Abstract

Product Support Decision Support System

The Acquisition and Life Cycle Management services needed in the MLRS Program Office community include budgetary planning and management, contract administration support, program management and life cycle support (maintenance, repair, supply, and engineering-specific logistics) of systems and subsystems. The Program Office has an array of Army models and simulation tools to predict, analyze and test the various decisions that must be made to manage the MLRS systems. However, these tools are often dated, unlinked, and rarely based on active (real time) data. What the PM MLRS desires is a simulation tool that models a wide range of program management support activities, such as: Supply Chain Modeling, Demand Forecasting, Analytic Model Development, System Supportability Forecasting, and System Requirements Forecasting. A modeling tool that is readily available, and linked to LOGSA's various databases with real-time information.

A Product Support Decision Support System modeling tool simulates an expertise and experience with maintenance planning, supportability decisions, source of repair, deployment planning and analysis, technical and management support of warranties, change management, and requirements definition. A simulation tool for logistics engineers and sustainment specialists to provide alternatives for engineering-specific logistics support by conducting analysis, planning, and detailed design activities associated with the provision of material goods, personnel and training, and operational maintenance and repair of systems throughout their life cycles.

The Product Support Decision Support System tool is to help Program Managers design and purchase affordable, supportable systems, while downsizing diminishes their team of logistics experts and established analytic tools become insufficient. This support for deployed systems is based on an innovative use of an existing model, modified and linked to the Army's logistic active database accessing the supportability status of operational systems and forecasting support needs for these systems. The Program Office strongly believe this Product Support tool will result in many improvements in the support of existing systems (M270 MLRS) and future acquisitions such as the M270A1 MLRS and HIMARS.