THE AMIS TRACKER

FALL 2014

AUTOMATED MOVEMENT AND IDENTIFICATION SOLUTIONS

CONTENTS

RF-ITV - The Early Days

By Jerry Rodgers, PD AMIS Operations Infrastructure Support

Radio Frequency In-Transit Visibility (RF-ITV) has been around longer than many of us currently in the military and the Department of Defense (DOD) civilian work force. Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology has been around even longer, but it wasn't until the early 1990s that military logisticians began to seriously explore the use of RFID for logistics tracking under the DOD "Microcircuit Technology in Logistics Applications (MITLA)" initiative which had as its purpose the test, evaluation, and development of asset tracking devices to increase readiness and responsiveness while reducing the overall cost of providing logistic support. The Gulf War of 1990 demonstrated the need for automated tracking and in-the box visibility when thousands of containers and air pallets accumulated in the aerial and sea ports in the United States (U.S.) and Saudi Arabia, the contents of which could not be determined short of physically opening them. The Army's "Total Distribution Program (TDP) Action Plan" identified key fixes to distribution problems that surfaced during Desert Shield/Storm. Total Asset Visibility (TAV) was one of the critical issues addressed in the TDP Action Plan. As a result, a Management Decision Package (MDEP) was established in 1993 with funding to begin in 1995.

Early experience with RFID tags was gained by tagging containers of ammunition being shipped from Europe in 1992 as part of the U.S. Army, Europe (USAREUR) Ammunition Retrograde Program. These tags were read at points of departure, ports, and receiving depots, but there were no servers to receive and process the data from these reads. Additional experience was gained with shipments in support of operations in Somalia, Haiti and the Balkans. Predecessors of the modern RF-ITV server were the Volpe Fusion Center (U.S. Department of Transportation) and the USAREUR RFID server which served as a prototype for the current RF-ITV server. Impetus was given to the project when a Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report in 1992 finding that most retrograde shipments of assets during Operation Desert Storm were "highly vulnerable to loss or theft" due to a lack of both visibility and accountability. Thereafter, the Army G-4 directed the Army's Logistics Innovation Agency (LIA - formerly Logistics Integration Agency) -

continued on page 2

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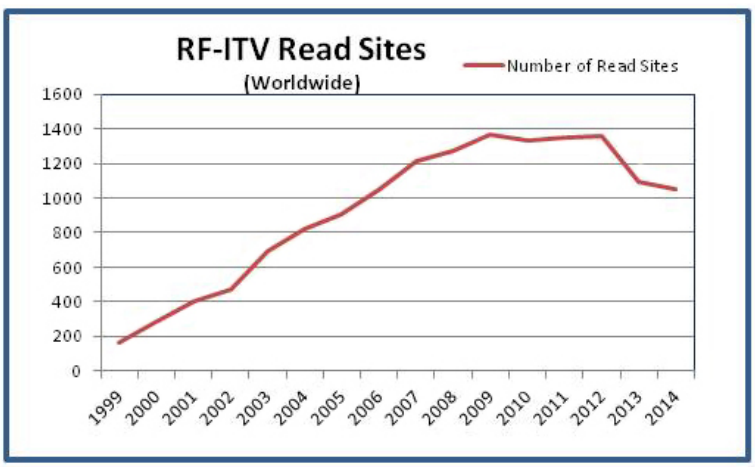
RF-ITV - The Early Days (Cont.)

By Jerry Rodgers, PD AMIS Operations Infrastructure Support

to further explore the use of RFID to help fix the visibility and accountability problem. Thanks to the efforts of RFID advocates in the Congress, additional funding was earmarked for the expansion of RFID in the U.S. Military, and the program began to grow. In 2003, management of the RF-ITV program was transferred from LIA to PM Automatic Identification Technology (PM AIT), now PD AMIS.



By the end of 1999, there were approximately 170 read sites reporting to the ITV Server. Currently there are about 1,000. The accompanying chart shows the growth of the infrastructure as well as the current downward trend consistent with the reduction of operations and downsizing of the force.

Condition Based Maintenance - Store and Forward (CBM+SaF)

By MAJ Leilani Tydingco, APD , AIT Initiatives Lead

CBM+ is an effective, cost-avoidance maintenance methodology that can be of significant value to fleet managers who are required to maintain high levels of readiness and operations tempo. However, U.S. Army weapon system platforms lack an end-to-end infrastructure to efficiently collect, store, and transmit the platform-generated data necessary to perform CBM+ and fleet lifecycle management in the Enterprise.

Therefore in July 2014, to help solve this problem, PEO EIS was designated the lead PEO to conduct an analysis to determine the most effective alternative for providing CBM+ SaF capabilities within Army Brigade Combat Teams to connect vehicle health and usage data within the Enterprise. With support from PM AESIP, the PD AMIS Team is spearheading this effort and collaborating with key stakeholders from the CBM+ Community on the Problem Statement, Decision Memorandum, and Analysis of Courses of Action (COAs).

Photo courtesy of defense.gov

Operations and maintenance check of DOD weapon system materiel

The key stakeholders, such as G-4, ASA(ALT), LIA, TACOM, AMC, LOGSA, CASCOM, CECOM, and CERDEC, have made great strides in the past with CBM+ and their inputs are critical to the success of the future CBM+ SaF solution.

Director's Corner

Mr. Jim Alexander, Product Director

As we enter the fall season, invigorated with the start of the football season, I am reminded that it was two years ago that AMIS was created through the merger of two essential and vital organizations. Although each had its own distinctive culture and way of doing business, it has been extremely rewarding to see them blended smoothly into one organization while maintaining the best qualities of each of the former entities. I credit this to the professionalism of our government and contractor employees who never lost focus on the mission during the time of transition. I just returned from a visit to our operations in Europe and Southwest Asia, and I was very pleased to see the results of your efforts out in the field. I was happy to hear very positive feedback from our customers and stakeholders about the quality of our products and services, as well as complimentary comments about our employees who support them on a daily basis. The RF-ITV System and its worldwide infrastructure, along with TC-AIMS II, together form the bedrock of our logistics technology capabilities and they continue to serve the needs of the troops in the theaters of operation. I commend each of you for your hard work and dedication to AMIS, our mission, the Army and our customers. Happy 2nd Anniversary PD AMIS, and Go Bucks!

AMIS Summer Fun

Luau participants

The 23rd of July 2014, day of the annual program office picnic, held a new flair for the potluck participants - a Luau theme. In the place of grilled burgers and dogs, there was Hawaiian smoked pork adjacent to fresh pineapple centerpieces. Instead of bag toss, there was a hula hoop contest. Everyone brought a favorite dish to share, and care was taken to ensure variety and abundance prevailed. To simplify the affair, instead of a local park setting, folks gathered in the office break areas and conference rooms to share the lunch hour in the spirit of fun. Hawaiian music, cheerful activities, a convenient setting and amiable team spirit added up to the best office event ever! Regarding the Hawaiian shirt contest, based on the challenge categories, we had not one but *three* winners!

More summer fun took place on the 30th of July, when the AMIS team traveled to Pfitzner Stadium in Prince William County, Virginia, to cheer on the Potomac Nationals in a baseball game against the Myrtle Beach Pelicans. Many folks brought family members to join in the fun. The weather was warm and breezy, and we enjoyed peanuts and popcorn under blue skies and sunshine. However, just a handful of PD AMIS fans remained to watch the home team lose, as the game continued for 16 innings! (Final score: 10 – 6)

AMIS Team families

Meet the Staff

Major Leilani Tydingco was born and raised on the island of Guam as the oldest of four children. She attended college and Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. After graduating in 1998 she was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Signal Corps and, while in the Signal Corps, held Staff positions in Korea (122nd Sig Bn), Fort Meade (DINFOS), and Kuwait/Iraq (54th Sig Bn). Major Tydingco also held Command positions in Kuwait (54th Sig Bn) and Korea (302nd BSB). In 2008, she was assessed into the Acquisition Corps with a concentration in Program Management. Since joining the Acquisition Corps, she has been assigned to Fort Hood (Operational Test Command), completed a one-year assignment in Afghanistan (PM Biometrics), Fort Belvoir (PM FPS), and now the Hoffman Building (PD AMIS). Currently assigned as Assistant Product Director with oversight of the Automatic Identification Technology (AIT) Initiatives section, her focus is on the following AIT Initiatives: Condition Based Maintenance - Store and Forward (CBM+ SaF), Enhanced Parachute Tracking System (ePTS), and Item Unique Identification (IUID).

Major Tydingco enjoys traveling and going to concerts, movies, plays, and sporting events with her beautiful wife, Iris.

Farewell MAJ Parker

After 4 years with PD AMIS as the Assistant Product Director (APD), Major Shayla Parker is moving to a new endeavor. Her follow on assignment in Aberdeen, Maryland with Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense will be Assistant Product Manager for the Joint Biological Detection System.

Assigned to the program by the U.S. Army Reserve, Major Parker has been a valuable member of the AMIS team. As the APD for Theater Operations (TOPS) and Air Movement Request (AMR), she received a 2012 Federal Computer Week Rising Star Award for her leadership of the implementation of TC-AIMS II in Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait. As Deputy PD for AMIS, she provided guidance in resolving complex funding issues and managed DOD and Army acquisition programs across operations and enterprise information environment mission areas. MAJ Parker began her career as an Army Engineer in Hanau, Germany. Her experience and dedication, combined with an M.P.A. in Public Administration from Webster University and a B.A. in Government and International Politics from George Mason, has enabled her to contribute so much to the program and our customers. We express our appreciation and wish her all the best in her career.

Newsletter Originator Retires

In 2004 Ms. Jo Manson joined PD AMIS (then Product Manager, Automatic Identification Technology (PM AIT). In 2008, she moved to the former Product Director Transportation Information Systems (PD TIS), (now merged into PD AMIS). By 2011, she was welcomed to the Program Executive Office, Enterprise Information Systems Public Affairs Office (PAO). Jo is probably best remembered for the PEO EIS publication, "TOP Chef Training" which quickly became the standard for all EIS. Jo was editor of both original newsletters, the J-Wave Journal (which she also initiated) and the Deployer (now merged into the AMIS Tracker). On 1 August Ms. Manson retired. We wish her all the best. Upon her departure, Jo expressed her sentiments toward the PD AMIS program with these parting words: "It was a priviledge to work for a "Camelot" program that always... provided excellent customer service... an integrated team of individuals who worked seamlessly together, ... military, government or contractors – we were all on the same team, focused on supporting the mission and the Soldiers."

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200 Stovall Street, Suite 5N35 • Alexandria, VA 22332-2700
(703) 545-2972 • www.pdamis.army.mil

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RF-ITV Global Help Desk
Toll free: (800) 877-7925
Email: help.rfitv@us.army.mil

TC-AIMS II Support Operations Center
Toll free: (877) 839-0813
Email: c4isr.support@us.army.mil