AMIS SUPPORT TO EUROPEAN ACTIVITY SET
BY AMIS COMMUNICATION/OPERATIONS TEAM

In Europe, Automated Movement and Identification Solutions (AMIS) provides support to U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) for Operations Atlantic Resolve and European Activity Set.

What is Atlantic Resolve?
Atlantic Resolve is a demonstration of continued U.S. commitment to collective security through a series of actions designed to reassure North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies and partners of America’s dedication to enduring peace and stability in the region. Since April 2014, USAREUR has led land forces efforts on behalf of the U.S. military by conducting continuous, enhanced multinational training and security cooperation activities with allies and partners in Eastern Europe. These multinational training and security cooperation activities are taking place in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary. The training events improve interoperability, strengthen relationships and trust among allied armies, contribute to regional stability and demonstrate U.S. commitment to NATO.

What is European Activity Set?
In fiscal year 2017, the European Reassurance Initiative is funded at $3.4 billion, most of which will be earmarked for Army operations to reassure allies. With only about 30,000 Soldiers in Europe to counter Russia’s actions today compared to roughly 300,000 against the Soviet Union in the Cold War days, the additions next year will allow the region to be more prepared. “That’s how we make 30,000 look like 300,000,” said LTG Frederick Benjamin “Ben” Hodges, commanding general, USAREUR. “We are an economy of force, but the Army is going to spend a ton of money helping us get that capability back over in Europe.” USAREUR has identified locations in Europe as European Activity Set and Army Prepositioned Stock – 2 sites, which are strategically prepositioned vital stocks in Europe that reduce the deployment response times of the modular, expeditionary Army. AMIS will provide Radio Frequency In-Transit Visibility (RF-ITV) tracking in support of this initiative. The four locations have been identified for RF-ITV implementation are Mannheim, Germany; Dulmen, Germany; Eygelshoven, Netherlands and Zutendaal, Belgium. Currently, five Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) read nodes have been installed between Mannheim and Eygelshoven and site surveys have been completed in Dulmen and Zutendaal. Since installation, these five nodes have read nearly 5,000 tags. AMIS contract support engineers and USAREUR G4 continue to provided exceptional support to this very important mission.
HASKIN DISCUSSES CATEGORY MANAGEMENT AT WASHINGTON TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY DAY

BY MS. TRICIA SHELLEY, PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUPPORT, CHESS

On Feb. 16, Mr. Doug Haskin, product lead, Computer Hardware Enterprise Software and Solutions (CHESS) spoke on a panel at Washington Technology’s Industry Day in McLean, Virginia. The event's theme was Category Management: A New Way of Doing Business, and government personnel were invited to offer insights into how category management is reshaping the federal IT market as well as how suppliers can adapt and thrive. During the panel discussion, Mr. Haskin, along with key members of General Services Administration, discussed how the government is addressing category management for IT hardware and software and provided feedback on challenges and lessons learned. “With many in industry concerned about category management’s financial impacts to their bottom line, I thought this event would be a great opportunity to highlight a few ways that the Army, through CHESS, has been able to successfully implement it in a way that has been beneficial to the government and our vendors,” said Mr. Haskin.

Mr. Haskin discussed CHESS’ continuous efforts to support the Army’s goal for category management, saying, “Although the Office of Management and Budget’s formal category management policies are only a couple years old, CHESS has been practicing key aspects of it for over a decade through our hardware consolidated buy events and our hardware, software and services indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity contracts.” Mr. Nick Wakeman, editor-in-chief for Washington Technology, concluded the discussion with a brief question and answer period that allowed panelists to hear from industry.

Mr. Haskin’s appearance at the Washington Technology Industry Day is another example of CHESS’ ongoing vision to be the Army’s center of excellence and provided IT acquisition through continuously competitive contracts that provide economical, value-added and net-worthy IT products and superior, performance-based IT services for the Army.

AUTOMATION ENSURES EIS SOFTWARE RELEASES ARE SAFE

BY MR. MICHAEL LUCKZO, SYSTEMS INTEGRATION TEAM TEST LEAD & MS. DIANE POLLARD, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS, ACQBUSINESS

One of the biggest challenges in IT is ensuring that software code is free from exploitable flaws and vulnerabilities. To this end, Acquisition Business (AcqBusiness) thoroughly scans every major and minor software release to find and flag any security vulnerabilities so they may be addressed before the software is ever deployed. “Anytime there is new software released, there could be flaws in the code that make hacking-in possible,” says Mr. Marc Poole, technical operations and maintenance lead, AcqBusiness. “Through automated testing, we can scan everything to make sure all releases are free of any known vulnerabilities.”

AcqBusiness has built a continuous integration environment using open-source tools for source code control and an open-source server, along with a source code analyzer. These tools are designed to reduce cost and risk by automating and enhancing key software processes for audits, testing and deployment. The tools strengthen the software applications themselves so that hackers and malicious insiders cannot access vital assets. AcqBusiness is now using automated testing before releasing software code to production and the tests are executed iteratively to perform functional, regression and code quality checks. According to Mr. Poole, “Through automation we reduce manual testing efforts, which allows cost savings to be directed towards delivering new capabilities to the Army.”
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I3MP COMPLETES JBLM NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

BY I3MP COMMUNICATIONS

Installation Information Infrastructure Modernization Program (I3MP) completed the delivery of a state-of-the-art information technology capability modernization effort at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), Washington, on Feb. 7. The infrastructure upgrade effort directly impacted the Army network for the project’s core customers at the JBLM headquarters, Army I Corps, Air Force 62nd Airlift Wing, Madigan Army Medical Center and the JBLM Network Enterprise Center. The effort enabled JBLM to provide a secure suite of collaboration, real-time communications and supportive services available to the Soldier and Army business user on any device, anywhere in the world.

Mr. Alberto Dominguez, assistant product manager, I3MP, led the $18 million effort’s Integrated Project Team in building network capacity that simplifies and standardizes Army installation campus area networks. During the multi-year JBLM project, Mr. Dominguez’s team oversaw work on the outside cable plant, inside cable plant and network modernizations to the JBLM information infrastructure, enabling standards-based network services to integrate with available enterprise applications, such as business, intelligence and warfighting.

Mr. Willie Matthews, the JBLM project team lead, managed the day-to-day activities to ensure timely completion. Along with the product team assistant, Mr. Joseph Casazza, Mr. Matthews coordinated and collaborated with government and industry partners to install and route the data source network traffic through the new infrastructure. According to Mr. Matthews, “It’s a good feeling knowing the JBLM upgrade provides the necessary voice infrastructure to support up to 50,000 users at a critical installation.”

FORT BELVOIR HUMPHREYS HALL SUPPORTS RCAS TRAINING

BY MR. ROBERT G. MEDLEY, RCAS TRAINING DIRECTOR

Earlier this year, Reserve Component Automation Systems (RCAS) training supported a classroom event at the Army Force Management School at Humphreys Hall on Fort Belvoir, Virginia. RCAS instructor Mr. Drew Lewis taught force management and organizational authority as part of the quarterly Force Integration Readiness Officer (FIRO) training. In the force management module, students learned to compare and analyze data associated with unit personnel and equipment assignments to ensure accuracy of current provisioning. The organizational authority module helped soldiers understand connections between Unit Identification Codes (UIC) and the history of changes in the Army National Guard. Students learned to track changes in location and branch through the organizational history of each UIC. The resultant analysis helps FIROs shift personnel and supplies to maximize efficiency and meet the needs of an ever-changing mission.

The well-equipped classroom facility at Humphreys Hall was filled almost to capacity with 34 students, each of whom had the benefit of their own workstation. Large screens around the room ensured everyone had a clear view of the presentation material. Students were able to view data on the live server, which lent a real world application to the course content. Collaboration between the RCAS and Force Management System instructors fostered an understanding of how the RCAS applications play an integral part within the force management arena and how each aspect relates to the Army’s mission at large.
Global Combat Support System–Army (GCSS-Army) Increment 1 moved to its permanent office facility on Fort Lee, Virginia, on March 16. This move comes nine years after occupying a temporary headquarters in Petersburg, Virginia. The newly renovated Feldman Hall is named for MG Herman Feldman, who served as the Army’s Quartermaster General from March 1949 to September 1951. Formerly a billeting facility for unaccompanied personnel at Fort Lee, Feldman Hall has been transformed into a modern headquarters that greatly enhances the capabilities of the GCSS-Army team. The new building also creates adequate space for the future of the program.

The move to Fort Lee is the result of a project that began nearly three years ago. Anticipating the need for more space as a result of Increment 1, Wave 2 fielding efforts, the team responsible for facility management began the process to expand the program’s footprint in the leased facility in the spring of 2014. The Fort Lee director of public works offered a potential permanent solution at Feldman Hall and the GCSS-Army team, in coordination with the space management team at PEO EIS, initiated the process of evaluating the potential of occupying the building. The business case analysis indicated substantial cost avoidances for the government and improved security for the GCSS-Army workforce. Additionally, Feldman Hall’s proximity to the U.S. Army Combined Arms Support Command’s headquarters building, where the Combat Development Team for GCSS-Army is located, was an additional perk for this project.

After a feasibility study and structural analysis confirmed the viability of the project, the design phase started in November 2014. In August 2015, the final design confirmed the continued viability of the project and the renovation contract award took place in September 2015. Renovation took place from January to December 2016 and, after the Fort Lee Network Enterprise Center completed communications installation in early February 2017, the GCSS-Army team move took place.

By restoring an existing building that would otherwise have been demolished, the Feldman Hall project is an example of good stewardship of taxpayer dollars that also aids in the accomplishment of the GCSS-Army mission today and into the future.
On Gold Star Spouses’ Day, remember surviving military spouses and honor the legacy of their husbands and wives who died in service to our nation.
IPPS-A TEAM TOUCHES DOWN AT FORT BRAGG
BY MR. FRED BROWN, IPPS-A STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

At Fort Bragg, North Carolina, the Integrated Personnel and Pay System – Army (IPPS-A) team demonstrated its namesake personnel and pay management system to the leaders and Soldiers of the XVIII Airborne Corps, Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) and the Army Reserve Command (USARC) during a two-day visit from March 1-2. “Fort Bragg is the center of the universe,” said MAJ Erica Miller, the design and development support chief for IPPS-A. “Fort Bragg has such a diverse array of Soldier and commands that this system is going to benefit them greatly. IPPS-A is going to transform the human resource processes and make taking care of Soldiers easier.”

MAJ Miller, along with COL Gregory Johnson, functional management division chief, IPPS-A, talked to roughly 250 leaders and Soldiers over course of the two-day trip. COL Johnson began the demonstrations by going over IPPS-A’s goals of bringing the Army total force under one system, increasing auditability and standardizing processes across all three Army components. One notable benefit of IPPS-A is the talent management capability of the system, which will give human resources personnel the ability to access a Soldier’s key information including skills and education. “Since everything is going to be consolidated into one space, you’re going to be able to see all the skills and education of each Soldier,” said 1LT Mara Thornberg, a strength manager at USASOC. “This would allow me to pull a Soldier’s information along with their skills and give it to my commander so he can make an educated decision about what position suits them best. For me, this would make my life a lot easier.”

MAJ Miller went over several processes in the system to demonstrate the ease in which personnel actions requests can be done at the Soldier, human resource professional and commander levels. According to one Soldier, these functions would increase their effectiveness to give out correct information about his battalion at a fraction of the time. “Based off of the demos, I’m excited to start using the system,” said SGT Cameo Mabry, Headquarters & Headquarters Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division. “There are still some things I need to sit back and see how they are done, but seeing the personnel action request templates and generating reports quicker, I’m ready for it to come to us.”

Both the Army Reserve and Active Duty are set to implement IPPS-A in 2019. For more information on IPPS-A, visit: https://www.ipps-a.army.mil/.

TAO HOSTS ANNUAL TRAINING EVENTS
BY MS. VIRGINIA FOREBACK, ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST, TAO

On Feb. 28 and March 1, Technology Applications Office (TAO) held a two-day mandatory training event which covered a wide range of topics including ACE suicide prevention programs, Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention, ethics, the Threat Awareness and Reporting Program, including insider threat and defensive foreign travel, security, information assurance, emergency action plan and the Defense Travel System. Nearly all TAO staff attended the training, which covered 90 percent of mandatory training requirements. By setting aside these two days, TAO was able to ensure that training was complete for most of their workforce and that remote employees were able to finish their mandatory training in one trip rather than many. Gathering together also gave TAO a great opportunity to connect with each other and promote esprit de corps. The training was orchestrated by Ms. Stacy Rumpf, administrative officer, TAO, who undertook many hours of scheduling to make the training sessions came together. In the current environment of fiscal restraints, one stop training events save both time and resources.
Wideband Enterprise Satellite Systems (WESS) provides Soldiers and stakeholders with superior and comprehensive program management services, world-class satellite systems, and responsive lifecycle support. Communications satellites are a vital component of military communications networks. They provide truly global communications to anyone with a clear view of a satellite’s position in the sky. In order to support Soldiers all over the world, DOD created the Wideband Global Satellite System (WGS) which operates at the ultra-high (UHF) and super-high (SHF) frequencies, also known as the X-band, and at the extremely high frequencies (EHF), known as the Ka-band. The WGS military satellites provide a crucial component of the global communications grid.

The U.S. Armed Forces maintain an international network of ground stations, called earth terminals, located on various continents. Large fixed terminals are enterprise terminals and utilize parabolic, or “dish,” antennas ranging from 23 to 60 feet in diameter. Project Office Satellite Terminals Systems (STS) develops, acquires, produces, fields and sustains reliable, effective and supportable enterprise satellite systems for the DOD and joint warfighting community. Mobile or transportable terminals are tactical terminals and also utilize parabolic antennas which range to up to 23 feet in diameter. Tactical terminals are provided by a number of other commands and agencies.

Defense Communications and Army Transmission Systems (DCATS) Family of Enterprise Earth Terminals:
MC4 CONDUCTS LIMITED USER TEST ON EHR MEDICAL SOFTWARE AT CAMP BULLIS

BY MR. PAUL CLARK, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS, MC4

After a month of testing and evaluation, Medical Communications for Combat Casualty Care (MC4) and U.S. Army Medical Department Board recently completed a limited user test on the latest version of electronic health record (EHR) software, Theater Management Information Program-Joint (TMIP-J) Increment 2 Release 3 and TMIP Composite Health Care System Caché (TC2), provided by Joint Operational Medicine Information Systems (JOMIS).

Deficiencies in the software were previously discovered during a test and evaluation in August 2015 and, as a result, deployment of the software was put on hold. After a year of working with stakeholders to fix the deficiencies in the software, MC4 was ready for the limited user test, which was conducted from Jan. 9 to Feb. 9.

The limited user test was held on Camp Bullis, part of Joint Base San Antonio, Texas. MC4 staff provided almost three weeks of assistance to the U.S. Army Medical Department Board to set up the test, creating a realistic scenario that mimicked a real-time operational environment. Test participants were Soldiers in the medical field who will use the MC4 system when they are deployed. During the limited user test, trainers from the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School assessed training for Army Training and Doctrine Command certification, which is one of the key milestones MC4 must meet before deploying the software. Information specialists served as the primary help desk support, solving most of the medical test players’ issues, while MC4 and JOMIS Military Health System provided additional support when needed.

A cyber team from the Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC), with help from the Army Research Laboratory Survivability/Lethality Analysis Directorate, performed cyber penetration testing and ran a variety of cyber-attack simulations on the system to identify vulnerabilities. As Mr. Mike Wilhide, information system security officer and senior administrator, MC4, explained, “We’re looking at traffic analysis from an outside perspective and near-sighted views that pertain to physical access from an insider perspective, the worst, where the team will infiltrate, escalate privileges to admin and super-user levels and potentially steal, disrupt or destroy data.” Identifying the vulnerabilities in testing is critical for the integrity and security of the MC4 system. “It enables the team to understand where the system is vulnerable to attack, so it can deny rogue actors access to data,” said Mr. Wildhide.

The limited user test was set up to focus on the use of MC4 systems in multiple environments. During Role 1 (point of injury) testing, simulated treatment was recorded on the handheld mobile computing capability. These testers also simulated a battalion aid station using the Health Assessment Lite Operations (HALO), Armed Forces Health Longitudinal Technology Application – Theater (AHILTA-T) and TMIP reporting applications on MC4 laptops. Medical test players in the Role 3-simulated environment (treatment at a non-mobile Combat Support Hospital) tested the TC2 applications using laptops on the MC4 servers. Since HALO is an offline application, if the MC4 system is down, then patient data and notes can be captured in AHILTA. Once the system is back online, stored patient data is then transmitted and follows the Soldier all the way back to Role 3.
The Joint Task Force/Combatant Commander Command and Control played a role in the test by using the JOMIS Medical Situational Awareness in the Theater (MSAT) application. A Joint Interoperability Test Command representative was on site at Camp Bullis to validate connectivity and data flow to the Master Cluster Management System, Theater Medical Data Store, MSAT and Clinical Data Repository.

MG Brian Lein, Commanding General, Army Medical Department Center and School, Army Health Readiness Center of Excellence, toured the limited user test to review the success and challenges of the updated TMIP-J software. At one point, while chatting with Soldiers and trainers, MG Lein described how crucial the MC4 system is because quick, accurate and readable medical data can save Soldiers’ lives. He shared a personal experience in Somalia in 1993 of how difficult it was, as a doctor, to interpret medical treatment notes that were handwritten by first-responder medics and were soaked in blood. MG Lein was passionate as he listened to Soldiers share their opinions and first-hand experiences using the MC4 system in real-time operational environments.

On the subject of updated software, MC4’s product director, Mr. Matthew Maier, said, “We haven’t had new technology in 18 years, since 1999, so the bottom line is there are new ideas and technologies but in order for that to happen a requirement has to be created so we can build it into the MC4 system.” The MC4 system is in place today, but there are defects that need to be fixed. “Hopefully, the results of this test will help inform JOMIS that TMIP-J is an active baseline that is still used by four services and that must be maintained and sustained until Increment 1 gets here... and that's still a couple of years away,” said Mr. Maier.

Altogether, the limited user test was a highly coordinated joint testing effort encompassing MC4 and many of its stakeholders. “The responsibility and steps it takes the Army and contractors to develop and field such a system is an immense and multi-stepped effort, requiring much cooperation and support,” said MC4’s test lead, Ms. Gail Wolcott. In total, 1,500 situational scenarios were executed during the test and the MC4 program management team was very satisfied with the conduct of the overall simulation. The data collected will be analyzed over the coming weeks and the results of the limited user test will ultimately determine whether the TMIP-J Increment 2 Release 3 software is suitable for deployment in an operational environment. ATEC is expected to report the results of their evaluation by June 1, which will inform the milestone decision authority to obtain approval for a full materiel release of the software.
Protecting Our

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MISSION

Each of us has a role to ensure we live and work without the threat of sexual assault

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