

## UPCOMING EVENT

**18-21 March 2013**  
**Satellite 2013**  
**Conference**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
<http://www.satellitetoday.com/satellite2013/conference.html>

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

## CHIEF'S MESSAGE



**H**appy New Year and welcome to the winter edition of the Commercial Satellite Communications (COMSATCOM) Scoop! The Defense Information System Agency's (DISA) COMSATCOM Center has much to celebrate during the first half of this new fiscal year, including the first award on the Custom SATCOM Solutions–Small Business (CS2–SB) contract vehicle. CS2 and CS2-SB are Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (ID/IQ) contracts that provide customer defined end-to-end solutions.

In this issue of the Scoop, we highlight

the COMSATCOM Center's efforts in support of Hurricane Sandy relief; explain details from the latest Mobile Satellite Services (MSS) Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA), which was completed on behalf of the Department of Defense (DoD) Agencies; explore components of the Satellite Database (SDB) number; explain actions necessary to order Distributed Tactical Communication System (DTCS) handsets through DISA Direct Order Entry (DDOE); and, provide tips for improving Performance Work Statements (PWS).

As always, if you would like to see any particular topics in an upcoming issue of the Scoop, please let us know! E-mail your suggestions to [disa.meade.ns.mbx.comsatcom-scoop@mail.mil](mailto:disa.meade.ns.mbx.comsatcom-scoop@mail.mil). We strive to deliver interesting and informative articles to you each quarter, and welcome any feedback.

I hope that 2013 has started out healthy and happy for you and your loved ones. We look forward to another year of achieving our mission to deliver operationally responsive, customer-focused, and cost-effective COMSATCOM services in support of the Warfighter and the DoD customer base worldwide.

— COL Michelle Nassar



## COMSATCOM SUPPORT for Hurricane Sandy Relief Efforts

**H**urricane Sandy, the largest Atlantic hurricane in gale diameter ever recorded, affected portions of the Caribbean, 24 of the United States, and parts of Eastern Canada in late October 2012. The states of New York and New Jersey, which were hit particularly hard, are still feeling the effects of this storm. The U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), Army Warfighter Information Network-Tactical (WIN-T), and the U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) called on the Commercial Satellite Communications (COMSATCOM) Center to help reorganize their satellite accesses.

Due to the severity of this storm, personnel at the Global SATCOM Support Center (GSSC) in Colorado Springs, Colo., and the Regional SATCOM Support Center (RSSC)-CONUS in Tampa, Fla., rearranged their work activities to focus all efforts on the direct mission needs affected by Hurricane Sandy. Because each of the three distinguished mission partners had active leased services already on contract through the COMSATCOM Center, the SSCs were able to redistribute terminals and, therefore, bandwidth over the Contiguous U.S. (CONUS) footprint affected by Sandy. USNORTHCOM, WIN-T, and the USMC each used their on-order Ku-band bandwidth and teleport

infrastructure to provide support to relief efforts. These efforts included providing emergency temporary power and water-pumping capability and the distribution of food and fuel.

Each of the three mission partners used their reorganized terminals in different manners. For USNORTHCOM, the GSSC reprioritized 20+ Satellite Access Requests (SAR). Upgrading these missions to the highest priority meant issuing new and revised Transmission Plans and new Satellite Access Authorizations (SAA) to move all outlined technical parameters and configurations that were leased to support their original mission to now support the Hurricane Sandy relief effort missions. USNORTHCOM then used these operational changes to support mission-critical communications of the National Guard Bureau Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC), U.S. Air Force Space Command, USNORTHCOM Domestic Operations and Joint Task Force-Civil Support, and U.S. Transportation Command. The changes in the USNORTHCOM's satellite services also allowed the Network Enterprise and Technology Command (NETCOM) Regional Hub Node at Fort Bragg, N.C., to connect to the DoD Teleport at Camp Roberts, Calif., which had the availability to support the missions requested to ensure mission success.

This operational change also provided Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) and Public Internet access to first responders.

For WIN-T, RSSC-CONUS processed approximately 15 SARs and SAAs to support units of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the N.J. Air National Guard (ANG); the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade of the N.Y. ANG; the 55th Heavy Brigade Combat Team of the Pa. ANG; the U.S. Army Sustainment Command of Rock Island, Ill.; the 10th Mountain Division of Ft. Drum, N.Y.; the 82nd Sustainment Brigade, N.C.; the 42nd Infantry Division of the N.Y. ANG; the 201st Battlefield Surveillance Brigade of McChord, Wash.; and other ANG units from Maryland and Delaware. These operational changes re-allocated bandwidth that was originally used for training exercises to be used to support Hurricane Sandy efforts under essential operational support.

Lastly, to support the U.S. Marine Corps, RSSC-East processed one SAR and SAA in support of the 6th Communications Battalion of Brooklyn, N.Y.

The COMSATCOM Center is proud to have been able to support Hurricane Sandy relief efforts and stands ready to support real world contingencies in support of the Joint Warfighter.

## VIZADA WINS Inmarsat Agency BGAN Contract

The Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) awarded a Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) for Inmarsat services to Vizada for the Department of Defense (DoD) and other federal agencies in the fall of 2012. The contract was awarded via the General Services Administration (GSA) Information Technology (IT) Schedule 70 Special Item Number (SIN) 132-55, the Commercial Satellite Communications (COMSATCOM) Subscription Services contract vehicle. This new contract will allow the current DoD and non-DoD Agency users to transition over 250 active Communications Service Accounts (CSAs) for Inmarsat Broadband Global Area Network (BGAN) services.

Inmarsat's BGAN commercial offering is an Internet Protocol (IP)-based mobile communications service that provides users with an integrated solution for voice, broadband data, and streaming video. It is offered at high-speed

data rates through the use of handheld or portable satellite terminals. This particular BPA will allow for consistency of Mobile Satellite Services (MSS) as well as the addition of a contractor-supplied online account management tool (i.e., dashboard-like tool) to aid in monitoring usage, training users, reporting, and resolving service issues.

The DoD and other federal agencies have stringent requirements for the immediate availability of Inmarsat BGAN services to support deployed forces. These services provide critical support to multiple DoD components and other federal agencies supporting a wide variety of missions in around the world.

Agency BPA orders will be placed using the DISA online ordering tool DISA Direct Order Entry (DDOE). To access these services via the newly awarded BPA, Agencies will select Inmarsat

Broadband Global Area Network (BGAN) type service, which is found under "Commercial Satellite Subscription Services." The Inmarsat service type accessed from the Telecommunications Request (TR) page can no longer be used as it directs requirement to the Inmarsat Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (D/IQ) contract that is reaching end of life. Links are available through the new ordering page for Inmarsat services to the Contract Line Item Numbers (CLIN) and price structure for each BPA.

For additional information, the Inmarsat customer ordering guide is available on the COMSATCOM Center's Web site at <http://www.disa.mil/Services/SATCOM/Comsatcom-Services/Mobile-Satellite>. You can also contact the COMSATCOM Center via e-mail at [disa.meade.ns.mbx.comsatcom-mss@mail.mil](mailto:disa.meade.ns.mbx.comsatcom-mss@mail.mil) or the MSS Help Desk by telephone at 301-225-2600.



## EXPLORING the SDB Number

**P**er the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction 6250.01D, Satellite Communications, all SATCOM user requirements for DoD-owned, allied, or commercial satellite service, shall be recorded in the Satellite Database (SDB). When beginning the commercial satellite communications (COMSATCOM) acquisition process, the COMSATCOM Center at the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) will assist you in completing an acquisition package. This document contains areas to plug in your SDB number. For those of you re-competing a requirement, you may already be familiar with this number. However, if you have a new requirement, you may be asking yourself several questions: What is an SDB number? Where do I get an SDB number? Can I still get service without one?

An SDB number, an entry in the Satellite Database system, is owned and validated by the Joint Staff through the Joint SATCOM Panel (JSP). The SDB entry represents information about your requirement, including specific networks that are needed to meet your operational missions, such as your area of operation, frequency spectrum, Joint Staff priority, and data rate. Any DoD user with current and future satellite communications needs—Ultra

High Frequency (UHF), Super High Frequency (SHF), Extremely High Frequency (EHF), commercial, multi-band, or undetermined should have a valid SDB number, which is requested through your Combatant Command (COCOM) or Agency where they are routed to the JSP for approval.



SATCOM requirements are logged into the SDB. The information in your SDB entry, including your networks and satellite needs, must be submitted on the Secure Internet Protocol Router Network (SIPRNet) and must be approved by the JSP. Annually, the JSP revalidates the entire SDB, including your SDB number, to analyze the DoD's ability to meet the SATCOM requirement contained in Warfighters' operations orders (OPORD) and plans (OPLAN). This assessment provides a foundation for future modeling and planning, budgeting decisions, and

acquisition program decisions. It also helps the DoD understand and document the use of the commercial satellite market capabilities by operational forces. The information gleaned from these reviews can help mold the future of COMSATCOM acquisition, which would in turn help determine the future of *your* COMSATCOM mission.

While the COMSATCOM Center helps you prepare your acquisition package, DISA's SATCOM Support Center (SSC) personnel will confirm that you have an SDB number. Although having an SDB number is not part of the acquisition process nor does it preclude commercial satellite access, per CJCSI 6250.01D, it will be required on the Satellite Access Request (SAR). The SAR is submitted after the acquisition process is completed and is used to generate the satellite access authorization (SAA) to access your newly acquired bandwidth. Because obtaining an SDB number takes time, the earlier you obtain it the easier it will be for you to gain DoD-authorized use of the assigned satellite post award.

You may reference the SDB Management Tool (SDB-MT) Users' Guide on SIPRNet or CJCSI 6250.01D for more details regarding the submission process for SDB requirements.

## DTCS Closed-Net Subscription Service

In 2009, the Distributed Tactical Communications System (DTCS) met an urgent operational need for tactical communications in austere environments. Since then many improvements, such as increasing the range of a net from 100 to 250 miles, have been made to this critical communications system. Now, the COMSATCOM Center's Enhanced Mobile Satellite Services (EMSS) Division offers the customer closed-net services for radios. This means that the user can quickly and cost-effectively increase their tactical communication capabilities through DISA Direct Order Entry (DDOE).

Many commands use multiple nets to allow for greater flexibility on existing DTCS radios. For instance, multiple

nets offer users the ability to be part of a small private network while still maintaining compatibility and accessibility with the larger overall command. Another popular reason for subscribing to additional nets is to have networks dedicated to different capabilities. A command could have one network dedicated to voice and another one dedicated to location tracking. The nets and radios offer customers communication services in a 250-mile range of the transmitting user. They eliminate the need:

- For frequency usage in foreign countries
- To de-conflict frequency
- For local infrastructure

To order this type of capability, the customer will need to submit a

Telecommunications Request (TR) on DDOE. Each DTCS device has the capacity to connect to 15 nets. However, the customer may subscribe to only one network per TR. To begin the ordering process, customers with a DDOE account will create a new TR and select "EMSS (Iridium)" for the service type. Next under the "New Services – Start Action" menu, select "Subscribe to DTCS Closed-Net Subscription Service." When creating the TR, indicate if the network will reside in an existing domain (e.g., CENTCOM, PACOM, or EMSS) or a new domain. If a new domain is required, please e-mail the DTCS program office before submitting the TR at

[disa.meade.ns.mbx.dtcs-program-office@mail.mil](mailto:disa.meade.ns.mbx.dtcs-program-office@mail.mil).



## QUICK TIPS — The Performance Work Statement

Upon receiving a request for COMSATCOM services the COMSATCOM Center prepares several documents that will eventually become a full acquisition package that fits an individual customer's need. Per standard acquisition guidelines of the Defense Information Technology Contracting Organization ([https://www.ditco.disa.mil/contracts/IT\\_instruct.asp](https://www.ditco.disa.mil/contracts/IT_instruct.asp)), an acquisition package may include at a minimum the performance work statement (PWS), quality assurance surveillance plan (QASP), evaluation plan, contract line item number (CLIN) list, independent government cost estimate (IGCE), and market research report. In this article, we'd like to focus specifically on the PWS—a significantly important document of the acquisition package.

The PWS, as described by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), is “a statement of work for performance-based acquisitions that describes the required results in clear, specific, and objective terms with measurable outcomes.” A PWS needs to be well written to help us acquire the best SATCOM solution for your mission. Therefore, providing as many details about your requirements will help us create a PWS that best fits your needs. There are a few ways to help the acquisition team develop a document that shows what capabilities you

require versus one that offers only one solution. Here are some tips to ensure you have supplied the COMSATCOM Center with the most useful information to create a successful PWS and a successful contract:



- *State the requirement, not the solution.* A PWS should be results-oriented; it should state what capabilities the service needs to fulfill their mission, not what the service believes the contractor should do to achieve that outcome. Contractors should have the opportunity to propose their best solution. This should result in receiving several various proposals (rather than identical contractor-proposed solutions). The more options to choose from, the more tailored the solution may be.
- *Ensure the scope of the requirement is accurately captured.* The scope

should only include what is necessary for mission success. A scope that is too vague can result in undesired solutions; a scope that is too narrow can limit innovation and result in very high cost solutions or no solutions at all.

- *Define measurable objectives.* Performance-based contracts require measurable performance objectives that will be used to evaluate contractor performance throughout the life of the contract.

The COMSATCOM Center retains a dedicated staff of engineers and acquisition specialists to assist with developing the most accurate PWS. We take your requirements and translate them into a successful request for quote (RFQ), which then gains articulate vendor responses to meet your acquisition needs. By following the above suggestions, we should be able to work together to find you the best solution. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns at [disa.meade.ns.mbx.comsatcom-csb@mail.mil](mailto:disa.meade.ns.mbx.comsatcom-csb@mail.mil). Developing a thorough PWS will help us deliver operationally responsive, customer-focused, and cost-effective commercial SATCOM services to you. For more information on the PWS and other defense acquisition topics, please visit the Defense Acquisition University Web site at <http://www.dau.mil/default.aspx>.