
Defense Report

AUSA



To Win Battles, The Army Must Be Able to Move, Shoot and Communicate

Success in battle depends on well trained and motivated soldiers, good leaders, accurate intelligence, intense firepower and rapid mobility. The key to unleashing this combat power with the maximum intensity at the proper place and at the critical time is the communications system.

On the modern battlefield, the Army needs improved command, control and communications systems to collect, evaluate and distribute intelligence data; to control the maneuver of fighting forces; to coordinate air and artillery support, and to organize the logistics effort to sustain the combat forces. To process the vast quantities of information in an efficient and timely manner, the Army has designed a modern tactical communications system that will provide secure and reliable voice, teletype, data and facsimile service that is as mobile as the tactical units it supports and flexible enough to service both massed and dispersed formations.

The Army calls its sophisticated communications network Mobile Subscriber Equipment (MSE). Unique in a number of ways, it is composed of "off-the-shelf" components, some of which are very similar to commercial cellular radiotelephone systems. For the high-technology battlefield of the future, the Army insists on a system that can survive and function in a high-intensity conflict environment, under conditions of extreme frequency congestion and subject to highly sophisticated electronic countermeasures, without disruption of service.

Since our NATO allies have already fielded two systems which meet most, if not all, of these requirements, the Army has decided that it can save many millions of research and development dollars and expedite the fielding of this urgently needed system by procuring one of the NATO systems. This will also provide a system which had been operationally tested by troop use in the field, and would ensure the ability of Army units to interoperate with their NATO allies.

Congress should give its full support and encouragement to this approach so that the Army can maintain the technological advantage that serves our nation and our NATO allies so ably in deterring Soviet aggression.