REAPING BENEFITS

IUID implementation takes root

The Marine Corps is beginning to reap the benefits of Item Unique Identification (IUID). Since the Department of Defense (DoD) introduced IUID in 2003, it has been rapidly implemented by program managers, depots, automatic identification technology (AIT) solution providers, government leaders and DoD suppliers. IUID provides the standards, associated processes and technologies to assign a unique serialization to military equipment and garrison property.

According to Rick Triviso, Marine Corps Systems Command's (MCSC) IUID Project Lead, the benefits of the IUID program are numerous and multifaceted. The majority of these benefits stem from the fully automated system achieved with the implementation of an IUID program. Automation provides increased data quality by reducing manual entry and transcription errors, improving item and asset visibility across functional areas and multiple databases, and decreasing administrative error and processing time.

"The result is a greater degree of confidence and trust by decision makers across the Marine Corps," Triviso said.

The IUID Project Lead added that many stakeholders have fully embraced IUID and how it is revolutionizing existing business processes. IUID enables AIT personnel to identify and share equipment and plant property data across logistical, operational, financial and acquisition automated information systems.

The IUID Project Lead works for the Program Manager for Command, Control, Communication and Computers Systems, which is under the purview of MCSC's Operational Forces Systems, also known as Product Group 9 (PG9).

"PG9 is serving as the tip of the spear for IUID marking all legacy equipment in the Marine Corps," Triviso said. The Marine Corps has a requirement to improve serialized management capabilities of its equipment through compliance with IUID policies and standards.

"As IUID capability continues to mature across DoD, it is paramount the Corps keeps the strategic objectives in focus while facilitating material readiness," Triviso said. "IUID provides a critical common link between total lifecycle management, sense and respond logistics, and network centric warfare."

Good planning has helped the IUID program meet the challenges that normally accompany business process changes and paradigm shifts. According to Beth Mathews, a defense contractor assisting with IUID Program Planning, there are several components to planning and executing a successful legacy marking program.

The identification and collection of accurate and complete pedigree data critical to the legacy marking effort is required for effectively marking and ultimately managing serialized Marine Corps Automated Readiness Evaluation System (MARES) legacy equipment and small arms. Pedigree data collection efforts for the MARES legacy equipment commenced in June 2008 and are now in the final stages.

"There are only a handful of the 245 Table of Authorization Material Control Numbers (TAMCNs) across the Marine Corps left for data collection," Triviso said.

According to Ray White, a defense contractor assisting the IUID Engineering Team, the up-front engineering analysis, as documented in the Engineering Analysis Plan (EAP), determines marking location, type and technical documentation needed to support the legacy marking effort.

"Successful execution of the EAP is vital to the success of the legacy equipment IUID marking program," White said.

Ultimately, the IUID team will execute the Marine Corps' Legacy System Mobile Marking Execution Plan (MMEP).

"The MMEP identifies and describes the processes, criteria, tools and resources used to mark principal end items, secondary reparables and/or subassemblies," Mathews said, "like engines and transmissions."

Marine Corps locations, component type and quantities, marking team design, IUID marking equipment suites and follow-on sustainment requirements are also documented in the MMEP. To support mobile marking efforts, the IUID Mobile Marking Team conducted a marking analysis of labels and marking equipment to identify and determine an integrated solution.

"The development of requirements for IUID readers, verifiers and label machines was critical to this analysis," said Mike Bean, a defense contractor assisting with mobile marketing.

Mobile marking is scheduled to begin with III Marine Expeditionary Force later this year. Once the equipment is marked, the data will be uploaded and registered in the DoD IUID registry.

"An important follow-on step to IUID marking the equipment is the storage and management of all IUID data," Triviso said. "This will be accomplished through a temporary data storage/repository, which will maintain the data until the Marine Corps' Global Combat Support System becomes operational. This is good for the Marine Corps."

According to the IUID Project Lead, PG9 will coordinate with Headquarters Marine Corps to identify funding requirements necessary to support the IUID legacy ground equipment marking program.

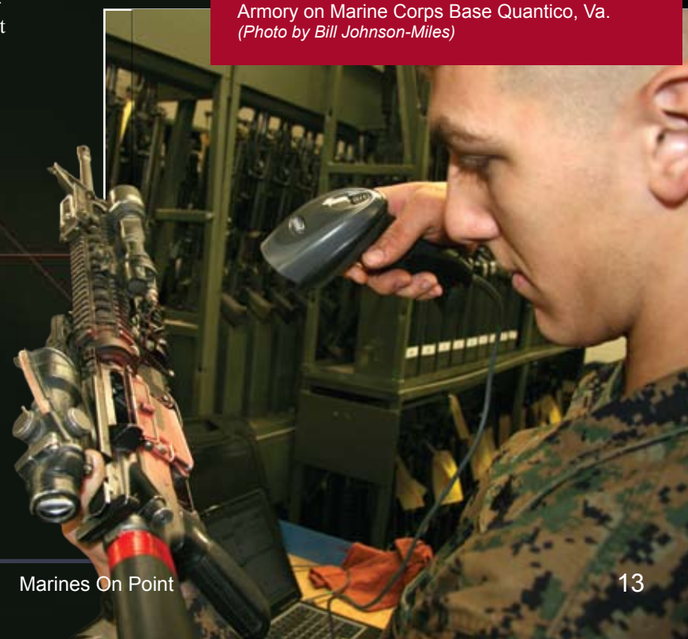
"We will then begin marking all Marine Corps equipment, up to 895 TAMCNs," Triviso said.

By completing the tasking and supporting the program, the Marine Corps will continue to reap the many proven benefits of IUID and its associated business processes.

– Submitted by MCSC's Operational Forces Systems Product Group

Rick Triviso (right), Marine Corps Systems Command's Item Unique Identification (IUID) Project Lead, points out the weapon's IUID label to Lance Corporal Robert Daurman at The Basic School Armory on Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. *(Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)*

Item Unique Identification labels are being placed on all weapons and equipment throughout the Marine Corps. *(Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)*



Corporal Bryan McLain scans the weapon's Item Unique Identification label at The Basic School Armory on Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. *(Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)*