

Introduction

In 1994, Congress passed Public Law 103-160, *National Department of Defense Authorization Act*, which created the Joint Service Chemical and Biological Defense Program (CBDP) to provide world-class chemical and biological defense equipment, training, and doctrine for all U.S. military forces. To address the tremendous challenge of coordinating and integrating joint planning, programming, and budgeting functions across the entire chemical and biological (CB) defense mission area, Joint Service Materiel Group (JSMG) personnel proposed spiral development of a state-of-the-art information system. The primary goal was to significantly improve the quality of budget documents and other submissions put forth to the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) and Congress while reducing the level of manual effort needed to perform administrative program management duties. This frees program managers (PMs) and program executive officers (PEOs) to focus limited resources on successfully meeting requirements of our warfighters and homeland security personnel.

To this end, the Joint Service Chemical and Biological Information System (JSCBIS) was created. JSCBIS is a powerful, self-updating, client/server software application that allows users to access the JSCBIS relational database from anywhere in the world via the Internet. JSCBIS allows users to run queries, prepare standard reports, and manage funding across multiple budget lines and assigned programs. Program managers retain ownership of their information within JSCBIS while aggregate data are accessible in real time by senior decisionmakers and the acquisition community in general to support statutory reporting requirements (e.g., the president's budget materials). While designed initially to support the CBDP, the JSCBIS soft-

Information Superiority . . .

THE JOINT SERVICE CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

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ware is transportable to any multi-system acquisition program and, in fact, has been used as a framework to develop the Army's Research, Development, and Acquisition Budget Update Computer System.

The Support Systems Division within the Office of the Deputy for Combat Service Support, which reports to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, is responsible for oversight of JSCBIS. The JSMG manages and executes the day-to-day business, and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Acquisition Information Systems Activity is responsible for software development and database maintenance.

Background

Prior to the establishment of the Joint Service CBDP, the military departments were individually responsible for managing nuclear, biological, and chemical research; development; and acquisition programs. Each department also maintained separate and varied planning, programming, and budgeting processes. When Congress joined these efforts under OSD, it became

necessary to eliminate duplication. The challenge was to provide common financial tools and reports while ensuring coordination and integration of data across dozens of programs and disparate organizations. JSCBIS achieves standardization and further links fiscal plans and reports to the needs of Congress and the OSD comptroller.

More than 400 users access JSCBIS to manage more than 100 CB defense programs within various phases of acquisition (technology base, concept and technology development, system development and demonstration, and production and deployment). For example, JSCBIS contains cost, schedule, and performance information for the Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology (JSLIST) Program, a common chemical protective ensemble that is being procured to replace all existing CB protective suits in the Services' inventory. JSCBIS enables PM, JSLIST to enter information once into a single database to generate statutory budget documentation, query the database, and print standard reports quickly and easily.

Current Capabilities

The first version of JSCBIS was released in 1996 as a simple budget tool. Today, JSCBIS combines Web-enabled functionality and usability to provide Service PMs and PEOs with the following:

- A capability to collect and process programmatic and financial data;
- Up-to-date data and consistent information (descriptions, requirements, funding, schedules, etc.);
- Generation of research and development descriptive summaries (R-Forms); procurement forms (P-Forms); and executive summaries to support the planning, programming, budgeting, and execution system (PPBES);
- Uniform and conventional formats for accessing, sorting, and reading program data;
- An integrated system to support the decisionmaking needs for managing individual projects and the entire program;
- Import and export of data to and from other applications (e.g., MSWord or Excel); and
- A powerful data browser that allows the user to search, filter, report, compare, aggregate, and analyze the data from any JSCBIS query or report.

JSCBIS has many other useful features:

- An extensive points of contact list that is searchable by last name, first name, or by program affiliation. The point of contact feature is connected to an e-mail feature.
- A calendar feature allows PMs and PEOs to better coordinate meetings. JSCBIS has a bar chart and Gantt chart generator as well as an automated report generator for reviewing financial and programmatic information.

- An automated status, release, and obligation planning and reporting feature to support the execution aspects of program management.

JSCBIS is a valuable tool for maintaining historical data often required for responding to audits and other inquiries, and also data for planning future year efforts. The database archives contain official research, development, and acquisition funding information for the PPBES budget cycle dating back to the FY96 president's budget. Data include information for the year of execution, future years Defense program, and extended planning period years.

Entry to all JSCBIS capabilities is through a menu control panel categorized by selectable tabs (i.e., queries and downloads). JSCBIS is an Internet-accessible, password-protected, self-updating, client-server application with hierarchical control for editing of data and is accessible by PMs and PEOs, budget analysts, project officers, and the entire joint CB Defense community. Additionally, JSCBIS standardizes products, eliminates common errors by spell checking and cross-checking entries, and improves product quality resulting in greater customer satisfaction at higher levels (e.g., OSD).

Future Initiatives

Periodically, new versions of JSCBIS are released to enhance system capabilities. Future JSCBIS upgrades and improvements are planned to support the many aspects of the systems acquisition process and the PMs and PEOs. The following future upgrades are planned:

- An issues module (e.g., reprogrammings, Program Objective Memorandum to budget issues, unfunded requirements);

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- A logistics data module;
- A nuclear, biological, and chemical survivability module;
- A user requirements module; and
- A contracts module.

Conclusion

The CBDP is being used to leverage information technology across the materiel acquisition process. JSCBIS is leading this information revolution for fiscal planning and reporting to ensure that PMs and PEOs have the resources to support our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines operating under the threat of continued proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

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