



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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Test Range helps standardize information systems engineering and development

MAXWELL AFB GUNTER ANNEX, Ala—Headquarters Standard Systems Group has been leading numerous initiatives to standardize engineering and development of combat support information systems. The result is the creation of the Air Force's first complete Global Combat Support System - Air Force Test and Development Range (GCSS-AF TDR or the Range).

"The virtual Test and Development Range allows us to quickly assess which new Automated Information Systems perform correctly and which [Systems] need more work," explained Steve Wright, Director of the SSG Engineering Directorate. "Using the Range will dramatically cut down the time to field new applications while improving software product quality."

According to Lt. Col. Peter Ingenloff, Director's Action Group, "emulating the operational GCSS-AF environment offers developers, testers and operators a realistic, best assessment for determining interoperability, performance and capability of GCSS-AF combat support systems prior to operational fielding."

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The Range provides services to improve the development and quality of software for the future. Application developers can now leverage functionally identical services as the operational GCSS-AF infrastructure. A complete GCSS-AF infrastructure security layer and an Air Force Portal instance are essential pieces of the TDR.

Software quality assurance, streamlining and expedition of software release cycles, and integration services are now available in a GCSS equivalent of the operational enterprise system configuration. "By using the Range, we can see how software applications can be integrated with other applications," Mr. Wright stated.

The TDR is manned by a staff of GCSS experts who are available to assist application developers and integrators. This environment also provides an independent test and certification capability for all infrastructure components and applications. Many lessons learned and best practices are a by-product of building and integrating applications using the TDR.

Access to the Test and Development Range is granted to all .mil, .gov and .com stakeholders upon request. For more information on how to take advantage of the services provided by the Range, contact John Walraven, Lead Ranger GCSS-AF TDR, at 334-416-2635 (DSN 596-2635).

Headquarters Standard Systems Group provides and sustains combat support information systems for the Air Force and Department of Defense. The group procures leading edge information technology products used by virtually every organization on Air Force military bases worldwide.