



Joint Interoperability Test Command (JITC)

Overview

JITC is DOD's joint interoperability certifier and only non-service Operational Test Agency for information technology (IT)/national security systems (NSS). JITC provides risk based test evaluation & certification services, tools, and environments to ensure joint warfighting IT capabilities are interoperable and support mission needs. JITC facilities are strategically located at Fort Huachuca, Arizona; Indian Head, Maryland; and Fort George G. Meade, Maryland.

JITC's Unique Roles

Test and evaluation (T&E) of IT systems and NSS is essential to reduce the risks faced by warfighters in the field. JITC is constantly reviewing processes to ensure it is performing tests as efficiently as possible into today's austere environment. JITC's ability to provide outstanding support to DISA and the warfighter is characterized by several unique features.

- **Joint Interoperability Certifier** – Although each military service has its own test organization, JITC has sole responsibility for certifying joint and combined interoperability of all DOD IT systems and NSS.
- **Operational Test Agency (OTA)** – JITC is established as the OTA for DISA-managed programs. It also serves as the OTA for other DOD agencies such as Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), Defense Health Affairs (DHA), and the National Security Agency (NSA).
- **Unparalleled Warfighter Support** – JITC is very responsive to the warfighter. JITC testers work with the warfighting combatant commanders during exercises and contingency operations, providing on-the-spot evaluations of problem areas and viable mission-oriented solutions.
- **Major Range and Test Facility Base (MRTFB)** - JITC is the only non-service MRTFB, servicing the DOD Chief Information Officer (DOD CIO). As such, JITC is considered a national asset. Services that are provided include T&E capabilities, infrastructure, and resources to support the DOD acquisition system.

Value-added Processes

The value of systems interoperating during joint military operations is best expressed by examining the consequence of a failure to support operationally effective information exchanges. These failures are documented in terms of loss of life, mission failure, and loss of equipment. Joint interoperability certification is the Department's means to reduce the likelihood of failure, and thus the risk to the mission and personnel. JITC performs interoperability testing and certification of systems to provide program managers critical technical information to quantify their system's ability to work with systems belonging to other military services or coalition partners, and whether the systems conform to approved architecture designs that facilitate interoperability with future capabilities across DOD.

Operational test & evaluation (OT&E) is used to determine the operational effectiveness, suitability, interoperability, and security of the system being tested. The resulting product of JITC's OT&E efforts is timely, useful, and operationally-relevant information to program decision makers. OT&E determines if the intended users can utilize the system to do their jobs and if the system can be operated and sustained in its intended environment. By ensuring user/operational focus, OT&E provides opportunities to identify and correct deficiencies early in the acquisition process .