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Comtech Telecommunications has secured $4.2 million in funding from the US Army to enhance its next-generation MT-2025 Blue Force Tracking (BFT) satellite terminal. The upgraded terminal will feature a dual-mode BFT satellite transceiver and new antenna nulling technology, improving its capabilities. This project is part of Comtech's subsidiary Comtech Mobile Datacom and supports the army's Blue Force Tracking-2 system. The MT-2025 transceiver is designed to be fully backwards compatible with the US Army's earlier Blue-Force Tracking-1 situational awareness system (BFT-1) and comply with BFT-2 protocols. This technology enables commanders and troops to gain situational awareness on the battlefield, which is crucial for effective military operations. According to Comtech Telecommunications president and CEO Fred Kornberg, the funding demonstrates the US Army's trust in Comtech's BFT technology and innovation capabilities. He stated that Comtech remains committed to providing the army with cutting-edge technology to ensure successful mission completion. Comtech has previously supplied over 100,000 BFT-1 mobile satellite transceivers and secured an initial package for MT-2025 transceivers last year in support of the BFT-2 system. The new transceiver offers secure and reliable two-way messaging, meeting high data rates and encryption requirements. The US Army's friendly force tracking system, known as Blue Force Tracking (BFT), provides situational awareness to more than 120,000 ground/air vehicle platforms across the army and joint services. The upcoming Mounted Mission Command-Transport (MMC-T) system will enhance this capability by increasing resiliency and integrating additional communications pathways. =======================================looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting tomorrow and discussing our strategies for a timely and economical solution for bft modernization, in line with the chief of staff of the army's network modernization priorities, said Ifeanyi Igwulu, mmc-t/futures project officer, product manager joint battle command-platform (pdm jbc-p). ================================= mmc-t presents significant cost savings while enabling open competition by collapsing the bft-1 and bft-2 satcom networks into a segment of the mosa-based network, and leveraging government-owned technical data, software packages and existing hardware. "this approach benefits crada partners by maximizing opportunities for competition to deliver new capabilities to soldiers throughout the lifecycle of the system," said Adam Webb, electronic engineer supporting pdm jbc-p. ==============================the consortium will continue to define mosa interfaces and standards for mmc-t in order to inform the mmc-t transceiver request for proposal, or rfp, set to be released in the first quarter of fiscal year 2021. the mmc-t rfp will be supported by a modularized build of the current bft-2 waveform. this modular waveform will allow the government to acquire and deploy transceivers from additional partners and sources, providing industry additional opportunities to compete. ================================ comtech's-next generation mt-2025 transceiver, which is also known as the blue force tracker-2 high capacity (bft-2-hc) satellite transceiver, meets bft-2 protocols, is reliable in the field, and is fully backward-compatible with the us army's blue force tracking-1 system (bft-1). comtech's command and control technologies group -- through its maryland-based subsidiary, comtech mobile datacom corporation, which is part of comtech's government solutions segment -- will manufacture the transceivers at the comtech high-volume technology manufacturing center in tempe, arizona. =============================== viasat announced it has been awarded a $153 million contract to modernize the us army's blue force tracker (bft) network, a system used for real-time positioning of friendly forces.FBCB2/Blue Force Tracking System Provides Real-Time Battle Command Information ================================== The FBCB2 system offers a digital battle command information platform that enables brigade task forces to receive accurate and timely location updates, as well as communicate orders and graphics. The system's primary components include hardware, software, and satellite communications means. FBCB2 was initially intended for use in joint operations at the brigade level and below. In 2003, the Joint Requirements Oversight Council designated it as the future battle command system for joint forces at this level. By 2005, FBCB2 had evolved into a digital system providing on-the-move near real-time battle command information and situational awareness from brigade to vehicle levels. FBCB2 consists of three key components: hardware, software, and communication means such as Tactical Internet or L-band satellite connections. The system enables commanders, leaders, and soldiers to access integrated battle command information and features like developing and distributing orders, friendly locations, operational graphics, combat reports, and free text messages. In 2011, the Army and Marine Corps conducted a Limited User Test of FBCB2 Joint Capabilities Release/Blue Force Tracker 2 (BFT2). The test demonstrated the system's operational effectiveness in combat operations, showcasing improved situational awareness and order transfer compared to previous versions. The reliability of FBCB2 JCR/BFT2 was found equivalent to that of its deployed predecessor, which had been deemed acceptable for supporting operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. FBCB2 JCR is a networked battle command information system that facilitates the sharing of near-real-time friendly and enemy situational awareness, operational maps, and graphics. The system has undergone technology upgrades, including updated hardware and software, improved satellite connectivity, and the addition of communications security devices. It is fielded in both mobile and command post versions and supported by transmission means such as BFT2's satellite support for mobile operations and EPLRS.Blue Force Tracking: Enhancing Battle Command Information for Joint Forces == Army and Marine Corps commanders utilize FBCB2 JCR/BFT2 to provide integrated, on-the-move, near-real-time battle command information and situational awareness from brigade to maneuver platform. Units employ this system to gain near-real-time situational awareness and C2 capability, supporting their combat missions. Force XXI Battle Command Brigade-and-Below/Blue Force Tracking The latest incarnation of the mounted friendly force tracking system is JBC-P, or Joint Battle Command - Platform. This system has provided lifesaving situational awareness information to Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan, displaying blue and red icons over a digital map. Recently, improvements have been made to integrate this system with Nett Warrior, allowing dismounted leaders to see their own location, fellow Soldiers' locations, and known enemies on a moving map. Joint Battle Command - Platforms JBC-P includes Blue Force Tracking and Army Aviation, providing true joint force command and control situational awareness and communications capability at the platform level. This program enables mission accomplishment across various military operations and is the cornerstone of joint forces command and control. By providing a common operating picture of the battlefield, JBC-P reduces fratricide and improves situational awareness. History and Development JBC-P was Joint Requirements Oversight Council (JROC) approved in March 2013. The system completed Initial Operational Test & Evaluation as part of Network Integration Evaluation 13.2 in 3QFY13. The U.S. Army has authorized entry into Full Rate Production, with deployment planned for December 2013, conditional on achieving Army Interoperability Certification and Joint Interoperability Test Certification. Blue Force Tracking Technology Blue force tracking is a GPS-enabled capability that provides location information about friendly military forces. This technology is referred to as the blue force tracker in NATO military symbology, denoting friendly forces. The capability offers a common picture of friendly force locations, making it an essential tool for military commanders and forces. ====================================== Blue force tracking systems are widely utilized across military and civilian mobile applications, leveraging advanced technology to enhance situational awareness. These systems typically comprise a computer displaying location information, a satellite terminal, and antenna for data transmission, as well as command-and-control software, Global Positioning System receivers, and mapping tools like Geographic Information Systems. The display features the host vehicle's location on a terrain map, along with the positions of other platforms in real-time. Friendly forces are represented in blue, while enemy locations appear in red. This information is also used to transmit text and imagery messages, as well as report enemy force locations and other battlefield conditions. Additional capabilities in some systems include grid coordinates to create a hybrid map and compass for mechanized units. The development of advanced tracking systems has been instrumental in modern warfare, with notable achievements including the Force XXI Battle Command Brigade-and-Below (FBCB2) system. Credited to Neil Siegel at TRW, this system was a pioneering success and earned the nickname "the digital battlefield." Its widespread adoption has seen users include the United States Army, Marine Corps, Air Force, Navy, UK, and German forces. In recent years, efforts have been made to standardize tracking systems across various branches of the US military. The Joint Battle Command Platform project aims to create a shared system, drawing from FBCB2's successes in Iraq during 2003. This will involve integrating location data transmission over a network, monitoring friendly and enemy forces' progress, and sending coordinates to central locations for situational awareness. The integration of Blue Force Tracking technology has been acknowledged with numerous awards and recognition, including the 2001 US Government's best-managed software program award.The U.S. Government program that won the 2003 Federal Computer Week Monticello Award and the Battlespace Information 2005 "Best Program in Support of Coalition Operations" is a notable system. == Force XXI Battle Command Brigade and Below has developed an Android Tactical Assault Kit Automatic Packet Reporting System Find My Friends Swarm (app) as part of its program.

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