

DICE

DoD Interoperability Communications Exercise



FY111
Participant Planning Brochure

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Thank you for your interest in participating in the FY11 Department of Defense Interoperability (DoD) Communications Exercise, more commonly referred to as DICE. This brochure will detail specific dates and deadlines for DICE in a later section. JITC continues to provide interoperability testing opportunities for Services, Agencies, Combatant Commands, Allied Nations, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), as well as information technology vendors and system integrators.

DICE is a major JITC initiative supported by the Joint Staff Command, Control, Communications, and Computers Directorate (J6) and Joint Forces Command (JFCOM), and executed by JITC. JITC conducts DICE in support of joint interoperability testing, training, and exercise transformation initiatives. This exercise replicates a geographically dispersed joint task force (JTF) environment for the purpose of joint interoperability certification or assessment testing. It also provides an excellent forum for testing emerging technologies, allied communications initiatives, regressive testing with legacy equipment, and realistic joint communications training.

DICE is the largest and sole DoD exercise whose primary purpose is to generate joint interoperability certifications. DICE builds upon the successes discovered during other DoD technology demonstration and risk mitigation events. DICE capitalizes on JITC's laboratories and connectivity options to create a "closed network" environment that realistically replicates real world tactical, strategic, and commercial networks with which to test against. Once risks have been mitigated to the system or equipment under test, DICE controllers can place the system or equipment in a real world operational network through DISA Standardized Tactical Entry Points (STEP)/TELEPORT or via direct connections to the Defense Information Systems Network (DISN) or public networks.

DICE reduces the warfighters' risk of operational failure by aggressively testing new versions of software, equipment, and employment techniques in a "typical" JTF communications network. DICE also creates a dynamic training environment that enables participating personnel to enhance their skills in tactical network planning, management, and operations. It allows participants to gain familiarity with new upgrades and apply network management disciplines while exercising tactical scenarios consistent with their mission areas.

Participants from all levels and from various government entities enhance the operational units' experience. Commercial participants with DoD sponsorship are welcomed as DICE participants to introduce the latest emerging state-of-the-art technologies to the warfighter and testing community.

DICE FAQ's

1. Why should I consider participating in DICE?

DICE is the sole DoD exercise whose primary purpose is to generate Joint interoperability certifications. JITC conducts DICE in support of DoD joint interoperability testing, training, and exercise transformation initiatives. DICE uses a robust joint architecture which provides the necessary support to vigorously exercise and evaluate both tactical interfaces as well as strategic and commercial interfaces. Testing is conducted in a simulated JTF network that mimics networks currently deployed in support of various ongoing US operations throughout the world. The DICE exercise has the unique capability of testing systems and equipment in a "closed loop" environment at any security level. Once a system or piece of equipment is deemed "safe" to operate in "live" networks, JITC can open all or just portions of the DICE network to the DISN to validate interoperability or provide additional training to participating units.

Historically, DICE testing focused on DoD joint interoperability requirements. However, since the Global War On Terrorism (GWOT) has changed the way we all approach security, we have expanded our assessments to include interfaces to our coalition partners and other organizations. Prior to September 11, 2001, federal, state, and local agencies selected, built and tested communication systems based on their individual organizational missions/needs system requirements. Like the DoD in the early days of joint warfare, these agencies operated in a "together but separate manner".

World events have reinforced the need for interoperability between all levels of warfighters and first responders, underscoring the requirement for DoD, federal, and state, and local agencies to communicate in a single information-sharing environment. JITC's interoperability perspective, experience, and the DICE mission provides a unique venue for the development and documenting of communications interoperability between the DoD, federal, state, and local agencies tasked with homeland defense and homeland security.

2. What does it cost to participate in DICE?

During the DICE period, JITC pays for all test bed costs and reasonable Ku Band satellite access. Participating units are responsible for funding their own TDY/TAD (travel) costs (if any) and any JITC and organizational contractor or civilian TDY/TAD costs and overtime that may be incurred during testing. There is a cost associated for those systems/equipment undergoing joint interoperability certification or assessment testing, but those costs are mitigated by the fact other units are participating and sharing their networks or systems. Systems or equipment undergoing joint interoperability certification or assessment testing during DICE usually see a 25-60% cost savings over testing at any other time.

3. Do I have to participate in DICE the entire period?

Units participate in DICE only for the period they choose or is required to complete the test requirements. Typically, units with systems or equipment undergoing testing will participate for the amount of time the test schedule calls for. Units participating for training purposes or as support systems participate for that time which they can afford.

4. Is DICE a “24 X 7” exercise?

DICE is conducted only during regular duty hours on regular duty days. We try not to work past a normal 8/9-hour duty day or on weekends as a cost saving measure. If it becomes necessary to work past a normal duty day or during the weekend, JITC can accommodate those instances.

5. Will the equipment or system we participate in DICE with receive a joint interoperability certification upon completion of the exercise?

Participation in DICE does not guarantee joint system certification. Joint certification depends on a number of factors with the major factor being the existence of Joint Staff validation of submitted requirements via the Joint C4I Program Assessment Tool. Your JITC Action Officer will discuss specific details regarding your system or equipment. It is important for the testing participant or organization to become familiar with the latest versions of Department of Defense Directive (DODD) 4630.5, Department of Defense Instruction (DODI) 4630.8, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction (CJCSI) 6212.01E documents. These are the documents which are used to develop a road map that will lead to joint interoperability certification of your communications system or component.

6. What is the latest we can commit to participating in DICE?

The earlier we receive a commitment, the more detailed planning we can conduct on your specific needs in order to meet your testing goals. Due to the popularity and substantial increase in participation over the past few years, JITC has found it necessary to set critical/suspense dates in order to provide the best of service to participants. Organizations that cannot meet these dates may be asked to defer participation to a later DICE.

7. If we elect to participate in DICE and later must withdraw for operational or other reasons, will this affect the exercise?

JITC understands that all organizations are participating in a “non interference basis” and may be subject to deployment or mission change at any time. DICE is a very dynamic and flexible venue that can readily adapt to changing networks and requirements.

8. Do I have to deploy my equipment to Ft. Huachuca, Arizona or Indian Head, Maryland in order to participate?

Generally, if we can find a way to link your system/equipment into the exercise via satellite, Line-of-sight radios, the Defense Research Engineering Network (DREN), leased circuits or other transport means; we can work you into the network. JITC will

have two major nodes: one in the west coast at Ft. Huachuca, Arizona and one in the east coast at Indian Head, Maryland. JITC strongly believes in a distributive testing network capitalizing on existing connectivity between DoD testing facilities around the world. JITC will deploy data collectors or test monitors to sites outside of JITC (TDY costs incurred by participant) in cases where interoperability certifications or assessments are conducted. In some cases, it may be advantageous or economical to deploy to Ft. Huachuca, Arizona or Indian Head, Maryland for testing. Systems/Equipment deployed to Ft. Huachuca and Indian Head have the advantage of on-site Subject Matter Experts (SME's) who can immediately render assistance in troubleshooting if necessary.

9. Who develops the Test Plan for my system or equipment?

Test Plans may be developed by either JITC or the participating organization. If a participating organization opts to develop/publish their own test plan, JITC must approve the test plan, de-conflict allocation of resources, and provide an endorsement which will satisfy the testing objectives. Participants must also follow the requirements set forth in the "JITC Guide to Test Documentation" dated June 2008. It is available from your JITC Government Action Officer.

10. I am a vendor without a government sponsor; can I still participate in DICE?

Unfortunately, no. However, please contact us, JITC may have other venues to provide you the opportunity necessary to accomplish your objectives.

11. Who do I contact to participate in DICE?

Please email dicefals@disa.mil and a JITC Action Officer familiar with your organization or system/equipment will contact you.

General

The purpose of this brochure is to familiarize you with the DICE process, requirements, and procedures. In-order to engineer our DICE network to meet the needs of all participants, there is certain information which must be provided by you, the participant. Not only will this information allow us to optimize the network to meet your testing goals it will also allow us to maximize our resources by allowing us to schedule around potential conflicts. Only JITC personnel and participants who have a vested interest in the network use the information you provide. If your system or equipment to be tested is proprietary or classified, please let us know and we will make special arrangements to gather the necessary information.

DICE FY11-01 Schedule

- a. Initial FY11-01 Planning Conference: 16-18 February 2010
- b. Final FY11-01 Planning Conference: 13-15 July 2010
- c. Funding received by JITC (if required): NLT 15 July 2010
- d. System/Equipment detailed information due: NLT 15 July 2010
 - i. Participant System Information
 - ii. System Diagram with Equipment List
- e. Completed Participating System Information: NLT 4 August 2010
- f. System Readiness Review: 16-20 August 2010
- g. Requirements documentation submitted to Joint Staff: 25 August 2010
- h. Test plan: NLT 15 September 2010
- i. Test Readiness Review: 15 September 2010
- j. DICE FY11-01 Start Date: 18 October 2010
- k. DICE FY11-01 EndEx: 05 November 2010

DICE FY11-02 Schedule

- a. Initial FY11-02 Planning Conference: 13-15 July 2010
- b. Final FY11-02 Planning Conference: 16-18 November 2010
- c. Funding received by JITC (if required): NLT 18 November 2010
- d. System/Equipment detailed information due: NLT 18 November 2010
 - i. Participant System Information
 - ii. System Diagram with Equipment List
- e. Completed Participating System Information: NLT 8 December 2010
- f. System Readiness Review: 3-7 January 2011
- g. Requirements documentation submitted to Joint Staff: 15 December 2010
- h. Test plan: NLT 19 January 2011
- i. Test Readiness Review: 19 January 2011
- j. DICE FY11-02 Start Date: 23 February 2011
- k. DICE FY11-02 EndEx: 18 March 2011

DICE FY11-03 Schedule

- a. Initial FY11-03 Planning Conference: 16-18 November 2010
- b. Final FY11-03 Planning Conference: 22-24 March 2011
- c. Funding received by JITC (if required): NLT 24 March 2011
- d. System/Equipment detailed information due: NLT 24 March 2011
 - i. Participant System Information
 - ii. System Diagram with Equipment List
- e. Completed Participating System Information: NLT 30 March 2011
- f. System Readiness Review: 11-15 April 2011
- g. Requirements documentation submitted to Joint Staff: 6 April 2011
- h. Test plan: NLT 4 May 2011
- i. Test Readiness Review: 4 May 2011
- j. DICE FY11-03 Start Date: 6 June 2011
- k. DICE FY11-03 EndEx: 24 June 2011

**DICE 2011-03 will coincide with the Joint User Interoperability Communications Exercise (JUICE). These dates are not yet confirmed.

Please note the dates above are subject to change. To see the most current schedule visit <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/460163>.

Planning Conference

Each Planning Conference will be a two or three day event (depending on number of participants) and are typically held at the JITC Headquarters located on Fort Huachuca, Arizona. There will be an initial and a final planning conference for each DICE event. The objectives of the conferences are as follows:



- Provide an opportunity to possible DICE participants to present an overview of the systems/equipment to be tested and to voice their requirements and objectives. This provides DICE planners with a basis with which to start planning the DICE infrastructure to best support the testing objectives.
- Requirements of each participant are discussed and each participant has an opportunity to discuss specifics of their testing with JITC SMEs and DICE Planners.
- Gather information from DICE.
- Assignment of Promina node numbers, ASN's, network timing, satellite operating modes, COMSEC, and other details are worked at each conference.
- Initial work on test plans is initiated at this point.
- Inter Theater COMSEC Package Requests, Satellite Access Requests, Gateway Access Requests (SAR/GAR), and other necessary external coordination is accomplished.

- The goal for the end of the conference is to have a 70-90% solution for the DICE networks.

The information requested on the Participating System Information document is required at the beginning of the conference as it forms the basis by which all network planning will be done. Organizations which do not have the requested information will be scheduled for a subsequent DICE event.

Funding

JITC is a “fee for service” organization operating under the Major Range and Test Facility Base funding rules. Once a JITC Action Officer is assigned to your project, he/she must develop a formal cost estimate for your participation. This estimate is derived from a complex set of formulas based on proprietary contractor labor rates and other factors. Should the JITC level of effort exceed the estimated cost provided to the participant, the participant is obligated to provide additional funding. This cost estimate is based on JITC interoperability testing in a non-specific time period. By participating in a DICE event, customers generally realize a significant cost savings due to JITC absorbing all regular test bed and commercial satellite costs.

Organizations participating in a DICE event must ensure that any funds due to JITC are received by the date agreed upon between DICE, the JITC Action Officer, and System Under Test. Testing will be postponed to a later event should the funds not be available. Funding is required to initiate development of test plans, tasking of support personnel, and other necessary actions.

Requirements Documentation

JITC can only issue interoperability certifications to those systems/equipment which have Joint Staff validated requirements as per CJCSI 6212-01X. This instruction requires a Capabilities Development Document (CDD), Information Support Plan (ISP), Tailor Information Support Plan (TISP), or some other similar approved requirements documentation. This document or documents are the basis for developing a comprehensive test plan that addresses the validated or anticipated validated requirements. It is essential to JITC that the requirements be submitted to the Joint Staff via the Joint C4I Program Assessment Tool (JCPAT) (located on SIPRNet) no later than 60 days prior to commencement of testing. The documentation need not be approved but having the document(s) submitted will provide a strong base from which to develop the test plan(s). If the requirements documents are not submitted to the Joint Staff by the agreed upon date, testing will be postponed to a subsequent DICE event.

Test Plan

JITC requires test plans be approved no later than thirty (30) days prior to the commencement of testing. This ensures all resources required to conduct testing are scheduled and all personnel are briefed on test events. It allows the JITC DICE Staff a last opportunity to de-conflict and prioritize testing to make each individual test transparent to others in the network except where direct testing is necessary. Test plans may be written by the participating organization but must conform to JITC

standards and be approved for testing by the JITC Action Officer and/or the JITC Certification Panel.

Information Assurance (IA)

The IA assessment is **mandatory** for all systems participating in the exercise. This is a DoD requirement for all systems connecting to any DoD network whether “live” or in a test network. The goal of the JITC DICE IA assessment is two-fold. The JITC IA assessment will verify the IA posture and readiness of the systems undergoing interoperability certification during DICE FY11. The IA assessment will also verify whether these systems comply with DoD IA policies and requirements necessary to permit connection to DoD networks. The IA assessment will perform the following activities:

- Verify the system is DoD Information Assurance Certification and Accreditation Process (DIACAP) compliant.
 - Valid authority to operate (Interim Authorization to Operate (IATO) or Authorization to Operate (ATO)) statement signed by the designated approving authority, certification authority, and user community representatives.
 - Review each DIACAP Comprehensive Package.
- Systematically examine each system to determine its compliance with Information Assurance Vulnerability Alert (IAVA); Security Technical Implementation Guideline (STIG); and Ports, Protocols, and Services (PPS) requirements.
- Perform vulnerability scans on each system and determine the residual risks and threat levels of the existing security implementations and discovered security vulnerabilities/deficiencies.
- Conduct random wireless scans of each site’s environment to determine the site’s compliance with DoD Directive (DoDD) 8100.1, “Global Information Grid (GIG) Overarching Policy.”

There is a cost associated with conducting these scans which is born by the participant. Systems will be asked to forward these documents with the results of the Retina® and DISA Gold Disk scans at least forty-five (45) days prior to exercise start. For systems that comply with DoD IA standards and provide Retina® and DISA Gold Disk results along with their DIACAP documentation, the cost is minimal. Mitigating results on non-compliant systems is what will increase the cost.

At exercise start, or mutually coordinated date/time, another Retina® and DISA Gold Disk scan will be accomplished in order to verify the faults found during the initial scan have been mitigated. This IA scan is a cost born by all participants and part of the cost estimate provided by your JITC Action Officer.

Interim Authority to Connect (IATC)

JITC will submit the Gateway Access Request (GAR) and include the services required to conduct testing. Once the Gateway Access Authorization (GAA) is received, units will be responsible for submitting an accreditation package for SIPRNet connectivity to the STEP via the SIPRNet Connection Approval Office (SCAO) IAW GAA instructions and Annex D of the DISA Global Contingency and Exercise Planning (CONEXPLAN) Guide. The CONEXPLAN can be found on the CD containing the CJCSM 6231, Manual for Employing Joint Tactical Communications. Additional information can be found at <http://iase.disa.mil>.

DICE Events

Testing Hours

Testing is conducted only during normal duty hours and only on regular duty days. We do not test during official government holidays. Testing hours are normally 0700-1600 Arizona time but are adjusted to meet the majority of the test participants needs. Testing outside these days or hours can be arranged with prior coordination but may result in an additional expense for contractor overtime.

Daily Update Conference

JITC conducts a daily morning update conference during the exercise period via teleconference and web conference at 0730 Arizona time. Participating organizations can join in on the conference from any telephone by dialing a conference bridge and can view the presentations from any internet enabled computer. The purpose of this conference is to review the previous day's testing accomplishments, the current day's testing objectives and priorities, and the next day's tentative objectives as well as any other pertinent information. Dependent upon the possible complexity of network requirements, a detailed network configuration meeting may be held after the daily conference to review those configuration changes needed.



Network Configuration Changes

When necessary, network configuration changes normally occur once a week or the first workday of the week. Changes to any part of the network during any other time must be requested through the JITC AO or Contractor Test Lead (CTL) and approved by the JITC Joint Communications Control Center (JCCC) via a JITC Remedy ticket. This is necessary in order to de-conflict resources and prioritize testing. If approved, the Remedy ticket is released by the SYSCON.

Testing Priority Assignment

Assignment of priority to systems/equipment during DICE is dependent on various factors. There are several concurrent tests ongoing during any period in DICE and paramount is the effort to minimize delays or distractions to testing. JITC assigns priority of effort as follows:

- Priority 1 – Testing on systems/equipment for which JITC has received funding.
- Priority 2 – Testing which is “Mission Funded” (i.e. JITC is funding because of a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement, Memorandum of Agreement, or is in the best interest of JITC or the DICE exercise).
- Priority 3 – Testing which is not funded but is essential to the execution of other testing or the exercise
- Priority 4 – Units participating for training or experience.

Due to the dynamic and robustness of the DICE networks, conflicts for resources are generally not experienced or can be mitigated in a way that is transparent to the ongoing tests. In the event a resource conflict cannot be avoided, JITC DICE Staff arbitrates between the conflicting tests and will try to come to a mutually agreeable solution.

Exercise Collaboration

The key to a successful exercise is a solid information flow. DICE utilizes every available resource to ensure information reaches those who require it. For collaboration, DoD participants are invited to participate in the daily conference via telephone bridge and web conference using the Defense Connect Online, the DoD enterprise collaboration service, (<https://connect.dco.dod.mil/DICE>). Historical, current, and future DICE information is accessed using the Army Knowledge Online/Defense Knowledge Online (AKO/DKO). This enterprise portal for the DoD community, is secure and requires a username and password. To register for an AKO/DKO account, visit AKO/DKO at www.us.army.mil and click on the link to “Register for AKO.” AKO/DKO Registration FAQ: <http://help.us.army.mil/faqs/Registration.html>.

Visiting DICE



The JITC compound is a secure facility and visitors must comply with the procedures for visiting JITC as outlined in the following web site: http://jitc.fhu.disa.mil/local_info/clear.htm.

DICE Points of Contacts

Primary DICE POC:	Alternate POC:
Todd Beckman	Capt Jared Blake (USMC)
todd.beckman@disa.mil	jared.blake@disa.mil
DSN: 879-5174 -or- (520) 538-5174	DSN 821-4794 -or- (520) 533-4794
Alternate POC:	Other POCs:
Al Slarve	dicefals@disa.mil
al.slarve@disa.mil	DSN 879-2157 -or- (520) 538-2157
DSN 879-5362 -or- (520) 538-5362	DSN 879-2123 -or- (520) 538-2123

***Please visit us on the web for further information and to register for the
DICE Planning Conferences***

<http://jitc.fhu.disa.mil/dice/index.html>