



## Common Operating Environment (COE) Architecture

### What is it?

The COE is an approved set of computing technologies and standards to which the Network itself and all applications and systems riding the Network must adhere. The COE is designed around a set of common computing environments and is paired with the Everything over Internet Protocol.

### Why is this important to the Army and to Individual Soldiers?

Because industry will know up front the standards to which it must conform, the Army will be able to acquire, test and deploy secure and interoperable applications, information systems and services more quickly and likely at a lower cost. Additionally, as the COE is aligned with commercial standards, the Army will be able to utilize more commercial-off-the-shelf and near-COTS technology. Conformance to the COE also will ensure interoperability among all Army systems, improve the Network's defense posture, and simplify training and sustainment.

### What has the Army done?

In October 2010, CIO/G-6, in concert with the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology), developed and published the *Common Operation Environment Architecture - Appendix C to Guidance for 'End State' Army Enterprise Network Architecture*; this document will be updated at least annually. ASA(ALT) subsequently released the *COE Implementation Plan* in July 2011. Currently, new systems and applications must conform to the COE; the Army is developing plans to bring existing systems and applications into compliance, as well.

### What does the Army have planned for the future?

The Army is continuing the phased transition of existing programs of record to COE-compliant applications and systems running in common computing environments. In addition, the Army will publish in the beginning of FY 12 *Guidance for 'End State' Army Enterprise Network Architecture*, which will include revised technical architecture standards for the COE. Using the constructs defined by CIO/G-6, the acquisition community will establish design and test criteria, and processes for development and deployment of software solutions. The G-3/5/7 Network Synchronization Working Group also is developing a workflow model and compliance criteria for testing and certification of systems and applications.

ARMY CIO/G-6