



CONSTELLATION NET

LEAD COMMANDS

COMM FACTOID

Air Force Communications Agency, Scott AFB, is a Field Operating Agency. AFCA's engineering expertise, state-of-the-art enterprise emulation and simulation facilities, and nearly 70 years of comm and info integration experience are helping the AF/XI achieve integration and interoperability across the air, space, and terrestrial domains.

AFCA not only develops architectures and manages IT policies and standards, it also assesses and tracks systems slated for connection to the Air Force network. AFCA developed a process that assesses a system's "networthiness" prior to fielding. This operational risk management tool ensures systems do not introduce security vulnerabilities or performance problems.

By operationally supporting the warfighter, serving as steward of the Air Force network, and continuing innovative warfighting integration work, AFCA accomplishes its mission of directing the integration of systems into the Air Force network to achieve integrated and interoperable Air Force CONOPS capabilities. In doing so, it continues to reduce latency in the kill chain.



AFCA

By Capt. Giorgio Cabrera

Air Force Communications Agency

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, ILL. — What do the Air Force ConstellationNet and the construction of a new building have in common?

Although there are many commonalities, the most prominent one is that they both have architects. A building architect ensures the building's design meets its intended use and properly integrates the multiple interrelated subsystems, such as plumbing, electricity, and ventilation. Similarly, the information technology architect must map out future Air Force information flows to ensure Net-Centric subsystems such as storage, messaging and collaboration meet the warfighters' requirements.

The August 2002 SECAF/CSAF Air Force Policy Memo on Enterprise Architecting targeted architectures as the "key construct in visualizing mission information relationships and promoting interoperability." The memo established a number of architecture councils and assigned responsibility for the development of the Infostructure sub-Enterprise Architecture to AF/XI. As AF/XI's Field Operating Agency, the Air Force Communications Agency was assigned responsibility for development of the Infostructure Architecture in April 2003.

The Infostructure Architecture is now named the ConstellationNet Architecture to better reflect its relationship with the C2 Constellation Architecture and the Operational Support Enterprise Architecture.

The previously scheduled release of Infostructure Architecture — Version 1.4, which was to have concentrated on Information Management, has been rolled into the Constellation Architecture release V2.0, which is the first complete version of the architecture. The architecture is available at <https://infostructure.hq.af.mil>. (Capt. Keith Shank/ AFCA/ ITCR contributed to this article.)

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