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**DEPARTMENT  
OF DEFENSE  
INTEROPERABILITY  
COMMUNICATIONS  
EXERCISE  
(DICE)**



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***Increasing Combat Effectiveness  
Through Interoperability***

**Joint Interoperability  
Test Command**

## ***INTRODUCTION***

The Department of Defense Interoperability Communications Exercise (DICE) is an annual exercise, sponsored by Joint Forces Command and conducted by the Joint Interoperability Test Command (JITC). Since JITC is DOD's sole interoperability certification authority, DICE is the 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. JITC conducts DICE in support of DOD Joint interoperability testing, training and exercise transformation initiatives. Each of the Services, as well as the Joint Communications Support Element (JCSE), Special Operations signal units, US Northern Command and the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) participate with communications equipment or personnel.

The major focus of DICE is to determine the degree of interoperability of new versions of hardware and software employed in joint transmission, switching, and information systems. DICE uses a robust joint architecture that provides the necessary support to vigorously exercise and evaluate both tactical interfaces as well as strategic and commercial interfaces, which are critical to split base operations.

Actual operational units install, operate, and maintain the equipment and systems used in the exercise. These configurations are representative of those used in real world combat and contingency operations by the Warfighting community and provide sufficient data to assess system interoperability and determine if previously experienced anomalies were corrected.

DICE reduces the warfighters' risk of operational failure by aggressively testing new versions of software, equipment, and employment techniques in a typical communication's network. DICE also creates a dynamic training environment that enables participating service personnel to enhance their skills in tactical network planning, management, and switch operations. It allows participants to gain familiarity with new hardware and software upgrades.

## ***BACKGROUND***

JITC has conducted DICE annually since 1989, although under different names: Strategic Tactical Deployed Network (STDN) test, Major Switch Interoperability Test (MSIT), and the Deployed Interoperability Test (DIT). The exercise has grown into DOD's premiere interoperability testing exercise, averaging 15 joint certifications, and six assessments or demonstrations every year.

Inviting F E M A to participate as well as using Guard and Reserve units in non-traditional roles has supplemented the operational unit participation level. Commercial vendors with DOD sponsorship are welcomed as DICE participants and, in this way, introduce the latest, state-of-the-art technologies to the warfighters and testing community.



### ***DICE 2004***

This year's exercise was a very productive effort covering, not only Army, Air Force and Marine Corps systems, but several DOD programs and a Canadian initiative as well. Three commercial vendors also brought their products for evaluation with favorable results.

For specific details, descriptions and demonstrated capabilities, please refer to the individual system test or assessment report.

These documents may be viewed at,  
**System Tracking Program**  
<https://stp.fhu.disa.mil>

**Joint Interoperability Tool**  
<http://jit.fhu.disa.mil>

For future announcements and information please refer to our website:  
<http://jitic.fhu.disa.mil/dice>