



PD RCAS LAUNCHES NEW RCAS AKO WEBSITE



The New RCAS Home Page on AKO

A new RCAS website went live on 8 August 2013. The launch of the new website, which offers quick and easy access to essential information about RCAS, is part of the organization's ongoing efforts to enhance the quality and availability of information to our customers throughout the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve.

The website has a fresh new look that is both easier to navigate, and focuses on making important RCAS information

more easily accessible. The new RCAS website focuses on highlighting the four core areas that RCAS supports; its integrated web based software applications; the Distributed Learning Program; Information Technology Infrastructure Integration and Refresh (ITII&R); and Requirements Management. The new website also offers a much more interactive interface, and the new environment will be much easier to maintain. Another feature of the website is that our products and services are separated into their own pages to help our customers find the specific information they need, much faster.

The completely redesigned website will allow for greater customer access to the information they are looking for with fewer clicks required and will help propel the RCAS vision. The site includes extensive information to help customers understand the complete range of RCAS products, services and capabilities. Created with the user experience firmly in mind, the website was designed using the latest technology so the site is compatible with most of today's web browsers.



Links to RCAS Applications and About RCAS

To access the new RCAS AKO website, navigate to this link <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/207093>, login to AKO and you will be presented with the new RCAS website. All links on the new website will function with your browser's "compatibility mode" turned on or turned off.

For more information about the site or to suggest improvements in content or look and feel, please contact RCAS Strategic Communications, Mr. Pete Van Schagen, 703-325-4513 or e-mail: peter.g.vanschagen.ctr@mail.mil.

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NEED HELP?

HAVE QUESTIONS? WANT TRAINING?

Please 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)

RCAS PD GRADUATES WITH MS DEGREE FROM NPS



Pictured left to right, Dr. Charles Pickar, Senior Lecturer for NPS, Graduate School of Business and Public Policy, Mr. Ralph Ocasio, RCAS PD and Ms. Karon Curry, Associate Dean for Outreach and Mission Support, DAU — Picture by Harambee Dennis, Art Director, DAU

On 27 September 2013, the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) held a graduation ceremony for six of its graduates here on the east coast, at the Defense Acquisition University (DAU), Hirsch Center, Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Mr. Ralph Ocasio, the RCAS Project Director (PD), was one of the six, graduating from the NPS School of Business and Public Policy. This two year distance learning degree program of intensive academic and professional training, resulted in Mr. Ocasio receiving a Master Degree in Program Management. The NPS acceptance process is very competitive and Mr. Ocasio was one of only 27 students out of approximately 163 applicants to be accepted.

The Naval Postgraduate School, located in Monterey, California, graduates approximately 1,500 students per year, offering a range of Master's and Doctoral programs specifically tailored to impart the scientific, engineering, operational and administrative knowledge required to meet the present and projected professional needs of the Department of Defense (DoD). Its student body includes officers of all U.S. military services, as well as DoD civilian employees and officers from several allied nations.

Mr. Ocasio stated that his biggest challenge was time management, working course requirements with family time and his RCAS Program Management responsibilities. Happy it's over, Mr. Ocasio fully intends to put all his newly acquired knowledge to good use, helping enrich his Program Management skills to benefit Army Programs and make him a more qualified Program Manager. Congratulations to Mr. Ocasio and all the NPS graduates.

To find out more about the NPS and its programs visit the NPS website at <http://www.nps.edu/>.

RCB NEXT — REFINING THE REQUIREMENTS CONTROL BOARD (RCB) PROCESS AND FORMAT

The transition and the evolution of RCAS software development process will require a refinement of our current Requirements Control Board (RCB) content and format. A major priority of RCAS Project Director, Mr. Ralph Ocasio, is to maintain this forum, often referred to as his "Board of Directors", to provide direct feedback and offer recommendations and direction to the RCAS team.

Inventing and developing the RCB Next is a by-product of the transition to our new AGILE software development methodology. Ms. Lesley Plitz, RCAS Requirements Manager, and her support staff, are in the process of conducting meetings with the current functional and technical RCB members to gain their thoughts and recommendations. The next RCB is tentatively planned for January 2014.

For more information on the RCB process contact Ms. Lesley Plitz, Requirements Manager, phone: 703-325-4534, e-mail: lesley.p.plitz.civ@mail.mil.

RCAS PD CORNER



Mr. Ralph Ocasio

Greetings Everyone - we knew that the coming year would provide us many challenges to do more with less, and furlough or no furlough your RCAS team continues to deliver the most comprehensive and modern versions of RCAS software. I thank you all for your candid feedback, excellent recommendations and continued support over the past several weeks. We will deploy Release 7.0.5 in November, and as always, we remain committed to providing your soldiers the operational capabilities they both need and deserve.

As you may know, we have adopted the AGILE approach to software development. AGILE is a methodology that focuses on quick, responsive development and delivery of critical capability to you in a timely manner is our top priority. Our industry partner, L-3, is fully engaged in implementing this methodology with our government team — we are all enthusiastically optimistic with the progress so far. This fast paced style of software development and delivery will also require us to modify some of our other program practices. We will keep you informed of these changes as we proceed.

Again — Thank YOU !! And — please, be safe out there.....

PD RCAS SAYS FAREWELL TO MR. ERROL BERGSAGEL, RETIRING AFTER 21 YEARS OF SERVICE TO RCAS



Mr. Errol Bergsagel

After more than 21 years of dedicated service to RCAS, we say farewell to Mr. Errol Bergsagel. Errol, who was hired on 25 September 1992 as a contractor, worked as software engineer to establish new data interfaces for RCAS. Several years later, he became a subcontractor working as a data base designer/modeler and on 19 September 2005, Errol became an Army Civilian employee serving as an IT Specialist with duties as the Government lead in the RCAS Life Cycle Support (LCS) Division (now the Software Sustainment Division (SSD)) for Database, Web Services, Back Office and several Force Authorization applications.

Errol is Defense Acquisition University Level 3 IT certified and a college graduate of the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington where he wrote his first COBOL program. Errol also served for 26 years in the U.S. Army where he flew helicopters and airplanes during many assignments including Vietnam. Errol's last military assignments were with the National Guard Bureau in the Pentagon as the Army National Guard Readiness Branch Chief and later as Deputy Chief of the Readiness Division.

After 47 years of combined military and civilian government service, Errol Bergsagel retired on 30 September 2013 and he will be missed. A retirement ceremony was held in Errol's honor on 10 October 2013 at the Eisenhower Holiday Inn in Alexandria, Virginia. The event was well attended and much appreciated by Errol and all his RCAS friends, past and present.

Errol, we are very grateful and salute you for your dedication and devotion of service to our Citizen Soldiers through RCAS and we wish you a very bright and happy future. Best wishes and enjoy your retirement!



Mr. Ralph Ocasio, RCAS PD presents Errol with his Retirement Certificate

PD RCAS TEAM PLANS USARC COORDINATION VISIT



USARC headquarters, Fort Bragg, NC

RCAS Project Director, Mr. Ralph Ocasio, and key members of the Project Directorate staff will visit the U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC) headquarters in November. The purpose of this staff visitation is to provide key USARC leaders and staff member updates on current RCAS initiatives, and to solicit their input on other key programs, initiatives and the resource challenges facing our combined team in the coming year.

Office calls are scheduled with the USARC G6 as well as key organization staff members. Key topics will be RCAS system upgrades, USARC information technology infrastructure improvements and refining the process and conduct of our Requirements Control Board (RCB). This will serve to integrate and collaborate the transition to our new AGILE software sustainment methodology. Meetings are also scheduled with USARC G3/5/7 RCAS application functional proponents to gain their direct assessments of the new software development process, as well as topics they desire to discuss.

MEET YOUR RCAS FORCE AUTHORIZATION APPLICATIONS PRODUCT OWNER



MR. MARK DURAND

Mr. Mark Durand assumed the duties of Force Authorization (FA) Product Owner on 10 April 2013. His responsibilities include system software sustainment for the Force Authorization modules which include technical services related to user requirements, design, development, testing, training and fielding. Mark works directly with military, government and contractor personnel to ensure proper management of the FA suite of applications; an integrated automated capability that provides a means to manage Guard and Reserve force structure, authorizations and organizational authority.

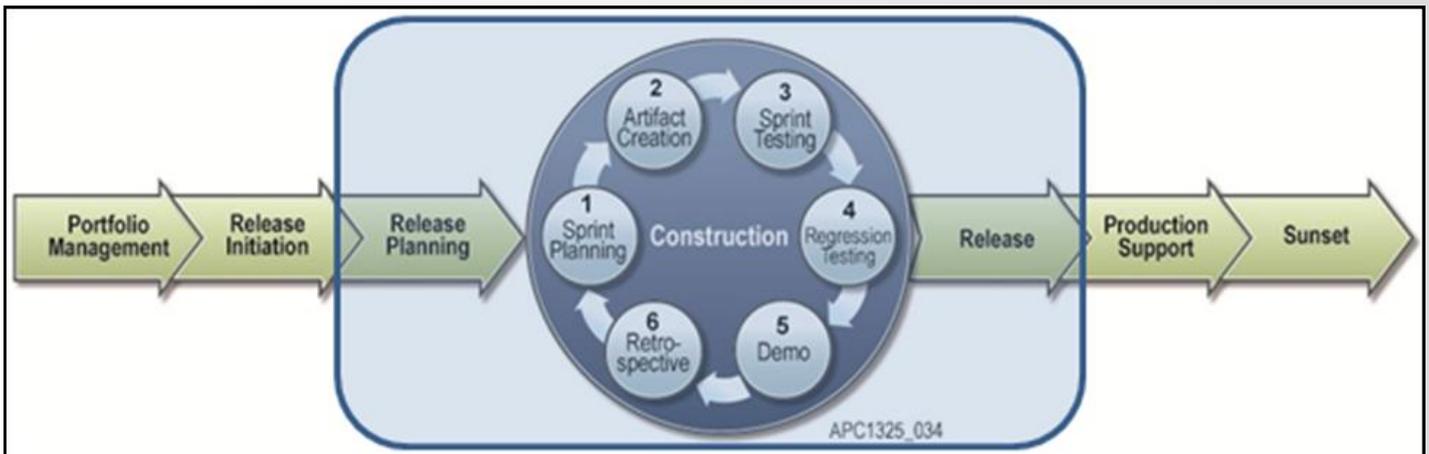
Prior to Mark's selection as FA manager, Mark worked within the Headquarters Department of the Army Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition Logistics and Technology (ASAALT) in the Army System Acquisition Review Council (ASARC). He completed Acquisition Category I Program Reviews as well as advising twelve Program Executive Officers in scheduling and preparing for numerous status reviews, overarching integrated product teams and configuration steering boards for the Assistant and Deputy ASAALT. Prior to his selection in ASARC, Mark was a Program Specialist with PEO EIS serving as the acquisition management specialist for major Army-wide IT acquisition programs and their life cycle management. Mark was responsible for oversight in the program management areas of cost, schedule, and performance; and specifically in the areas of systems integration, interoperability and portfolio management. Mark also worked for PEO EIS as Chief of Installation, fielding for Unit Level Logistics-Aviation to the Active Component, ARNG and Army Reserve.

Mark holds a B.S. in Aerospace Studies from Embry Riddle University with minors in Aviation Safety and Accident Investigation. Mark also has an FAA Private Pilot License but now prefers the two dimensional activity of boating on the Occoquan.

THE AGILE PROCESS A CLOSER LOOK

In last month's newsletter article titled "RCAS Goes Agile", we introduced some of the goals for moving RCAS software sustainment to an Agile software methodology and some of the principles of Agile. In this article we will look deeper into the mechanics of the Agile methodology that RCAS is implementing called LASER (L-3 Agile Scrum Enterprise). LASER is a holistic approach designed to modernize and enhance a product through a well defined product and software development lifecycle. LASER rapidly produces high quality solutions by breaking work (new features) into small increments and then building fully tested solutions in short sprints.

The RCAS implementation of LASER recognizes the five RCAS product families (Enterprise, Personnel, Mobilization, Safety and Force Authorization) and creates Agile Scrum teams dedicated to continuously improving their product. Each Scrum team has a Government Product Owner who conveys the customer's vision to the team and prioritizes that vision based on business values, a Business Analyst who works with the Government Product Owner to refine the work into small pieces and build user stories the development team can implement, a Scrum Master who facilitates the development process and a Development Team that builds the product. The Development team is a team of integrated engineering disciplines all working together to build, test and document rapid, high quality solutions to meet the needs of the community in short two week sprints. Each of these sprints follows a highly structured process to ensure quality is built into the product, and culminates in a demonstration to the product stakeholders of working, tested and documented software. One or more of these two week sprints forms a releasable product solution that will be fielded as a formal RCAS release.



Agile at RCAS has started and each of the RCAS Product teams is finishing up the first two week sprint of the RCAS 7.0.5 Release. For more information please contact the Software Sustainment Division Chief, Mr. Jim Cook, 703-325-4515 or e-mail: jim.n.cook.civ@mail.mil.

THINKING OUT OF THE BOX — HOW DO YOU USE RCAS FUNCTIONALITY ??



You may know what RCAS applications are designed to do, but did you know that they can be used for so much more? Some very creative soldiers in both the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve are thinking out of the box when it comes to using the Mobilization Planning Data Viewer (MPDV) Soldier Readiness Process (SRP) Custom Event or the Training and Operational Readiness Tracking (TORT) modules.

We would like to hear from you on any creative ways that you, your soldiers and your units are using the RCAS functionality. We would like not only to feature your creative use; but to communicate your ideas to all of the RCAS users. Please feel free to contact RCAS Strategic Communications, Mr. Pete Van Schagen, 703-325-4513 or e-mail: peter.g.vanschagen.ctr@mail.mil.

MPDV TEAM SUPPORTS USAR AND ARNG JOINT ASSESSMENT CONFERENCES



Mr. Dan Costner left facing and Mr. Pete Van Schagen right facing, talk to soldiers about MPDV capabilities at the JAC RCAS MPDV Round Robin Enabler Table.

Several times each year, both the Army National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve conduct Joint Assessment Conference events to assist deploying units and their soldiers in preparation for arrival at their respective mobilization stations. The RCAS Mobilization Planning Data Viewer (MPDV) team participates in these events by manning a table during an Enabler Round Robin, where soldiers are required to go to find out about and plan for specific requirements relative to their upcoming deployments.

The MPDV Team's objective during these events is to provide effective support in the form of MPDV briefings, application demonstrations, and information sharing with attendees and select deploying unit personnel to ensure an understanding of how the MPDV application supports deploying soldiers and unit leadership during phases I, II and III of the mobilization process.

The use of MPDV is mandatory for capturing Soldier Readiness data during Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) events

for items on the DA Form 7425A, Soldier Readiness Checklist. This readiness data is then subsequently transmitted to the Deployment and Reconstitution Tracking Software (DARTS) application where the mobilization stations can access the information. Using the web-based, enterprise MPDV solution provides unit leadership with real time soldier readiness data, easily accessible by all levels of Command. Once the data is transmitted to DARTS, mobilization stations can see how unit's are progressing and can have the right resources available to handle only soldier NO GO tasks, eliminating the need for soldiers to revalidate soldier readiness tasks that have been certified as GO. This significantly cuts the amount of time that soldiers spend at the mobilization station.

One such event took place this past July, where Mr. Dan Costner and Mr. Pete Van Schagen provided RCAS MPDV information, briefings and demonstrations to 380 conference attendees, representing 113 units that will potentially impact the deployment of over 7400 soldiers in the next 24 months. Support at these events provides the MPDV team with a unique opportunity to interface with actual unit level end users to better understand their needs and requirements.

For more information on the capabilities of MPDV or to have the MPDV team support one of your conference or SRP events please contact Mr. Max Dunn, MPDV Product Owner, phone: 703-325-5252, e-mail: max.g.dunn.civ@mail.mil or Mr. Pete Van Schagen, RCAS Strategic Communications, phone: 703-325-4513, email: peter.g.vanschagen.ctr@mail.mil.

UPCOMING EXHIBITS, CONFERENCES, AND WORKSHOPS

PD RCAS is exhibiting and/or providing conference support at the following events:

Army National Guard Notification of Sourcing +60 and Joint Assessment Conference	U.S. Army Reserve Joint Assessment Conference
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas	Fort Bragg, North Carolina
04—07 November 2013	08—11 December 2013

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.

The RCAS Team is available to provide briefings and answer RCAS-related questions at various ARNG and USAR events. To request RCAS participation at your next conference or workshop event, contact Pete Van Schagen, RCAS Strategic Communications, 703-325-4513, peter.g.vanschagen.ctr@mail.mil.

DISTRIBUTED LEARNING PROGRAM REVEALS FY14 SUSTAINMENT PLAN



MDLC classroom installed at Wellesley, MA

The Distributed Learning Program (DLP) is a critical component for training and preparing Army National Guard (ARNG) soldiers. Our Guardsmen are actively engaged in supporting Weapons of Mass Destruction consequence management, Joint Task Force Operations/Training, first responder training, and they are transforming the National Guard into a digitized force. DLP not only supports military readiness, joint military readiness, and joint force interoperability, but is also used to support the morale of soldiers deployed as part of Joint Tasks Forces throughout the world via video-teleconferencing technologies that connect family members back home with deployed soldiers.

National Guard armories have become virtual teaming centers in their communities. They have end-to-end connectivity with a robust and reliable digital infrastructure connecting all 54 States and territories. Full fielding of new distributed learning classrooms ended in fiscal year 2002

with a cap of 339 classrooms. In 2004 DLP moved under the Program Executive Office, Enterprise Information Systems (PEO EIS) and is now operationally managed by the Project Directorate (PD) RCAS. Since then, the primary focus of the DLP has been the sustainment of the classroom infrastructure, keeping the fielded technology current and relevant to the evolving military training content being provided.

FY14 will see a continuance of that sustainment effort. DLP plans to replace selected older AV600 and AV650 classrooms by procuring, integrating, configuring, shipping, and installing five sets of Mobile Distributed Learning Classroom (MDLC) and 39 sets of AV800 classroom equipment. Procurement of the equipment will occur within the first quarter with fielding of the classrooms spread across the remainder of the FY. Additionally, DLP will conduct a refresh of the 791 remaining Dell Optiplex models 745 and 755 workstations which are out of warranty with Optiplex Model 7010 workstations. Examples of the newer classrooms being fielded are reflected in the pictures above and right.



AV800 classroom installed at St. Augustine, FL

For more information please contact the Infrastructure and Integration Division Chief, LTC Jeffrey T. Yon, 703-325-4898 or e-mail: jef-frey.t.yon.mil@mail.mil.

WORKSHOPS AND SRP SUPPORT AVAILABLE

RCAS MPDV provides the ARNG and USAR end users with an automated web-based enterprise solution to track soldier and unit readiness prior to mobilization. In order to assist units, unit administrators, and commanders with using this time-saving MPDV tool, the PD RCAS offers MPDV Leadership Workshops, briefings, and Soldier Readiness Process (SRP) support for all levels of command and headquarters leadership. This support is fully funded by the PD RCAS so there is no cost to the field. The Leadership Workshops clarify how MPDV fits into the larger scope of pre-mobilization training, the structure of the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) process, and the initial phases of mobilization from Alert to Home Station to Mobilization Station. SRP support events are practical site visits aimed at providing the following:

- Assisting users with setting up a customized SRP event using the MPDV application
- Assisting individual SRP Station Operators with their role during the SRP
- Participating in out brief sessions, as requested

To request an MPDV Leadership Workshop, on-site SRP support or a program briefing contact Max Dunn, MPDV Product Owner, 571-239-9666, max.g.dunn.civ@mail.mil, or Pete Van Schagen, RCAS Strategic Communications, 703-325-4513, peter.g.vanschagen.ctr@mail.mil.

RCAS TRAINING CORNER

The PD RCAS and L-3 are excited to introduce the core PD RCAS training team: Walter Bailey, William Blaine, Steve Longoria, and Chamele Winkfield. Walter Bailey is a retired Army Officer, with over 10 years of experience training Mobilization Planning Data Viewer (MPDV). William Blaine is a retired Army Officer with over 20 years of Army safety experience and extensive expertise in the original development of the Safety and Occupational Health (SOH) application. Steve Longoria served as a Training and Personnel Sergeant in the Texas Army National Guard for 23 years and has instructed Army National Guard and United States Army Reserve soldiers in the use of MPDV. Chamele Winkfield is L-3's training point-of-contact with over 13 years of experience in DoD Enterprise Training.



The team is preparing to support RCAS users and is diligently developing innovative training methodologies for onsite instructor-led, Video TeleTraining (VTT), and distributed-learning courseware using the most advanced technologies. New and updated courses will soon be offered through Defense Connect Online (DCO), Army Knowledge Online (AKO), Army Learning Management System (ALMS) and Guard University (GuardU), allowing multiple units to train simultaneously while online and through special on-site training sessions.

Currently, there are several RCAS Release 7.0 training videos available via Defense Connect Online (DCO):

- Mobilization Planning Data Viewer (MPDV) Maintaining Critical Unit Data
- MPDV Group Readiness and Deployment Checklist
- MPDV Individual Readiness Checklist
- Retirement Points Accounting Management (RPAM) Searching Soldier Records
- RPAM 20 Year Letters
- Safety and Occupational Health (SOH) Ground Accidents
- SOH Aviation Accidents

Links to these recordings are located DCO, https://www.dco.dod.mil/public/dsp/dco_login.cfm.

Additional RCAS Release 7.0 training videos are currently in production. The RCAS Release 7.0 training videos listed below are already available and have been posted to the RCAS AKO Training page at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/files/25111775>:

- MPDV Battle Roster
- MPDV Deployment Manning Document (DMD)
- MPDV Utilities
- MPDV Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP)
- Military Personnel Office (MilPO) Orders (Introduction and Lessons 1 - 6)
- RCASWeb User Account Administration
- Unit Personnel System/Command Management System (UPS/CMS) (Introduction and Lessons 1 - 6)

For more information on RCAS Training contact Mr. Robert G. Medley, RCAS Training Manager at phone: 703-325-5271, or e-mail: Robert.G.Medley.civ@mail.mil.



Reserve Component Automation Systems
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Want to provide newsletter input or be added to the distribution list, contact Pete Van Schagen at peter.g.vanschagen.ctr@mail.mil.