



RCAS NEWS



April 2015

FY15 VOLUME III

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NEED HELP?

HAVE QUESTIONS?

WANT TRAINING?

Contact a service desk for assistance:

Army National Guard (ARNG)

1-800-821-3097 (toll free)

United States Army Reserve (USAR)

1-855-558-7272 (toll free)

OCAR HOSTS APRIL RCB

The Office of the Chief, Army Reserve (OCAR) will host the April 23, 2015 Requirements Control Board (RCB) meeting at their headquarters (HQs) Building at Fort Belvoir, VA. This will be the second opportunity for most of the participants to visit this state of the art organizational headquarters which houses the Chief, Army Reserve (CAR)



OCAR HQs Building, Fort Belvoir, VA

and his primary Department of the Army headquarters support staff. It seems most appropriate that this building was dedicated in honor of President Harry S. Truman, whose forty-one year military career included service in both the Army National Guard (ARNG) and the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR).

The April 2015 meeting will again provide the ARNG and USAR representatives the opportunity to communicate directly with the Project Director and key staff regarding both their current activities, as well as strategic topics that will

support their respective information technology capabilities. Planned agenda items include Project Director updates on current budget challenges, impacts to future operations, and the revision of the current RCB Charter. Status reports will be provided on both the FY14 Product Refresh and the RCAS Platform Refresh programs, and current planning

for a potential FY15 Product Refresh. RCAS application Product Owner presentations will include updates on the Automated Deployment initiative, planned release schedules and the Oracle migration. A demonstration of the new Mobile Distance Learning Classroom (MDLC) is also planned. The next RCB is tentatively planned for July 2015.

For more information on the RCAS RCB, contact Ms. Lesley Plitz, RCAS Requirements Manager, by phone at 703-806-3212, or by e-mail at lesley.p.plitz.civ@mail.mil.

AUTOMATED DEPLOYMENT WORKS

PD RCAS has successfully piloted the new automated deployment approach to delivering quarterly application releases that replaces the traditional FedEx shipments to each site. We utilized this method to deploy the beta release for the RCAS 7.0.9 release. The entire package of 3.5GB was delivered electronically by the National Guard Bureau Network Operations Systems Center using the System Center Configuration Management (SCCM) network for ARNG. The beta release for RCAS 7.0.9 included the Oracle 11.2.04 upgrade, Oracle CPU patch and the 7.0.9 (application and database) release. This new approach deployed all the files in a matter of hours versus the three-day cycle previously needed to prepare and ship media. The most impressive test results associated with

the Release 7.0.9 beta event proved that a 3.5GB package could be transferred to the beta sites in an average time of 2.7 hours. RCAS is optimistic about the possibilities to further innovate automated deployment solutions in support of the RCAS mission.

To get the most out of the automated deployment process, State and Territory locations are encouraged to provide feedback on their preferred SCCM distribution point locations where files will be delivered by way of the SCCM network on GuardNet.

For more information, contact Ms. Angela Green-Mack, PD RCAS Chief Technical Officer, by phone at 703-806-3089 or by email at angela.d.green-mack.civ@mail.mil.

PD CORNER



**MR. RALPH OCASIO
RCAS PROJECT DIRECTOR**

Greetings to everyone and a very special thanks to each of you for your continued great support. There is something about this time of the year that lends itself to something between a "Spring Cleaning" and a "Midyear Diagnostic Check" to assess exactly where we are in delivering our products and services to your units and soldiers.

I am pleased to report to you that we are in the final stages of wrapping up both of our key system improvement programs...the Product Refresh to sustain your IT infrastructures; and the update to your individual RCAS environments. Our next Release (7.0.9) will deliver both new and improved application capability, and will be deployed entirely by automated or electronic means.

We will be convening our 2nd Requirements Control Board (RCB) of FY15 later this month; and I look forward to continuing our effort to expand and transform this important forum to continue to provide an excellent communication medium, as well as to serve as strategic planning and decision making body for both components.

Finally - please join me in welcoming our new Business Management Division Chief, Ms. Sarah Bearden. Sarah brings an extensive financial management background that includes her assignments on Active Duty, followed by Federal service in multiple organizations and capacities. I encourage you to learn more about Sarah on page three of this newsletter.

Thank YOU for what you do for our Soldiers and their families, as well as your interest in what our team is doing – it is our honor to serve you....Be safe out there...

HW/SW PRODUCTS - PROCUREMENT SUCCESSSES

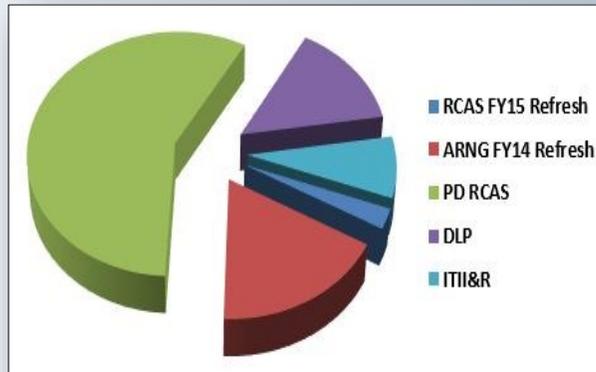
An important mission PD RCAS delivers to the end user is the procurement of hardware and software (HW/SW) that directly supports soldiers and their missions in the field. The PD RCAS HW/SW Requirements Team manages all program requirements for hardware and software purchases, from definition of requirements to traceability, through procurement and delivery. Procurement of these materials supports the Army National Guard (ARNG) and U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) missions, including Distributed Learning Program (DLP) and the IT Infrastructure Integration and Refresh (ITII&R) projects. Requests, called RIPs (Request to Initiate Purchase), are often initiated from the field and submitted to PD RCAS, then routed to our industry partner (L-3 National Security Solutions). For requirements under DLP or ITII&R, the PD RCAS initiates the RIPs based on the bill of materials associated with a given activity. Once the RIP is issued, market research is conducted and pricing is solicited from vendors through the Army Computer Hardware Enterprise and Software Solutions (CHESS). Once quotations are received, the information is assembled along with a recommendation based on the best match in terms of technical specifications and pricing. That packet is submitted back to the PD RCAS for final review and upon acceptance, the materials are then purchased. Once the materials are shipped and received at a designated location, the process concludes with the submission of the Department of Defense form DD250, Material Inspection and Receiving Report.

Since August 2013, the team has made hardware/software purchases valued at over \$57 million. This constitutes 144 RIPs that were processed valued at over \$46.5 million, plus an additional \$11 million made in purchase orders for materials in support of DLP and ITII&R missions. In total, over 288 purchase orders have been executed.

In just the last 12 months (March 2014 – March 2015), the HW/SW Requirements team procured a total exceeding \$43 million in purchases, which was more than double the activity from the prior period, and included major projects like the FY14 ARNG Hardware Refresh (recently completed in February). The FY14 ARNG Hardware Refresh included procuring new hardware for all 55 ARNG locations. Each Unit had specific requirements and budget constraints; however through the aggregation of the part numbers, volume pricing was obtained ultimately achieving the best value. Currently underway, at about 60% complete, is the FY15 RCAS Environment Hardware Refresh, which replaces the HP Proliant DL360 servers at all 51 ARNG locations and three U.S. territories. The FY15 RCAS Environment Hardware Refresh is scheduled to complete in May.

In looking ahead, two major initiatives, which complement one another, are currently underway.

Now in beta testing, the workflow to track RIPs during the lifecycle is being implemented on the RCAS SharePoint site — RCA A-IDE (Agile Integrated Data Environment). This will provide traceability and status on any open RIP, and facilitate the review and approval process for PD RCAS.



Ratio of PD RCAS Procurements by Key Area

The other initiative is to apply Lean Six Sigma (LSS) towards the RIP process. This comprehensive approach to identify efficiencies and eliminate redundant processes includes collaboration across all the stakeholders in the procurement chain including PD RCAS, Federal Systems Integration and Management (FEDSIM), and L-3. This is another approach PD RCAS is taking as part of continuous improvement, and finding innovative ways to maintain superior levels of support for this important mission in an environment with increased financial and personnel constraints.

For more information about PD RCAS procurement successes, contact Ms. Lesley Plitz, RCAS Requirements Manager, by phone at 703-806-3212, or by e-mail at lesley.p.plitz.civ@mail.mil.

MEET YOUR NEW BMD CHIEF



MS. SARAH E. BEARDEN

Ms. Sarah E. Bearden joined Project Directorate (PD) Reserve Component Automation Systems (RCAS) as the Chief of the Business Management Division in January 2015.

Sarah has over 15 years of service in the U.S. Army and Department of Defense, supporting a variety of missions and working in a variety of organizations. She held various assignments in the Army on Active Duty as a Financial Management Specialist/Sergeant for nine years. As a civilian, she has worked for the George C. Marshall Center School of Security Studies, PD Acquisition, Logistics and Technology Enterprise Systems and Services (ALTESS) under the Program Executive Office Enterprise Information Systems (PEO EIS), U.S. Army Africa, and Northern Regional Medical Command before coming to RCAS. She has worked as a disbursing agent, Contracting Officer's Representative (COR), budget analyst and has had the opportunity to hold two Budget Officer positions.

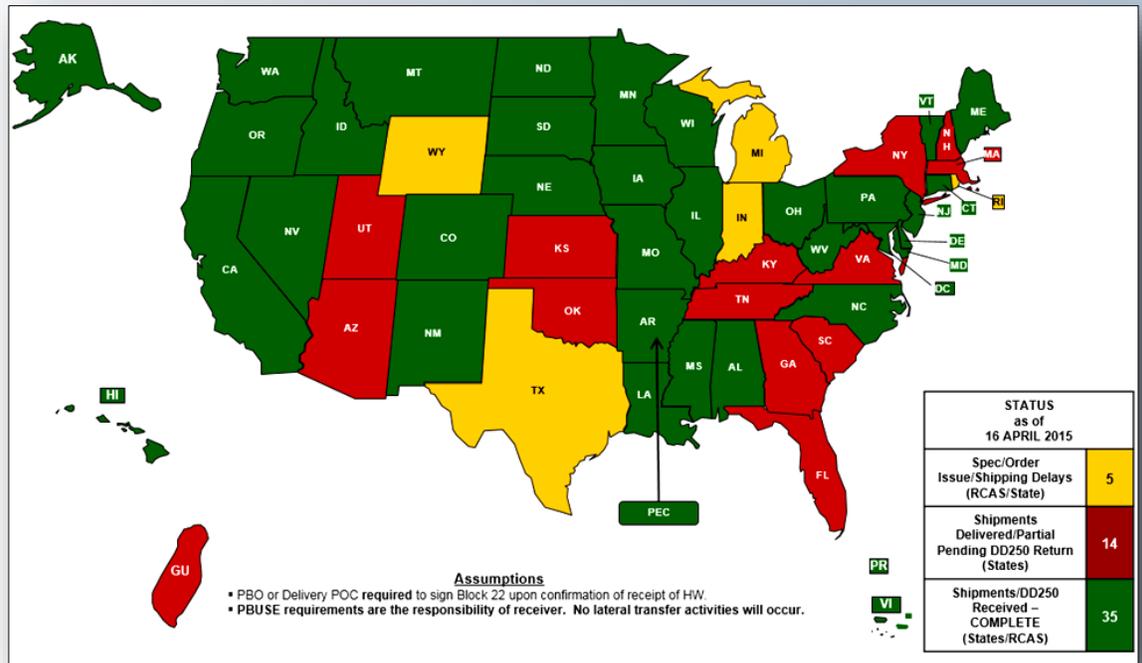
Sarah holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a Master of Business Administration. She is currently working on her Doctorate of Management in Organizational Leadership. Sarah also holds the Certified Defense Financial Manager Certification. She is a member of the Army Acquisition Corps and currently holds Level II certification in Business - Financial Management. In her free time, Sarah enjoys traveling and exercising.

**"THE JOB IS NOT DONE UNTIL THE PAPERWORK IS FINISHED"
FY14 PRODUCT REFRESH UPDATE**

As we near the completion of the FY14 Product Refresh effort – the RCAS Requirements Management team continues to receive outstanding support and assistance from every level of the procurement process organization – we sincerely thank all of YOU for your continuing cooperation. We are now in the final and most important stage of this effort, which includes shipping, delivery and property accountability. As we progress in this phase it is important we continue to receive your support to ensure a successful closeout. A critical piece in to completing our mission, is receiving your

respective DD250 (Material Inspection and Receiving Report) documents. Without the DD250s, we will be unable to complete FY14 and will hinder our ability to efficiently begin our planning for any future Refresh projects. If you need assistance on this process, or have any questions or comments, please contact us. Again – thank you for your great support.

For more information on the FY14 Product Refresh, contact Ms. Lesley Plitz, RCAS Requirements Manager, by phone at 703-806-3212, or by e-mail at lesley.p.plitz.civ@mail.mil.



FY14 Product Refresh Status Map

FY15 RCAS ENVIRONMENT REFRESH UPDATE

The PD RCAS Fielding Team continues to coordinate the initiative to upgrade the current RCAS Database and Webservers infrastructure with new HP hardware and related products. At the time of this writing the team will have completed 60% of the upgrades for all requiring States and Territories. This has been a combined team effort that involves the ARNG Command Control Communications and Computers (C4) Directorate (G6), Data Processing Installation (DPI) community, State U.S. Property and Fiscal Officers (USP&FOs) and RCAS Industry Partner (L3) engineers.

The PD RCAS team has received excellent support and assistance from the designated ARNG DPI representatives with coordinating movement of the equipment from the USP&FO warehouses to the 'racking and stacking' of these critical components and repurposing the legacy equipment as needed. The end of this effort is scheduled for early May 2015 with Nevada and Washington ARNG sites.

To find out more about the FY15 RCAS Environment Refresh, please contact Mr. Mark Durand, RCAS Fielding Lead, by phone at 703-806-3120, or by e-mail at mark.j.durand.civ@mail.mil.

TEST AUTOMATION AT RCAS

Advancements in the automated testing arena have helped RCAS teams increase the quality of their work and, consequently, produce tangible business benefits to the enterprise.

The test automation team at RCAS develops automated tests out of predefined test procedures. The team leverages Behavioral Driven

Development to help understand test scenarios and to provide transparency to the customer on what user stories are being validated. We perform automated smoke, functional and core regression tests during our sprint and release testing.

- ◆ **Smoke Tests:** Small tests that are integrated into Continuous Integration in order to test if key components are broken during a code change.
- ◆ **Functional Regression Tests:** Test the functionality of code that has been touch in a recent sprint. These tests can be trimmed down as testing goes forward.
- ◆ **Core Regression Tests:** Test the "Bread And Butter" functionality of the application. These tests perform end-to-end transactions to ensure that something used every day is not broken in a release. Also, these tests can come from functional tests for key areas that are expressed, by the customer, to be tested every release.

How do we do it?

- ◆ Test automation efforts are concentrated towards the highly critical areas of the applications, where there is a high likelihood of finding defects and a high impact of those defects to the application.
- ◆ Test Automation Solution is built using software engineering standards including the Software Development Lifecycle, programming technologies, coding standards and industry best practices.



Real time build status monitoring capabilities for all teams

RECENT SUCCESS

- \$400K+/yr. cost avoidance over manual testing
- 500+ Automated Test Scenarios
- Behavior Driven Development with Specflow
- Automated CAC authentication
- User Interface to perform Batch test execution
- Open Source STORYQ to automated scripts fail over
- Open Source Pickles to generate Living Documentation
- Open Source Net Office to validate MS office exports

◆ A dedicated test automation team builds domain expertise and has the skills, experience and know-how to develop a maintainable and reliable Test Automation Solution. The team stays flexible to further evolution or transitioning to new approaches or technologies.

- ◆ Test Automation Management provides needed inputs to the effort estimation and Return on Investment (ROI) analysis by providing technical evaluations and comparisons of different test automation architectures and approaches with respect to timing, costs, efforts and benefits.
- ◆ Team Automation Management conducts evaluation/retrospective meetings to gather team inputs and feedback so that lessons learned help adjust future time estimates and schedules and scope of improvement can be identified.

Test Automation Framework

- Framework supports all functional requirements.
- Provides the capability to create test scenarios, select and executing test cases, logging results and generating execution reports.
- Has capabilities to recover from exceptions, skip the current case, and resume testing with the next case.
- Automated test scripts are maintainable and kept up-to-date for changed requirements.
- Automated test scripts are easily retired if they are no longer useful or necessary.

What does success look like?

Accomplishments (March 25, 2014 through March 24, 2015)

1. Developed 300+ automated scripts
2. Reported 60+ defects during automated test execution
3. Developed RCAS Test Automation User Interface for Test Scripts Execution
4. Developed custom code to enable automated CAC login for Test execution
5. Developed 20+ automated scripts which cover 240+ test scenarios
6. Developed Continuous Integration proof of concept build, deploy and Test

For more information about RCAS Test Automation please contact Mr. Bill Ware, Test and Evaluations Product Owner, RCAS Software Sustainment Division by phone at 703-806-3065 or by email at william.m.ware.civ@mail.mil.

RESERVE COMPONENT AUTOMATION SYSTEMS—SERVING THE SOLDIER...SERVING THE NATION

RELEASE 7.0.9 DEPLOYS—7.0.10 ON TRACK

RCAS Release 7.0.9 is almost here, and Release 7.0.10 is just around the corner. Release 7.0.9, which was highlighted in the January 2015 release of the RCAS Newsletter and set to deploy in April 2015, is a robust release. The following is a recap of RCAS Release 7.0.9 enhancements:

- Social Security Number (SSN) redaction from all screens, reports and forms – only the last four digits of the SSN will be displayed
- RCAS database will upgrade to Oracle Release 11.2.0.4
- RCAS applications compatible for use by both IE 9 and IE 11
- Stationing Plan Submission Application (SPSA) incorporated into the Organizational Authority (OA) application for the National Guard Bureau (NGB)
- NGB will be able to view Safety and Occupational Health (SOH) Level 2 Accident Reports by single States
- Mobilization Planning Data Viewer (MPDV) Battle Roster users can maintain structure of a Battle Roster and simultaneously release the Soldiers assigned to the Battle Roster being archived in order to be used within another active Battle Roster
- Property Book Unit Supply - Enhanced (PBUS-E) files can be saved anywhere on the client's computer
- Retirement Points Accounting Management (RPAM) application will include unverified service displayed in the Soldier Report and defaulting Assign Loss Reason Code in an Interstate Transfer (IST) Import
- Within the Military Personnel Office (MilPO) Orders application, defect corrections include fixing a server error when running a Test Query, as well as implementing threat mitigation and defensive coding for potential Information Assurance (IA) issues
- Unit Personnel System/Command Management System (UPS/CMS) application will include both a flag indicator for Multi Weigh-In when entered for today's date, and the UPS User will be restricted to displaying the Personnel Qualification Reports based on their authorized unit of assignment



The Safety Team meets for their daily "scrum," to report activities since the last meeting and intended actions for the current day. From Left to Right: River Michaels, Samuel Whaley, Derek Eaton, Shaleen Patel, and Jason Mills. Photo courtesy of Shaleen Patel, Scrum Master.

RCAS Release 7.0.10 is on track to deploy in July 2015 with several new functional improvements of its own.

Within RCASWeb, Administrators will notice that the RCASWeb application is utilizing the .NET 4.5.1 Framework.

Within the RCAS Web Server when the Administrators launch the Get External Data Interface to run an Information Exchange (IE), certain IEs will not be available in the dropdown list of IEs to run. The list of IEs that are being removed fall into two categories. The first category is retired IEs in which the code was never removed. The IE was retired; however, the IE code was never updated. The second category addresses IEs that were erroneously deployed to a site type that was not applicable. The Enterprise team is also implementing a new Application Reference Architecture to be used by the RCAS Applications that is incrementally introduced to allow for a more modern application implementation. The Oracle 12c upgrade analysis is complete. It is intended that the installation of the Oracle 12c upgrade will be well automated to vastly reduce the amount of effort required by the field to implement the solution. All USAR Major Subordinate Command users that have not used the system for more than 180 days will be removed. Finally, the Enterprise team is currently in Phase #1 of the Oracle Replacement

project. In this phase we are evaluating multiple databases for a post-Oracle RCAS environment. A series of databases are under evaluation and as part of the testing effort, components of the IE Reference Architecture are being ported from Oracle to the other Target Database contenders. This effort is being executed to perform both analysis on the capabilities of the Target Databases and also to assess the amount of effort that would be required for the RCAS Application to migrate when implemented with the IE Reference Architecture and Application Reference Architecture.

The Force Authorization (FA) Team will implement high-priority enhancements to the Stationing Plan Submission Application (SPSA), initially fielded during Release 7.0.9, as a new component to the National Guard's Organizational Authority (OA) application. FA also plans to deliver document storage functionality for the Force Management (FM) application. Other content associated with FA includes upgrading all applications to the more modern .NET 4.5.1 framework and implementing the RCAS Progress Status Bar on the U.S. Army Reserve's Permanent Orders System (POS) application.

The Safety team continues efforts of expanding NGB visibility into State-Level Accident Reporting by now allowing NGB to view specific accident records from a read-only detail page for any single JFHQ. This continued functionality will increase SOH exposure at NGB, increase their visibility and control of ARNG accident data, and save time during exchange of information with USACRC. The team continues to remove deceased/discharged personnel from Persons in SOH. This new enhancement addresses current issues with SOH and the SIDPERS data feeds. Finally, Chief Randall Pifer from GA continues updating questions and master checklists that will eventually be imported into SOH Level 1. This effort will also include the updating of the hazard references in SOH Level 1. These modernization efforts will result in less confusion for the field, increased efficiency, and increased SOH support and usage from current and potential users.

The Mobilization Planning Data Viewer (MPDV) application will eliminate static SRP types and fix a number of Defects related to several modules and functions. In addition, many data at rest issues will be addressed.

The Personnel Team's plan for UPS/CMS is to update DA Form 4187 to the current Adobe version, which will restrict reports for Soldiers in the user's organizational hierarchy and disable Excel export for letters. In addition, the ALL button in UMR report will also be disabled. PAR routing will be corrected in MilPO Orders and email address validation will be performed. In RPAM, we will default an Assign Loss Reason Code during IST import, correct IST import of Notice of Eligibility, and correct a defect when transferring/import D02 files and visual flagging of invalid PCR Action Code. Finally, MilPO Orders and UPS/CMS will allow 50 character user names, and all three applications will have Chapter 1 of the SUM updated to a more user friendly format.

To learn more about these new releases please contact Mr. Jim Cook, Chief, RCAS Software Sustainment Division by phone at 703-806-3071 or by email at jim.n.cook.civ@mail.mil.

PD RCAS TOWN HALLS - "GETTING THE WORD OUT"

Mr. Jim Cook, PD RCAS Chief, Software Sustainment Division (SSD), conducted the RCAS Release 7.0.9 Pre-Installation Town Hall meeting via Defense Connect Online on 18 March to all of the Army National Guard Data Processing Installation (DPI) community. 37 States and Territories were in attendance to learn about the new method of RCAS distribution, automated deployment. This new method of software release replaces the costly and inefficient method of shipping CDs to the users. DPIs were provided their System Center Configuration Management (SCCM) Point of Contact as well as the file names that will be pushed to their SCCM server. Another topic discussed is the

upgrade to Oracle 11.2.0.4. DPIs were instructed to install the Oracle upgrade prior to installing RCAS Release 7.0.9, followed by the Oracle 11.2.0.4 CPU Patch. The DPI community was also asked to spread the word regarding the RCAS GSME Validation Environment which is of vital importance for testing the software throughout the RCAS Applications' development phases. The RCAS Release 7.0.9 Post-Installation Town Hall will occur in May.

For more information on PD RCAS Pre and Post Release Town Halls, please contact Mr. Jim Cook, Chief, RCAS Software Sustainment Division by phone at 703-806-3071 or by email at jim.n.cook.civ@mail.mil.

WHAT'S IN YOUR 'SAFETY' TOOLBOX?

One of the premier applications within the PD RCAS is the Safety and Occupational Health (SOH) application. The SOH application supports the ARNG in complying with Army safety requirements and regulations. SOH is an enterprise web-based application that provides an automated system for collecting, recording, and reporting data on occupational health and safety matters.

users to record information that will help in preventing future accidents. In addition, users can maintain information on safety and occupational health training, including requirements for individuals and course scheduling.

Specifically, SOH provides data collection for:

- Accident investigation and reporting
- Inspection scheduling and management
- Hazards identification and abatement
- System defect or inadequacy review and management
- Hazard analysis to create system defects
- Safety training planning and management
- Individual and unit safety awards
- Radioactive item inventory management



A very large initiative was just completed by CW4 (Retired – GA-ARNG) Randall Pifer and Ms. Laura Altdorfer (Program Management Support Staff) updating the Master Checklists for inspections. Master checklists are questions grouped into functional areas or categories for inspections. They include ratings applied to any inspection conducted based on that particular master. All ARNG sites including the National Guard Bureau (NGB) and the Joint Forces Headquarters (JFHQ) can create master checklists. The JFHQ can use NGB master checklists to create custom checklists or as a basis for an additional master checklist.

SOH users can generate required forms, such as Department of the Army Form 2397 -AB-R, Abbreviated Aviation Accident Report (AAAR), Unmanned Aircraft Systems Accident Report (UASAR), as well as reports like the Summary of Hazards, which lists the hazards identified at a particular unit over a specified period of time. Users can record information collected during inspections or accident investigations, as well as action items and the status of these items. SOH allows

The world of a Safety Professional requires a deep devotion and dedication to the business of safety; give SOH a review, see how it may help you manage your safety requirements all in one place...and ultimately save you time.

For more information or to request SOH support or a project briefing contact Mr. Max Dunn, SOH Product Owner, by phone at 703-806-3128, or by e-mail at max.g.dunn.civ@mail.mil.

UPCOMING CONFERENCE SUPPORT

PD RCAS provides conference support at the following events:

If you are planning to attend any of these workshops or conference events, visit the RCAS area for a software demonstration and to discuss RCAS products and services.

U.S. Army Reserve Joint Assessment Conference
Fort Bragg, North Carolina—3rd Qtr. FY15, 28 May—1 Jun 2015
Army National Guard Joint Assessment Conference
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas—1st Qtr. FY16, 5-8 Oct 2015

To request RCAS participation at your next conference or workshop event, contact Mr. Max Dunn, MPDV Product Owner, by phone at 703-806-3128, or by e-mail at max.g.dunn.civ@mail.mil.

WORKSHOPS AND MPDV SRP SUPPORT—AVAILABLE NOW

Using the RCAS Mobilization Planning Data Viewer (MPDV) application can help make your next Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) event or workshop more successful. To assist unit personnel, unit administrators and commanders with the use of this time-saving MPDV tool, the PD RCAS offers MPDV Leadership Workshops, briefings and SRP support for all levels of command. This support is fully funded by the PD RCAS so there is no cost to the field. The Leadership Workshops and briefings clarify how MPDV fits into the larger scope of pre-mobilization.

SRP support events are practical site visits aimed at providing:

- Assistance with setting up a customized MPDV SRP event
- Assisting SRP Station Operators with their role using MPDV
- Assistance running "Real Time" MPDV SRP status reports
- Participating in out brief/AAR sessions, as requested

One such event occurred this past March where Mr. Max Dunn, the RCAS MPDV Product Owner supported the Joint Forces Headquarters (JFHQ), Michigan Army National Guard (ARNG) during an SRP event at Camp Grayling, MI. There were three MI ARNG units involved with over 130 personnel going through the event over a three day period.



1SG Page, MI ARNG JFHQ SRP Support Staff, processes 2LT Kerr for his passport...soldier received a GO at this station and 1SG Page is making the annotations in MPDV. Photo Credit: Max Dunn, MPDV Product Owner.



SFC McDaniels (far right) and SSG Visk (lower right), MI ARNG JFHQ SRP Support Staff, process a soldier at the Security Station, annotating the results in MPDV. Photo Credit: Max Dunn, MPDV Product Owner.

Mr. Dunn said this about the event, "The Michigan ARNG ranks near the top for the way they conduct their SRP activities. The Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) that run the events are very knowledgeable, well organized and care about taking care of soldiers. It was a privilege to have the

opportunity to work with these professionals during this SRP event. (Warmer weather would have been preferred!)"



SSG La Porta (right), MI ARNG JFHQ SRP Support Staff, finishes processing a soldier at the ID Card Station after making the annotations in MPDV. Photo Credit: Max Dunn, MPDV Product Owner.

The control and real time visibility of Soldiers that the MPDV SRP event module provides is one of the most beneficial aspects of the MPDV application. The RCAS MPDV application tracks critical Soldier readiness information for Commanders and unit leadership across the ARNG and U.S. Army Reserve (USAR). MPDV continues to be

the System of Record in both the ARNG and USAR for tracking Soldier Readiness and for reporting that data to the Army's Deployment and Reconstitution Tracking Software (DARTS) application where it is used by the respective mobilization stations.

Want to know more about MPDV and what it can do for you, go to the RCAS homepage on Army Knowledge Online (AKO) at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/207093>. There you will have access to the latest MPDV information, briefings, contacts, the MPDV schedule of events and much more.

To request MPDV SRP support or a project briefing contact Mr. Max Dunn, MPDV Product Owner, by phone at 703-806-3128, or by e-mail at max.g.dunn.civ@mail.mil.



SFC Logovisa (seated), MI ARNG JFHQ SRP Support Staff, checks a soldier into the SRP event using MPDV and CAC scanning technology. Photo Credit: Max Dunn, MPDV Product Owner.

RCAS TRAINING CORNER—THE BEST TOOLS FOR THE JOB

Soldiers are trained to meet mission requirements with tools at hand, and having the right tools for the job can save both time and lives. The Reserve Component Automation Systems (RCAS) suite of applications is designed to make numerous important tasks easier and more efficient for the soldier. Mobilization Planning Data Viewer (MPDV), Retirement Points Accounting Management (RPAM), and Safety and Occupational Health (SOH) are some of the most robust RCAS applications available. They help the soldier minimize input and maximize output for a variety of critical logistical functions. Knowing what each application can do, and learning how to use them, are the first steps in putting these power tools to work.



SFC Marty Phelps taught RPAM at Ft. Myer-Henderson Hall, March 2015, Assisted by RPAM Functional Manager Ms. Althea Wilson and RCAS Instructor Mr. Steve Longoria. Photo credit: Steve Longoria, RCAS Instructor.

On 19 February 2015, LTC Rick Ingram, National Guard Liaison Officer at the United States Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center at Ft. Rucker Alabama, visited the RCAS SOH training session being conducted in Mobile, Alabama by Senior SOH Instructor, Mr. Bill Blaine. Mr. Blaine demonstrated the Inspections and the Accidents modules, which were LTC Ingram's main focus. LTC Ingram was surprised at how detailed the SOH application is as well as its accuracy and compliance with Army Regulations and standards. He was pleased to discover a complete safety system that is relatively easy to use. He liked how data is saved for re-use and how it can be searched in many ways to do trend analysis and run reports. LTC Ingram especially appreciated that SOH has two client applications that can be used anywhere in the world: The Field Accident Tablet System (FATS) for recording Ground or Aviation Accidents and the

Checklist Management Automated System (CMAS) for recording safety inspections onsite.

Chances are that SOH and the other RCAS applications have tools that can make work lighter for you, too. Don't hesitate to reach



Soldiers arriving for a USAR MPDV class at the NAS/JRB (Navy Air Station/Joint Reserve Base) New Orleans, LA. Mr. Walter Bailey conducted an MPDV class that covered Personnel, Training, and Logistics information vital for mobilization for 25 members of the 311th TSC. Soldiers traveled from as far as Chicago, IL to attend. Photo credit: Mr. Walter Bailey, RCAS Instructor.

out. The RCAS Training Team is here for you! RCAS instructors have even been invited to support Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP). For example, in March 2015, Instructor Steve Longoria joined members of the 4005th US Army Hospital (Doctors and Nurses) for their SRP at Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base in Texas to help the

soldiers prepare for deployment. More than 100 soldiers participated in a Level 1 SRP and 50 soldiers participated in a Level 2 SRP.

RCAS Instructors Mr. Walter Bailey, Mr. Bill Blaine, and Mr. Steve Longoria contributed to this article.

View current RCAS training schedules at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/207093>, click on the Training Support tab at the top, and then click the RCAS Online Training Link on the left. Additional high level training videos outlining the RCAS Release 7.0 applications are also available on the RCAS AKO Training Support page at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/files/25111775>.

To schedule training for your site, contact Mr. Robert G. Medley, RCAS Training Director at 703-806-3163, or Robert.G.Medley.civ@mail.mil. For the ARNG, submit a "Request for RCAS Training – APPLICATION NAME" helpdesk ticket through the NGB Helpdesk at ng.ncr.arng.mbx.helpdesk-ngb@mail.mil, or 1-800-821-3097. For the USAR, contact your Major Subordinate Command Point of Contact for MPDV training.



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