

Guardrail Ground Baseline

A common configuration for more agile intelligence capabilities and support during the transition to DCGS-A



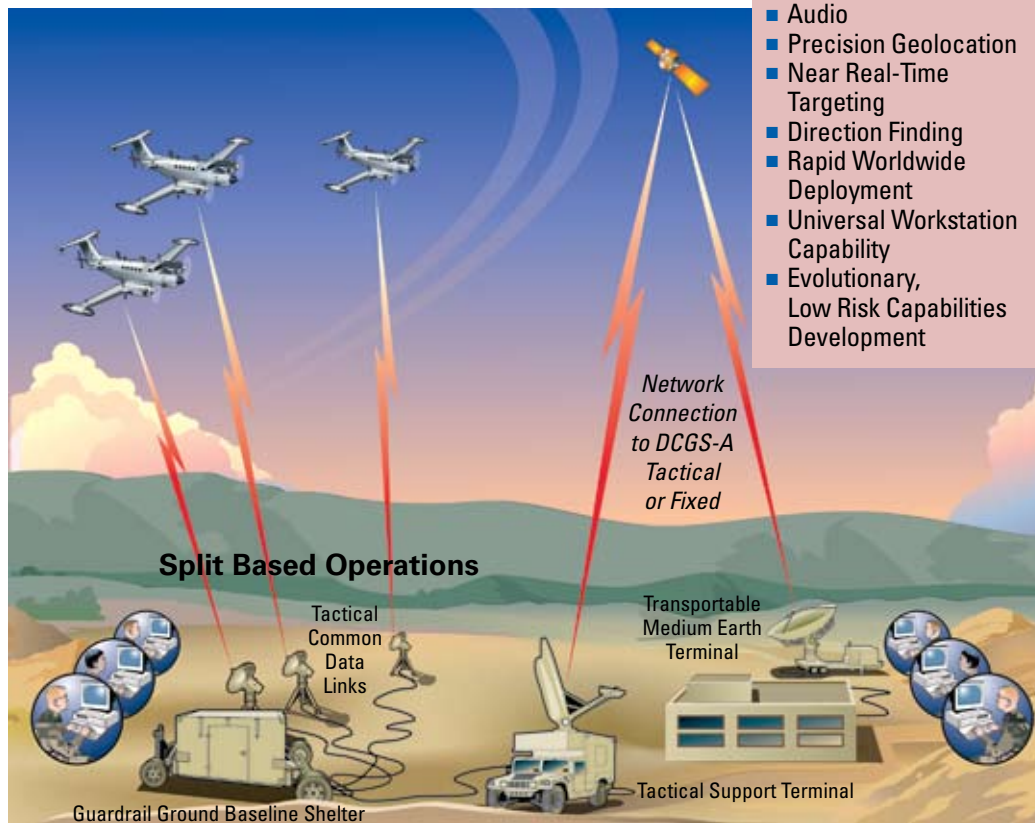
The U.S. Army's Guardrail airborne battlefield surveillance system requires a mobile and agile ground base system that is capable of supporting rapid deployment. In the past, this system has been highly effective. But with four different baseline configurations and no single hardware and software baseline, there were opportunities for significant improvements.

Since 1971, Northrop Grumman has been the Army's prime contractor and systems integrator for Guardrail. The company is now implementing Guardrail Ground Baseline (GGB) to enhance the current system and to ensure that Guardrail capabilities are supported during the transition to the next-generation Distributed Common Ground System-Army (DCGS-A).

GGB Means Greater Efficiency

With the first installation completed in 2006, GGB presents a range of strategic advantages:

- Migration of all ground stations to a common configuration
- Consolidation of the four baselines into a single hardware and software platform compatible with all four Guardrail systems
- A significantly smaller footprint made possible by eliminating four integrated processing facility vans, six 10-ton trucks and four environmental control units
- Two modes of operation for all four Guardrail systems: Direct Tether Forward with no satellite connectivity and Direct Tether Split-Based with 30 workstations and the capability to move forward
- Reduced cost through the elimination of obsolete hardware and the establishment of common maintenance procedures



- SIGINT
- Audio
- Precision Geolocation
- Near Real-Time Targeting
- Direction Finding
- Rapid Worldwide Deployment
- Universal Workstation Capability
- Evolutionary, Low Risk Capabilities Development

One Baseline for all four Guardrail Systems

- The elimination of 400 tons of equipment across all four systems, making Guardrail more agile and able to support new capabilities
- Multi-platform capabilities and cooperative modes of operation
- Targeting quality location accuracy

GGB Supports the Transition to DCGS-A

Recent missions and conflicts illustrate the need to enhance the versatility of Army ISR systems. GGB enables the Army to successfully manage unforeseen operational conditions by updating and streamlining the Guardrail system for greater agility, mobility and responsiveness. The GGB architecture is based on a standardized flexible network that supports operators in any location

with SIGINT network connectivity. This architecture forms the foundation for DCGS connectivity and will enable straightforward addition of DCGS-A capabilities. In the future, all upgrades can be designed at once, assuring Guardrail ground-processing support during the evolution to DCGS-A and serving the Army's objective of establishing an integrated architecture for all ground and surface systems.

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