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The RF-ITV Learning Portal

Recently we received an inquiry about the RF-ITV User’s Guide. For those who are not acquainted with that publication, it was a pocket-sized, wire-bound booklet that provided information to assist RF-ITV users in understanding Automatic Identification Technology and the tools necessary for successful asset tracking and visibility. We updated the User’s Guide every 2-3 years as our equipment and processes changed.

Unfortunately, in recent years, our RF-ITV training budget would not allow us to continue to publish a printed pocket user’s guide. In its place, we published an online edition and updated it as required. In 2018 we created the RF-ITV Learning Portal on AMIS’s website (https://usarmyamis.army.mil) and included in it information and lessons in the use of the current line of RF-ITV equipment, software, processes and procedures, as we discussed in the June 2018 Edition of this newsletter. For those new to ITV System or veteran users unfamiliar with the RF-ITV Learning Portal, we will repeat some of the information from our introductory article.

First go to our AMIS website linked above and click on the green RF-ITV box. This will take you to the RF-ITV Page which gives a brief introduction to RF-ITV and its benefits, how it is used and provides links to the RF-ITV Tracking Portal—the User-Interface to the RF-ITV System. Also provided is a link to the RF-ITV Tracking Portal Trainer, and a link to the RF-ITV Learning Portal.

RF-ITV Learning Portal

Our intent is to provide training materials and tutorials in clear and easy-to-learn formats. Users will gain necessary skills to perform tasks in the RF-ITV infrastructure. The interactive environments are designed to have the same look and feel as the actual applications. This reduces training time and enables users to begin working as vital RF-ITV team members.

Mouse over any of the drop-down menus and select materials for each course. Your feedback on these lessons is important. When contacting us with your question, please...
provide as many details about the problem and how to recreate it as possible. If it’s an issue with something on this Web site provide the Web page title and what data you entered to get there. Also provide the name and version of the web browser that you’re using. If it’s an issue with other software, provide the product’s title and version number. If it’s an RFID device provide the model number. This will help us to more quickly determine what the problem is and help you resolve it.

Hardware Training:
1. EEDSK
2. ES520 SWB for EEDSK
3. PDK Lite
4. PDK Overview & Setup
5. PDK Tag Read Operations
6. PDK Tag Write Operations
7. Zebra Printer

Software Training:
1. AIT-ITV Overview
2. TIPS-Read
3. TIPS-Write
4. Web Portal Introduction
5. Track Queries
   - Assets
   - Location Activity
   - Sustainment
   - Unit Move
6. Report Queries
7. Tools and Support Queries

Next you will also find links to documentation and other resources such as RF-ITV product information, accreditation, certifications, naming conventions and registration documents. If you have any questions or need assistance in navigating through these valuable training lessons and resources, please contact the AMIS Service Desk at 1 (800) 877-7925 or Email.

AMIS Service Desk

Toll Free within the US or DSN: 1 (800) 877-7925
Email: usarmy.belvoir.peo-eis.mbx.amis-service-desk@mail.mil

Help is available 24 hours per day/7 days per week/365 days per year

PLEASE NOTE...the Service Desk should be contacted before any attempt is made to reach an AMIS Field Service Engineer (FSE) in your area.

If you would like to subscribe to the AMIS ITV Operations and Training Newsletter, or if you have a noteworthy RF-ITV story, lesson-learned, or short article for publication in the newsletter, please submit to AMIS at: jerry.d.rodgers.ctr@mail.mil.
FOR & FROM THE FIELD

Instructions for Ordering Portable Deployment Kits (PDKs) and Iridium SIM Cards

The PDK and PDK Lite/PDK II are unit-funded items that are not centrally-managed nor stocked, and must be procured directly from the manufacturer as a local purchase item. Additionally, EXORD 252-17 FRAGO 11 requires new users to submit an Operational Needs Statement (ONS) and receive HQDA 3/5/7 approval prior to ordering new Iridium SIM cards.

The PDK/PDK Lite/PDK II are for use in austere environments, and connect directly to the RF ITV Server via the Iridium satellite network using an Iridium SIM card.

Read the complete details: https://usarmyamis.army.mil/resources/Ordering_PDK-IridiumSimCards.docx

Site Analysis: PIRMASENS DE HUSTERHOEH-KASERNE

USAMMCE D&T CMOS, PIRMASENSW3, Device ID (T480FCF51FA8B)

For this month’s analysis we selected PIRMASENSW3 (Device ID T480FCF51FA8B), U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center, Europe (USAMMCE) write site located on Husterhoeh-Kaserne outside of Pirmasens, Germany. From the RF-ITV Tracking Portal we selected Track > Sustainment Cargo, entered a ‘Write Station ID’ of T480FCF51FA8B and for the ‘Write Date’ selected 08 – 15 February 2019. This query and criteria produced 79 tagged shipments to analyze. The result of our data analysis is:

- By comparing RF tag data such as the Consignee Department of Defense Activity Address Code (DoDAAC), Port of Debarkation (POD) and in a couple instances the requesting unit identification in the TRMD portion on the RFID tag to the Read events of the tag and Last Reported Interrogator Name, we were able to track 41 of the 79 tagged shipments (51.9%) to their final destination.

- Of the 38 shipments whose arrival at final destination could not be determined/confirmed using data on the ITV portal:
  - Twenty-nine RFID tags were last read arriving at the Port of Embarkation (POE), Ramstein Airbase, Germany. Based on other shipments in our data selection with similar destinations, transportation priority and arrival date at the POE these 29 shipments should have reached their respective POD. Further research on TRANSCOM’s Integrated Data Environment/Global Transportation Network/Convergence (IGC) revealed, based on the 29 shipments’ TCN, these shipments did in fact move through the distribution pipeline and arrived in theater at the POD. Procedures for the consolidation of medical shipments at the POE may need to be reviewed.
  - Nine tags/shipments were last read at an interim stop that was not the POD or final destination of the shipment. It appears these small shipments of medical supplies were consolidated for onward movement and had become separated from their related RFID tag. IGC indicates that seven of nine of the shipments arrived at final destination.

- In all instances the POE and POD codes were inverted. Meaning the write site indicated the shipment was ending at Pirmasens, Germany (used 52Y, the In-land Ground Destination code for Pirmasens, in the POD field). The write site then used the Airport Code of the airfield at the end of the transportation leg as the starting airfield (e.g., RTA the Airport Code for Rota Spain was used in the POE field). The correct Airport Code for
the POE would have been RMS indicating Ramstein Airbase as the starting airfield of the movement. Additionally, we noted in all instances the write site improperly matched the in-land ‘Ground Destination’ location code (ILC) for Ramstein Airbase (52Y) with the destination’s airport code. In accordance with Joint Defense Total Asset Visibility (JDTAV) 2.5, ILCs must not be used for shipments transiting air or sea ports of embarkation and debarkation. Essentially, do not mix and match airport, seaport, and inland codes. Remember if your item is getting on a plane, use airport codes in the POE/POD fields—if getting on a boat, seaport codes need to be used; and finally, if the shipment stays on the ground (truck/train) then use ILCs in the POE/POD fields.

• Of the 79 tags we analyzed, all had valid Consignor DoDAACs. In three instances an invalid DoDAAC (YVETNA or YVETAV) was noted in the Consignee field. However, in these three instances, the requesting unit’s DoDAAC was located in the TRMD portion of the RF tag.

• The ‘Commodity Data’ for the 79 tags provided Document Number, Transportation Control Number (TCN), National Stock Number (NSN) (or pharmaceutical part number/batch-lot number), Nomenclature, Quantity, and Unit of Issue (U/I). Complete commodity data allows users more options for query searches and provides more complete data sharing with other ITV systems.

• The Registration page information was checked by verifying that naming convention rules were followed when the device was named. The listed POC contact information (e-mail and phone number) was confirmed as current and valid.

• DoD has adopted and approved a strategy to transition from the ANSI 256 active RFID tags to an ISO 18000-7 standard. We noted the write site had used 100% ISO RFID tags for our selected data sample

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**RF-ITV Tips and Tricks**

**TIPS Write and Read Software Product Key**

TIPS Read and Write software requires a product key in order to complete the installation process. The product key is a unique alphanumeric code based on the MAC Address of the computer on which the software is being installed. The process described below will display how to request a product key from the AMIS RF-ITV Service Desk (ASD) to complete the software installation.

To provide the MAC Address to the ASD, perform the following steps or contact your network administrator for assistance.

1. Click on the Magnifying glass in the taskbar and type **Windows Powershell** in the search window and hit Enter.

   ![Windows Powershell]

2. In the **Powershell** window, type **getmac** then hit Enter.

   ![getmac in PowerShell]

3. The **Physical Address** (MAC Address) is listed in this example as **18-03-73-39-F1-C9**. Record this information.

4. Contact the AMIS RF-ITV Service Desk at ([usarmy.belvoir.peo-eis.mbx.amis-service-desk@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.belvoir.peo-eis.mbx.amis-service-desk@mail.mil)) and request a product key for TIPS Write/Read; include the MAC Address in the request.

5. The AMIS RF-ITV Service Desk will review the request and, if approved, will send an email containing a product key that will be utilized for the specific computer’s MAC address that you have provided.

   The product key will be a 32-character alphanumeric code, example shown:

   **TIPS Product Key = 1BDF-FA76-B98B-34D7-655D-6829-79E6-668D**
6. Initiate the TIPS installation by double-clicking on the appropriate executable and the DOD Disclaimer will display. Click **Next**. (TIPS Read 4.9.0 is shown in example)

7. Enter the product key into the appropriate field; ensure the “dash” marks are included as shown. Click **Next**.
8. TIPS software will verify the product key.

9. If the product key is incorrect, the below message will appear. Click Exit and restart the process, ensuring the product key is entered correctly. If this message continues, contact the AMIS RF-ITV Service Desk for assistance.
10. If the product key is accepted by the TIPS software, the **Configure Site Settings** window will appear. Select the appropriate collection mode then click **Next**. To complete the installation, continue following the prompts and registration process.