

# RCAS NEWS

## FY14 VOLUME II

### JANUARY 2014



**RCAS**  
Reserve Component Automation Systems

Serving The Soldier... Serving The Nation



## PD RCAS IS MOVING

The Project Directorate (PD) Reserve Component Automation Systems (RCAS) is ringing in the new year with a move to its new home in Fort Belvoir, Virginia early in 2014. This location was previously occupied by the U.S. Army's Criminal Investigation Division and has been renovated to house the PD RCAS and other Army agencies. Our new official address will be PD RCAS, 6010 6th Street, Building 1465B, Fort Belvoir, Virginia 22060.



The New Home of the PD RCAS — 6010 6th Street, Bldg 1465B, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

Our new location is right next door to our parent organization, the Program Executive Office Enterprise Information Systems (PEO EIS). The move enhances the ability of PD RCAS personnel to more directly interact with many of the activities we deal with on a day-to-day basis.

The move to Fort Belvoir presents the PD with an adventure of discovery and newness, even though it may be confusing for a while. It has a number of advantages such as access to many military installation activities and resources like the Office, Chief Army Reserve (OCAR). More importantly it saves the PD RCAS money which will be used to better support our Reserve Component customers.

All of the contact information for the PD RCAS staff will change, so for the most up-to-date information please visit the RCAS Homepage on Army Knowledge Online at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/207093> and click the Contacts Icon.

For more information about the new home for PD RCAS, please contact RCAS Strategic Communications, Mr. Pete Van Schagen, 703-509-2030 or e-mail: [peter.g.vanschagen.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:peter.g.vanschagen.ctr@mail.mil).

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### NEED HELP? HAVE QUESTIONS? WANT TRAINING?

Please contact a service desk for assistance:

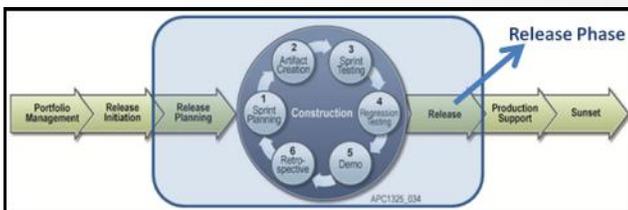
Army National Guard (ARNG)  
1-800-821-3097 (toll free)

United States Army Reserve (USAR)  
1-855-558-7272 (toll free)

## RCAS' NEW AGILE TEST APPROACH

In the October RCAS Newsletter we took a closer look into the Agile software methodology. Test, Quality Assurance (QA), and Configuration Management (CM) continue to be a significant part of the overall Agile methodology from the beginning of development through the deployment of each new RCAS release. As a result, the Quality Assurance Division (QAD) for the PD RCAS has revamped its approach to testing in support of this new Agile methodology. The biggest and one of the most important changes to the approach is the level of functional/end user involvement throughout the process, in particular during our User Acceptance Test (UAT) event.

To help ensure success and in keeping with the LASER (L-3 Agile Scrum EnteRprise) methodology, Government Subject Matter Expert (GSME) involvement during the demo sessions at the end of each sprint are critical. The PD RCAS intent is to broaden the scope of this GSME involvement which will significantly improve the quality of the tests being performed and enhance the overall software product releases to our end users.



Once the Construction phase is complete, the Release phase begins and it is during this phase that the test preparation and actual UAT event will occur. The UAT event will primarily be conducted at Beta sites.

These Beta sites represent the possible locations of the GSMEs who are involved during the demo sessions. During Beta testing, GSMEs will have the opportunity to execute their own scenarios and have hands-on access to the latest RCAS release at their site.



A representation of the PD RCAS outreach to GSME Beta sites for release testing

The PD RCAS is excited about this new approach, especially about working more closely with its end users. The chart above reflects the kind of GSME outreach that the PD RCAS is striving for at Beta sites throughout the United States, both Army National Guard (ARNG) and Army Reserve (USAR).

For more information please contact the Quality Assurance Division Chief, Mr. Wayne Sok, 703-325-4541 or e-mail: [sang.w.sok.civ@mail.mil](mailto:sang.w.sok.civ@mail.mil).

### RCAS PD CORNER



Mr. Ralph Ocasio

Greetings and Happy 2014!!  
 – I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season with their families and friends, and now that the festivities are over - PD RCAS is ready to continue our efforts to provide you with the world class products and services you require to accomplish your mission.

This coming year will offer the entire RCAS team challenges associated with budget cuts, sequestration, force structure reductions, combined with the uncertainty of world events. The Program Office is focused on identifying and defining selected packages of capabilities that we can execute and deliver within the limits of this current resource environment. Concurrently, we will initiate programs that will enhance our ability to provide timely and critical capabilities more efficiently from a delivery and cost perspective.

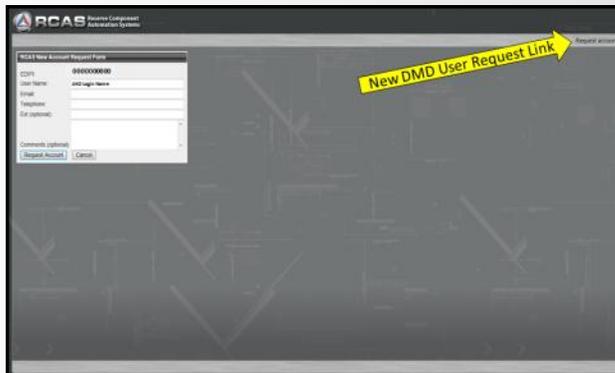
We continue to work with our key stakeholders via the Requirements Control Board (RCB) to identify and execute strategic initiatives that will keep RCAS moving forward regardless of any and all the fiscal and political environments.

I'm looking forward to a very productive year, and with your help, we will continue to provide your units and soldiers the automation capability and the supporting infrastructure required to accomplish their mission.

## ARNG STATES CAN CREATE DMDs IN MPDV

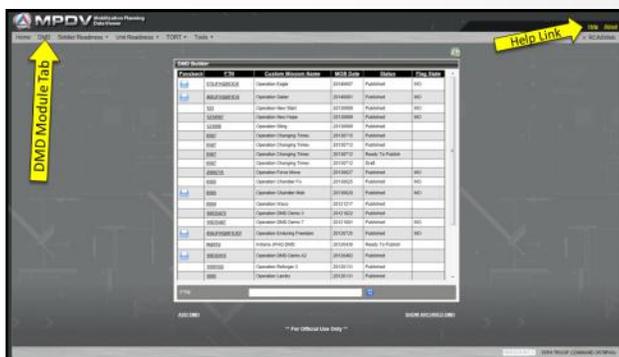
The Deployment Manning Document (DMD) process in the Mobilization Planning Data Viewer (MPDV) application has been available for some time, but recently the Project Directorate, RCAS arranged for Army National Guard (ARNG) MPDV users, at the State Joint Forces Headquarters (JFHQs) level who are responsible for DMDs, to have the ability to create and maintain their own DMDs.

This process was previously performed and managed at the National Guard Bureau (NGB) level 1, but now JFHQ MPDV users may be granted DMD Builder access by submitting a new user request through the RCAS servers at NGB using this Uniform Resource Locator (URL) <https://rcas.ngb.army.mil/rcasweb>. Once approved the State JFHQ MPDV users will be provided



NGB Level 1 Server—New DMD User Request Page

with the required Sourcer, Viewer and Publisher roles and permissions needed to create, approve, revise, report on, and publish DMDs within their States as well as to subordinate units and/or multiple States depending on the DMD requirements.



Sample DMD Builder Page on the NGB Level 1 Server

can be "Published" and pushed down to the unit level. The DMD builder also has a process for revisions if needed. This totally automated DMD process in MPDV significantly enhances the State's ability to manage their deploying organizations and personnel, providing secure web-based management and visibility of the DMD throughout the JFHQ and down to the unit level if desired.

State MPDV DMD users will have visibility and control of DMD requirements for the purpose of individual sourcing and can identify and allocate DMD requirements to specific units, or Pass Back vacancies to NGB. This provides a common operating picture between NGB and the States during the DMD sourcing process.

For help with the new DMD Builder process, users can refer to Section 4 of the MPDV Software Users Manual located under the Help link in the upper right hand corner of the MPDV application on the NGB level 1 RCAS Server as shown in the picture above.

For more information on this new DMD Builder access, please contact Mr. Max Dunn, MPDV Product Owner at 571-239-9666 or by email at [max.g.dunn.civ@mail.mil](mailto:max.g.dunn.civ@mail.mil).

## MEET YOUR RCAS SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT FOR MPDV AND SOH



MR. ERIC CALLAGHER

Mr. Eric Callagher assumed the duties of Mobilization Planning Data Viewer (MPDV) and Safety and Occupational Health (SOH) Subject Matter Expert (SME) on 16 December 2013. His responsibilities include system software sustainment for the Mobilization and Safety modules of RCAS which include technical services related to user requirements, design, development, testing, training and fielding. Eric works directly with military, government and contractor personnel to ensure proper management of the MPDV and SOH suite of applications. Eric has been a champion of MPDV since 2003.

Prior to Eric's selection, he worked as a dual status technician in the California Army National Guard supporting automation systems used by operations, logistics, and strategists from the G3, G4, and J5. Eric was also an Army Performance Improvement Criteria (APIC) and Army Communities of Excellence (ACOE) team member and championed the Malcolm Baldrige Category 4 for the California Guard's ACOE Submission.

Eric retired with 22 years of service in the Marines, Navy and Army National Guard. Eric's military assignments include Air Naval Gunfire Liaison in the Marines, and a SEABEE in U. S. Naval Reserve and had three deployments with the California Army National Guard.

On Eric's last deployment to Iraq, he supported logistic systems and networks. While deployed he also worked at the Adder Education Center where he taught Introductory Information System courses for the University of Maryland University College.

Eric originally studied Geology and Music at California State University Stanislaus. After a break from school and utilizing the GI Bill he changed his academic focus to IT Security and completed a B.S. and an M.S. in Information Systems Management, Security and Assurance from the University of San Francisco. Eric, still a musician, a bass/baritone vocalist competes internationally and locally in small ensembles and choruses in the Barbershop Harmony Society.

## THE DISTRIBUTED LEARNING PROGRAM - FY 2014 UPDATE



The L3 Chantilly, Virginia classroom with the latest DLP classroom equipment installed.

The RCAS Distributed Learning Program (DLP) has three major objectives for this fiscal year (FY); classroom refresh, the mobile classroom initiative and DLP classroom sustainment.

The DLP team has planned for the refresh of 791 Dell Optiplex models 745 and 755 workstations, which are out of warranty. The model being fielded is the Optiplex Model 7010 workstations. The new model has increased memory capacity and greater processing power, which allows soldiers to optimize and enhance their computing experience.

The DLP team also plans to replace selected older AV600 and AV650 classrooms by procuring, integrating, configuring, shipping, and installing five additional sets of the Mobile Distributed Learning Classroom (MDLC) and 39 sets of AV800 classroom equipment. The mobile

classroom will help support the Army National Guard (ARNG) training requirements as well as supporting individual state communication requirements during state emergencies. The procurement efforts for refresh and replacement equipment will begin the first quarter of FY2014, with fielding of the classroom equipment spread across the remainder of this fiscal year.

Additionally, the DLP team plans to sustain the current DLP platform while accommodating changes in military training content to enhance the users training experience.

The Chantilly, Virginia classroom which is being utilized for training by personnel from the PD RCAS and L-3, the new RCAS prime contractor, has the latest equipment being fielded in DLP classrooms throughout the ARNG and is shown in the pictures above and to the right.

For more information please contact the RCAS Infrastructure and Integration Division Chief, LTC Jeffrey T. Yon, 703-325-4898 or e-mail: [jeffrey.t.yon.mil@mail.mil](mailto:jeffrey.t.yon.mil@mail.mil).



The L3 Chantilly, Virginia classroom with the latest DLP classroom equipment installed.

## PROJECT DIRECTORATE HOSTS FINANCIAL SUMMIT



Pictured above -left to right are LTC Steve Brown, USARC G6, Chief, Unified Communications Branch; Mr. Van Sutton, USARC G6, Chief, Enterprise Services Division and Mr. Ralph Ocasio, the RCAS Project Director.

The senior staff of the RCAS Project Directorate, and primary representatives from the ARNG and USAR G6 organizations, representing their respective components on the RCAS Requirements Control Board (RCB), attended a Financial Summit on 21 November 2013, at the invitation of the RCAS Project Director.

The purpose of this summit was to ensure that the senior component G6 primary staff has a clear understanding of the current and projected future RCAS budget and resource environment. It also provided the opportunity for these key stakeholders to offer their recommendations and professional input to how the program will manage the reduction in resources, and continue to deliver the required soldier support and critical information technology services and infrastructure. This dialogue will continue through this year's planning, programming and budget process.

For more information, please contact Ms. Lesley Plitz, RCAS Requirements Manager by phone at 703-325-4534, or by e-mail at [lesley.p.plitz.civ@mail.mil](mailto:lesley.p.plitz.civ@mail.mil).

## FIRST (AND LAST) HOFFMAN CENTER RCB



RCB Members and PD RCAS Staff receive important information about RCAS

The RCAS PD team kicked off the New Year by hosting the 16 January 2014 Requirements Control Board (RCB) meeting at the Hoffman Town Center in Alexandria, VA. This "First" board meeting of the New Year will be the "Last" one conducted at this location, which has been home to the RCAS Project Directorate since May 2009. The PD team will be moving to Fort Belvoir, VA, to a building adjacent to the Program Executive Office for Enterprise Information Systems (PEO EIS).

The January 2014 board meeting offered the opportunity for the key RCAS technical stakeholders from both the National Guard Bureau (NGB) and the U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC) to review and discuss the major program challenges for the remainder of this fiscal year, as well as the next. Leaders from the ARNG G6, USARC G6 and the National Guard U.S. Property and Fiscal Officer (USPFO) participated. Key topics were the FY14 resource challenges, projections for the current five year Program Objective Memorandum (POM) planning cycle and discussions on the priorities relating to the supporting system infrastructures.

For more information, please contact Ms. Lesley Plitz, RCAS Requirements Manager, phone 703-325-4534, e-mail at [lesley.p.plitz.civ@mail.mil](mailto:lesley.p.plitz.civ@mail.mil).



Mr. Ralph Ocasio, RCAS PD welcomes participants to the RCB

## UPCOMING EXHIBITS, CONFERENCES, AND WORKSHOPS

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

| <b>Army National Guard Notification of Sourcing +60 and Joint Assessment Conference</b> | <b>U.S. Army Reserve Joint Assessment Conference</b> |
|---|--|
| Fort Leavenworth, Kansas  | Fort Bragg, North Carolina                           |
| 07—11 April 2014  | 16—20 June 2014                                      |

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 Max Dunn, MPDV Product Owner, 571-239-9666, [max.g.dunn.civ@mail.mil](mailto:max.g.dunn.civ@mail.mil), or Eric Callagher, Mobilization and Safety Applications Analyst, 916-206-8750, [eric.callagher@metova.com](mailto:eric.callagher@metova.com).

## PD RCAS SUPPORTS THREE SRP EVENTS IN JANUARY

This month the PD RCAS Mobilization Planning Data Viewer (MPDV) team had the unique opportunity to support three simultaneous Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) events. All three events supported USAR units, located in Arden Hills, Minnesota, Fort Worth, Texas and Richmond, Virginia. The support provided had a very positive impact on each unit's ability to capture accurate Soldier Readiness data in the web-based MPDV application on a combined total of over 700 soldiers. Unit leadership from all three units expressed their satisfaction with the immediate soldier visibility and control that MPDV provided throughout the SRP process. They were amazed at how quick and easy the Check-In process worked, using scanners. The MPDV SRP Status Tracker report produced for each event, provided unit leadership with real time soldier readiness data which will assist the units with correcting "No Go" issues and transmitting positive soldier readiness data to their respective mobilization stations via MPDV. Below are some pictures that offer a closer look at the support provided.



Soldiers from the 704th Chemical Co. in Arden Hills, MN process through MPDV stations during the SRP



11th Aviation Command soldiers in Fort Worth, TX get briefed before the SRP event



Ssg Henri processes SFC Ellis at an MPDV Station using a scanner during the 704th Chemical Co. SRP event



Ssg Erickson processes a soldier at the MPDV Personnel Station during the 704th Chemical Co. SRP event



A soldier prepares to process through the MPDV Dental Station during the 11th Aviation Command SRP event

## WORKSHOPS AND SRP SUPPORT ARE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR UNITS TOO

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 unit personnel, unit administrators and commanders with the use of 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

PD RCAS looks forward to providing SRP support for the follow events:

|                    |                                     |                            |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 12 - 16 March 2014 | 890th Engineer Battalion (ARNG)     | Camp Shelby, Mississippi   |
| 02 - 05 April 2014 | 144th Transportation Company (ARNG) | Marianna, Florida          |
| 19 - 22 May 2014   | 105th Quarter Master Company (ARNG) | Camp Santiago, Puerto Rico |

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](mailto:max.g.dunn.civ@mail.mil), or Eric Callagher, Mobilization and Safety Applications Analyst, 916-206-8750, [eric.callagher@metova.com](mailto:eric.callagher@metova.com).

## RCAS TRAINING CORNER

Greetings!!!!!! The PD RCAS training team is excited to announce a fully functional classroom in Chantilly, Virginia. The classroom is shared throughout RCAS for multiple support areas like testing and internal meetings either by Video Teleconferencing or face to face. The classroom is easily transitioned into a fully functional DLP training center enabling us to easily host RCAS training to any remote DLP location. Hosting training from our DLP center allows the PD RCAS to more rapidly meet Unit training demands.

The team continues to work hard on 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.



The Chantilly, Virginia classroom with the latest DLP classroom equipment

Please view the current RCAS application training schedules for all RCAS courses located on the PD RACS AKO Training page at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/files/7318037>.

RCAS Release 7.0 training videos listed below are 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](mailto:Robert.G.Medley.civ@mail.mil).



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