



ITV Operations and Training Newsletter

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Helpful Hints for Unit Moves

With current world events in the Middle East, we are continually seeing a number of unit moves into the Area of Responsibility (AOR). We have looked at the tags of a couple of recent unit moves into the AOR. Some of the common errors we found were:

- Insufficient header data on the tags
- No tag movement after the initial write date
- No tag header data found

Based on our conclusions from the analysis, here are some helpful hints to maximize the use of the ITV servers and enhance support of your next unit move.

1. When writing RFID tags, read the tag after it is written to ensure that the data transferred correctly. A container without its contents being written to the tag cannot be successfully tracked. At a minimum, the RFID tag will contain the following data:

- Vehicles. Transportation Control Number (TCN), Vehicle Bumper #, Port of Embarkation (POE), Port of Debarkation (POD), Consignee, Consignor, HAZMAT, and Transportation Priority (TP), Carrier Code, Service, Commodity, Operation and Free Text
- Unit Containers/Pallets. Lead Transportation Control Number (TCN), Container #, Port of Embarkation (POE), Port of Debarkation (POD), Consignee, Consignor, HAZMAT, and Transportation Priority (TP), Carrier Code, Service, Commodity, Operation and Free Text

2. Make sure after you write the data to your tags, that you upload your tags to the server. If you have time, it is good to go out to the ITV server and check to see if your tags are there.

3. If you write your tags a number of weeks prior to your unit move, turn the battery around to conserve the life of the battery. Make sure though, that prior to shipping, you turn the battery back around so that your tag is active. Also, be sure to verify the battery life. If the battery power is low, replace the batteries.

4. Ensure the RFID tag is properly attached to the correct piece of equipment and attached in the right locations. This will help make sure that

Check out the PM-AIT website at:

<http://www.eis.army.mil/AIT/> to view the latest and greatest PM-AIT hardware contract(s) for AIT and RFID equipment.

the tags will not be knocked off or damaged during shipment.

When attaching RFID tags to vehicles:

- Tie the tag to the top of the grill using two long nylon strips.
- RFID tags can be mounted on the windshield. (The RFID tags must be on the outside of the equipment.)

When attaching RFID tags to containers:

- Mount them on the same side as an MSL document, normally the right side near the top.
- Mount the RFID tag in between the ribs in an indentation.
- When attaching the older Seal Tag, use the nylon strips and mount them to the front door.
- Attach RFID tags on 463L pallet netting using nylon strips. Put the tag near the MSL.

When attaching RFID tags on other equipment, mount the tag so that it can easily be read but not damaged. Mount the RFID tag near an MSL. Do not drill holes in equipment without prior approval in writing from the owners.

Use nylon or plastic ties or lacing wire to attach the tag.

NSN: 5975-00-899-4606 (ties)

NSN: 9505-00-640-4290 (wire)

Expanding Tag Serial Numbers

With the release of the Policy letters on RFID, the demand for the 410/412 tag used by DOD has grown to phenomenal levels. In order to keep up with the demand, Savi has developed an approach that will allow DOD to increase the number of total tag IDs four fold without changing fielded hardware and only a minor update to software.

The current tag ID extension is 20 bits and will only allow 1,048,576 unique RF Tag ID values. As of 1 April 04, Savi has manufactured 671,715 RF tags for DoD and the UK MOD. 350K RF Tag ID values remain.

Savi has presented a plan to PM AIT which will allow RF Tag ID values to increase up to 4,194,184 unique tag ID values without affecting the current suite of hardware. There will be some software changes to Read and Write software required to accommodate the increase in unique RF Tag ID values. Savi has agreed to upgrade their software and provide the Software Development Kit (SDK) to the other software manufacturers. Additionally, the software currently operating the Hand Held Interrogators (HHIs) will require an upgrade in order to read the unique RF Tag ID values past the initial 1,048,576 point.

At the current rate of production, Savi engineers expect this depletion of the currently-available unique numbers to be exhausted by the end of CY04. Field Service Engineers will begin upgrading Read and Write Software and HHI software later this Fall in preparation for this event.

Quantum Leap Tags

There have been sporadic occurrences of tags reported at two locations within ITV network during same time period. These tags appear to be read at locations that are not part of their itinerary or they seem to take a quantum leap and move from one location to the next in less than expected transit time.

Unisys has reviewed these reported cases to identify patterns. The 410 readers and tags support two types of tag collections: enhanced batch collection and era batch collection (older SealTag II). Most deployed software applications, including Retriever and TIPS, have continued to use the older SealTag II batch collection. Under certain conditions, there is a possibility that the SealTag II batch collection method could report an invalid tag ID.

The proposed resolution to this problem is to eliminate the use of SealTag II batch collection. With the SealTag II no longer in service, backward compatibility will not be an issue. All deployed 410 tags and readers and 640 readers already support enhanced batch collection. A shift to enhanced batch collection requires only a software change. To minimize the impact, changes will be implemented through updated software drivers/software development kits (SDKs).



Congratulations!

Kudos to the 1179th DSB operating TC-AIMS II out of DOHA and Arifjan. They are doing a great job of tag writing!

SFC Francis burning tags



SFC Francis and CW2 Pointer

ITV Trainer Server

Having trouble registering your write station using File Transfer Protocol (FTP) on the ITV Trainer Server? There is a workaround for the registration of a write station on the Trainer server to give TIPS-Write 3.3.68 software access via HTTPS. For more information on this workaround, contact James Hough, james.hough@unisys.com.

RF ITV Pocket Guidebooks



The new RF ITV pocket guides are finally here! The ITV Server Guide 2004 provides information that will help you understand and use the components of the ITV servers. This guide also provides other helpful information to unit leaders to maintain visibility of their in-transit shipments and equipment. The RF-Tag Operations Guide 2004 provides information on RFID hardware, deployment, and sustainment RF-tag writing, reading, uploading, and MSL placement. You can view on-line versions of these guidebooks on the Web at <http://www.cascom.army.mil/Automation/ITV/guidebooks/index.htm>.

ITV Server User ID/Password

Users of the CONUS and USFK ITV servers can now log-on using either their AKO credentials or ITV User ID/Password. USAREUR and CENTCOM servers will be updated, in the future, to also allow users to log-on using their AKO credentials.

Have You Seen This?



Tags like this aren't doing anyone any good. Make sure you box them up and return unused tags in order to maintain an adequate stockage of RFID tags for follow-on sustainment shipments. Please return all excess RFID sustainment tags to one of the following locations:

- Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Attn: DDSP-OMP, Warehousing Branch, Building 203 (door 12), Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-0789. POC is Mr. Gregory Woods, DSN 430-3149, GENE.WOODS@DLA.MIL.
- Defense Depot San Joaquin, CCP, ATTN: DDJC-TA, Warehouse 30, 25600 South Chrisman Road, Tracy, CA 95376-5000. POC is Mr. Ron Johnston, DSN 462-4281, RON.JOHNSTON@DLA.MIL.