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# Navy Brings New MISIL On-Line

By

D. Kent Wiggins

On 10 October 1989, the revised Management Information System International Logistics (MISIL) became operational, culminating the four-year-old MISIL ADP Replacement Project (MARP) managed by the Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP). MISIL is the primary information system used by the U.S. Navy (since the late 1970s) to manage its Security Assistance Program.

## THE NEED FOR CHANGE

In 1984, two factors led to the need to re-vamp MISIL. First, the Office of the Secretary of Defense's FMS Financial Management Improvement Program (FFMIP) levied certain financial management requirements on all three services. The lack of a data base management system and limited telecommunications capabilities prevented the Navy from fulfilling those requirements with the then-current MISIL. Second, MISIL was becoming saturated as a result of growing FMS business over the years and of increasingly sophisticated requirements. These two factors gave birth in 1985 to the MISIL ADP Replacement Project (MARP), the primary goals of which were to move MISIL from an outdated, overtaxed mainframe computer (a Burroughs B4800) to a modern mainframe, use a commercially available data base management system, and to satisfy the financial management requirements of the FFMIP.

After following the necessary life-cycle management documentation guidelines and gaining the necessary approvals, the project officially came to life in September 1985. All parties agreed that, except for hardware and system software, in-house resources (NAVSUP Headquarters and three of its field activities) would be used for all aspects of the project.

## IN-HOUSE DEVELOPMENT

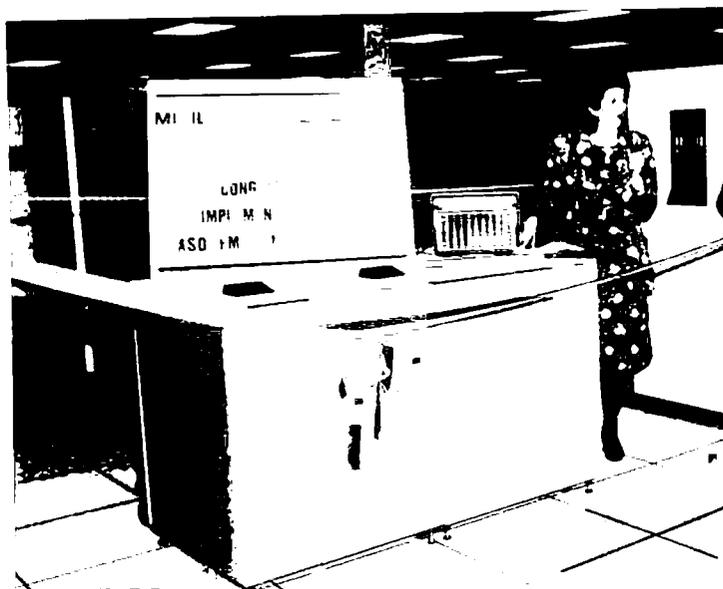
The Systems Development and Implementation division of NAVSUP's Security Assistance Directorate defined the requirements of the project and provided overall project management and coordinated all actions among the three field activities, including requirements definition.

The MISIL division of the Fleet Material Support Office (FMSO) in Camp Hill, PA, was responsible for designing the data base and for writing all application and data base conversion programs. Cullinet Corporation's Integrated Database Management System (IDMS) was selected as the data base management system software, a radical change from the Navy-unique system software previously used for MISIL. One hundred four different data base "record types" were constructed, including not only obvious ones such as Case, Record Serial Number (RSN), Requisition and Bill, but also other necessary ones like Major Item, Vendor, and Disbursement.

FMSO developed 1,039 application and data base conversion programs. The task of independently certifying these programs has traditionally fallen upon the systems division of the Navy International Logistics Control Office (NAVILCO) in Philadelphia. Using several copies of the data base, NAVILCO spent months testing the programs under real-life conditions. No program could be released into production until it was independently certified.

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During much of 1989, NAVILCO, FMSO and the Aviation Supply Office (ASO) expended hundreds of man-hours performing mock conversions (to convert data from the older computer to the new) and stress testing (to ensure that the real-life production workload could be accommodated). Great care was taken to preserve the integrity of the data during the actual conversion. That final conversion was a success, and MISIL now resides on an IBM 3090-200 mainframe and shares the resources of the ASO data center in Philadelphia, which furnishes computer support to several large domestic logistics systems.



Ms Ruth Sanders, Systems Development and Implementation Director in NAVSUPs Security Assistance Directorate, delivers some opening remarks in front of part of the new hardware.

## THE FUNCTIONS OF MISIL

From a functional viewpoint, the new MISIL is very similar to the old, the biggest exception being the additional financial management functions mandated by the FFMIP. This was a conscious decision, because changing the hardware and underlying system software is difficult enough; changing the primary functions of the system at the same time could have been disastrous. Some of the major functions of MISIL are:

- Establishment/maintenance of cases, RSNs, project directive line items (PDLIs) and requisitions
- Obligational authority control
- Processing of all logistics and financial actions (e.g., MILSTRIP requisitions, supply status, or Interfund billings)
- Detailed accounting
- Full reporting at all levels

The FFMIP in their FMS Integrated Control Document, mandated changes in ten areas for all services:

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- Case Information
  - Expenditure Authority
  - Performance Reporting
  - Status of Funds
  - Requisition Case Forecast Data
  - Obligational Authority
  - Disbursement Reporting
  - Case Closure
  - Reconciliation Data
  - Data Tables

The requirements in all ten areas have been incorporated into MISIL.

By all accounts, the new MISIL is certainly easier to use than the old. All functions are available via menus and have been logically grouped. For example, when a user first signs on, the Main Menu is displayed with the following choices:

Queries	Supply Processing
Reports	Financial Processing
Case Control Input	File Control
Project Directive Input	FMS Integrated Control
Procurement/Travel Input	Expenditure Authority Input
Performance Reporting Input	MISIL/FICS Reconciliation

Selecting one of these options leads to sub-menus. For example, if the Queries option is selected, the user is asked to select one of the following types of data: Case, RSN, Project Directive, Requisition, Procurement, Billing, Appropriation, Expenditure Authority, Report of Discrepancy, CLSSA, Controlled Exception, and Miscellaneous Data. The system continues to prompt the user until the desired screen is located. User training flows more easily as a result of this functional menu-driven approach.

## THE NETWORK

MISIL is now available via the NAVSUP Logistics Network (NLN). In the past, dedicated telephone lines (many of which were long distance) directly connected MISIL terminals at the user's site to the MISIL computer at the ASO data center. While conceptually simple, this was extremely expensive, and that terminal could be used only for MISIL and nothing else. Now, many local nodes into the NLN have been established around the country. Thus, instead of several expensive long distance lines from the Naval Air Systems Command in northern Virginia to ASO in Philadelphia, the NAVAIR terminals connect via local lines to the nearest node in the network, which happens to be at the Washington Navy Yard.

Over 600 MISIL terminals, PCs, and printers are connected into the NLN. And these terminals are not simply "MISIL" terminals; because of the network connection, these devices can be used to access virtually any system operated out of the ASO or SPCC data centers (assuming the user is authorized and has the proper passwords of course). In the very near future, users will be able to access systems available at the Navy stock points and NARDACs. Beyond that, access to other service systems will be possible via the NLN's connection to the Defense Data Network. These enhancements move closer to the goal of a *single* terminal on a desk that can access practically any system, an approach similar to how a telephone functions.

## THE USER COMMUNITY

Over 800 users from 25 different organizations are now registered to use the MISIL data base, and the flexibility of the network will allow this number to grow easily. Some of the larger users include:

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- Navy International Logistics Control Office (NAVILCO)
  - Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP)
  - Naval Air Command (NAVAIR)
  - Naval Sea Command (NAVSEA)
  - Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR)
  - Comptroller of the Navy (NAVCOMPT)
  - Headquarters, Marine Corps (MARCORPS)
  - Navy Office of Technology Transfer and Security Assistance (NAVOTTSA)
  - Aviation Supply Office (ASO)
  - Ships Parts Control Center (SPCC)

The types of functions performed by the 25 organizations vary widely, from case management, to supply requisition establishment, to bill processing, to obligational authority control. Strict security techniques are employed such that users are only allowed to perform functions appropriate to their particular job.

### SOME NEW FEATURES

One feature of MISIL that has now been formally established is an *Information Center*. Since no system can be structured to accommodate all possible information needs, the IC will employ a number of fourth-generation tools to satisfy unique requests from any valid user. If requested often enough, that screen, report, or function will be built into the MISIL mainstream.

To speed up communication within the Navy Security Assistance community, virtually any user of MISIL can correspond with any other via *electronic mail*. E-Mail allows for the exchange of almost any type of information, such as system downtime, problems and changes; individual case management issues; follow-ups on actions, meeting minutes; and so forth. E-Mail has proven itself as an almost unequaled productivity booster, an important fact in this era of diminishing funds.

A piece of new technology which MISIL is using is the Compact Disc-Read Only Memory (CD-ROM), which is similar to an audio CD except that data instead of music is contained on the disc. A great deal of data can fit on it—up to 650 megabytes (more than 1600 floppy disks), and it enjoys an international standard. MISIL maintains a Transaction History for all MILSTRIP requisitions, and a CD-ROM containing over 3 million transactions was delivered in October 1989 and was immediately put to use. Other applications are being evaluated for this revolutionary distribution medium.

### MISIL'S POTENTIAL IS THE KEY

To end the MARP formally, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in the ASO data center, and attended by almost all of the nearly 200 people who brought the re-systemized MISIL to life. Rear Admiral Robert M. Moore of NAVSUP cut the ribbon for the new MISIL, and stressed its importance for the Navy's Security Assistance program. He also stated his pleasure over the fact that MISIL is the first of the NAVSUP logistics modernization projects to come on-line. MISIL is the Navy's primary system for managing Security Assistance, and the new MISIL represents a great step forward. Anything that improves the productivity of FMS case managers, supply clerks, review officers, and so on, ultimately benefits our foreign customers and U.S. forces as well.



RADM R. M. Moore, NAVSUP (2nd from right) officially recognizes the completion of the MISIL ADP Replacement Project. He is joined by CAPT R. E. Mendez, NAVILCO; CDR E. W. Jefferys, FMSO 98; and RADM J.E. Eckelberger, ASO.

While the new MISIL (it is still called MISIL) surpasses the old, the potential that MISIL now possesses is important. The modernized hardware and system software allow for a lot of sizeable functional changes, many of which FMSO is already working on, so the future for MISIL looks very bright indeed. A MISIL PC and printer have now been installed at DISAM and are being used in the classes, so the next time you visit, take a look for yourself.

Further information on MISIL is available by contacting Naval Supply Systems Command, SUP 072, Washington DC 20376-5000, (202) 695-7768 or AUTOVON 225-7768.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kent Wiggins is the NAVSUP Project Manager for the MISIL ADP Replacement Project. He has worked with MISIL for the past eight years—five at NAVSUP and three at NAVILCO. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy from the College of William and Mary.