Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance Information Service

U.S. Joint Forces Command's (USJFCOM) Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance Information Service (ISRIS) is an advanced prototype that puts video from unmanned aircraft systems into the hands of joint warfighters at all levels of command.

ISRIS compresses near real time video and data which users can access with commonly used tools such as a web browser and video player. Managed by USJFCOM's Joint Transformation Command – Intelligence (JTC-I), ISRIS is a spiral development of the Multi-sensor Aerospace-ground Joint ISR Interoperability Coalition (MAJIIC) Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration.

ISRIS provides situational awareness quality video and data to users who are bandwidth challenged. It takes full motion video from unmanned aircraft platforms and compresses it, to better support low bandwidth users. The ability to compress data is significant because video directly from unmanned aircraft platforms is large and data intensive. Increased compression allows warfighters in the most austere of conditions to access it without large amounts of equipment or special technicians.

ISRIS not only provides users the ability to see live video, but also provides access to saved video from previous missions. Users can research video based on location, time, mission data, or combinations, to fine tune their view of stored video and data. This capability makes ISRIS unique among other currently fielded solutions. Access to historical video and data supports post-mission analysis and pre-mission planning. ISRIS also has the ability to view and archive mission chat sessions. This helps to provide context to the ongoing and saved mission data.

USJFCOM received permission from the deputy undersecretary of Defense for advanced systems and concepts to spiral ISRIS from MAJIIC in the spring of 2006. In the summer of 2006, based on a request for supplemental funding by the assistant secretary of Defense for networks, information and integration, the command received supplemental funding to install ISRIS architecture in Iraq in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Since that time, ISRIS has been funded from a variety of sources, such as the undersecretary of Defense for intelligence, the U.S. Army, and U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM). USJFCOM works closely with USCENTCOM because the customer base for ISRIS is largely within that command's area of responsibility. There are presently 23 operational sites for ISRIS, the majority of which are in Iraq, but also including sites in Afghanistan and other locations in the continental U.S.

USCENTCOM has provided resources to USJFCOM to expand the number of sites in Afghanistan, and to develop a strategy to support NATO's International Security Assistance Force.

The next step for this operational capability is to complete the fielding of the architecture, assess the capability in its operational setting, and transition to joint and service programs of record.