vehicles.

- The first of approximately 12 Requests for Quote (RFQ) to establish Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPAs) for Inmarsat Broadband Global Area Network (BGAN) services is targeted for January timeframe.

### I have a requirement on DSTS-G now. How will transition work?

- You will experience some changes to the provisioning process:
  - Customers will need to submit a Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request (MIPR) for requirement

funding, rather than entering requirements into DISA's Director Order Entry (DDOE) system and providing funding on a program designator code (PDC).

- In the short term, provisioning timelines may increase due to the expected number of vendors on the new FCSA vehicles. Over time, we expect the number of Task Order proposals to be similar to that today as vendors determine which task orders align with their core capabilities.
- Required provisioning documentation may change. Your customer account managers (CAMs) will be working with you to communicate these changes.

## COMSATCOM CENTER: NEW NAME, SAME GREAT SERVICE



The Satellite Communications Program Management Office (SATCOM PMO) has been reorganized into the newly titled Commercial Satellite Communications (COMSATCOM) Center under the direction of COL Michelle Nassar as Chief. The conversion is part of a high-level reorganization that has occurred at the directorate level within the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA). The former Satellite Communications, Teleport, and Services Program Executive Office (PEO-STS) has been converted to the Program Executive Office-Communications (COMMS), and the new COMSATCOM Center now falls directly

under DISA's Network Services (NS) Directorate vice PEO-COMMS).

The NS Directorate consolidates all Defense Information System Network (DISN) activities under a single senior manager. NS translates customers' long haul network requirements into effective voice, video and data network solutions; leverages proven and emerging technologies to ensure joint interoperability, assured security and best value; evaluates technical operations; and resolves technical support issues for DoD's long-haul networks.

## COMSATCOM CENTER continued from page 2

### The COMSATCOM Center's mission is:

To plan, resource, field, sustain, and evolve Global Information Grid (GIG) Combat Support of satellite transport media. Support the networks, computing services, applications, and information services that provide Information Superiority to the Commander in Chief, Combatant Commanders, Senior Leadership, Services, Agencies, and the Warfighter.

The COMSATCOM Center is composed of three divisions (see organization chart below):

- Acquisition Division, formerly the Acquisition Services Branch,
- Services Division, formerly the COMSATCOM Services Branch
- Enhanced Mobile Satellite Services (EMSS) Activity Division, formerly a

separate branch within NS and moved to the COMSATCOM Center (we highlight the EMSS Activity Division in a separate article in this issue)

Though the organization names have changed, the mission and services remain consistent and all points of contact information remain the same.

### COMSATCOM CENTER ORGANIZATION CHART



## COMSATCOM CENTER WELCOMES THE EMSS ACTIVITY DIVISION



The Commercial Satellite Communications (COMSATCOM) Center is pleased to have gained the Enhanced Mobile Satellite Services (EMSS) Activity Division, which transferred to the COMSATCOM Center in October 2010 as part of the DISA program realignment. EMSS is a satellite-based communication service that provides deployed Warfighters and Partnering

Agencies global communications through security and prioritization enhancements to commercial Mobile Satellite Service (MSS) infrastructures (Iridium Satellite Constellation). Services provided currently include global handheld voice, data (2.4kbps), paging, and Short Burst Data (SBD), and Distributed Tactical Communications System (DTCS). EMSS offers secure voice and non-secure data connectivity from lightweight mobile terminals. The EMSS Activity Division manages shipping and distribution of the terminals to end users world-wide and provides users with training.

EMSS allows subscribers to place voice calls over the Defense Switched Network

(DSN), the Federal Telecommunications System (FTS), and the Public Switched Telephone Networks (PSTN). Secure voice capability can be achieved by utilizing the Iridium Security Module (ISM) which is a National Security Agency (NSA) Type 1 encryption module which attaches to the back of the handset in an unobtrusive manner. Secure calls have the ability to be encrypted up to the Top Secret/Sensitive compartmentalized classification with the proper encryption loaded. Secure calls can be made and received from EMSS handsets and Secure Terminal Equipment. Top Secret encryption is requested through the EMSS Activity Division. EMSS also allows the prioritization of users and is able to

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## COMSATCOM CENTER WELCOMES THE EMSS ACTIVITY DIVISION

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allow and deny access to the service in the event of a national emergency.

Additionally, EMSS includes low rate data services, providing connectivity to the Non-classified Internet Protocol Router Network (NIPRNet) for exchange of sensitive but unclassified information. The Short Burst Data service is also offered as an alternative for higher frequency, small size data messages for uses including monitoring, tracking and system telemetry.

Finally, the EMSS Activity Division is leading the fielding, deployment and operational support for the DTCS, working in cooperation with Program Executive Office-Communications (PEO-COMMS). DTCS is a handheld, push-to-talk (PTT),

over-the-horizon (OTH)/beyond-line-of-sight (BLOS) multicast capability that leverages the Iridium constellation and has an effective range of approximately 100 miles. A DTCS handset operates much like a tactical radio. When an operator pushes the button, the operator is able to communicate simultaneously with all of the other users on their net. DTCS meets urgent Warfighter needs by providing satellite-based radio communication and location services to the Warfighter operating in adverse environments and highly rugged terrains. DTCS leverages the same satellite network which currently provides other EMSS services.

The EMSS Activity Division recently supported DTCS Day hosted by

PEO-COMMS on 02 December 2010. The purpose of DTCS Day was to provide the DISA Senior Leadership and management an overview and demonstration of the DTCS capabilities and functionality.

EMSS is unique in its ability to provide secure voice pole-to-pole (90 N/ (90S) while maintaining customer information and location anonymity. The Iridium network supporting the systems employs a constellation of 66 satellites in six evenly spaced, polar orbital planes, approximately 420 nautical miles (780 km or 485 miles) above the Earth's surface.

For questions about EMSS or DTCS, please contact the COMSATCOM Center or your Service Representative.



**For More Information, Please Visit: <http://www.disa.mil/satcom/sco/index.html>**