
FMS Follow-On Support Made Easier STARR/PC - Is It For You?

By

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STARR/PC (Supply Tracking and Reparable Return) is a personal computer based data system for FMS countries that is interfaced both with the USAF Security Assistance Management Information System (SAMIS) and the U.S. Army Centralized Integrated System for International Logistics (CISIL), which is a part of Security Assistance Automation, Army (SA3). It can provide a variety of users (i .e., in-country service, in-country DOD, liaison officers, embassies, and freight forwarders) with near-real-time requisition capabilities, plus supply and shipping status. In order to access STARR/PC the using country or international organization must be an International Logistics Communication System (ILCS) subscriber. ILCS is an international direct dial telephone circuit between the customer and the Defense Automated Addressing System Office (DAASO), in Dayton, Ohio. [For more information on the ILCS, see Appendix 3 of the 10th Edition of the DISAM textbook, *The Management of Security Assistance.*]

BACKGROUND

For several years countries have desired direct terminal access to the U.S. services' databases for visibility and access to their country's security assistance logistics information. For security reasons this direct access was not previously possible. The USAF International Logistics Center has pioneered a system that can give the purchasing country access to selected country logistics information while at the same time protecting the privacy of other information contained in the USAF databank. STARR/PC was initially developed to accomplish access to selected data contained in U.S. Air Force SAMIS. The U.S. Army then came on board, and now provides customers with STARR/PC access to selected information in the Army CISIL/SA3.

Security controls and access are accomplished by an initial data download from SAMIS and CISIL/SA3. As changes occur to the country's data in SAMIS and CISIL/SA3, updated records are transmitted via ILCS to the STARR/PC system where they replace the last set of records. STARR/PC updates its databases with the same status as found in SAMIS and CISIL/SA3.

FUNCTIONS

STARR/PC users can directly input requisitions, obtain requisition status, track shipments, and monitor financial requirements. The user can input all allowable types of FMS transactions (AO-, AF-, AT-, AM-, and AC-). The input is validated by the system with error messages displayed on the screen. Users can also select to batch process inputs, in which case, errors are printed out on an error report. These transactions can then be corrected by re-entry on-line through the STARR/PC. The system also has the capability for the user to process MILSTRIP follow-on transactions such as follow-up, cancellations, and modifications. Material received by freight forwarders and material returned for repair can also be tracked. This tracking requires the freight forwarder to report receipts and shipments to the U.S. Air Force or Army through DAASO. (The freight forwarder will probably want to charge for this additional reporting; however, much of the record keeping should already be required by the country.) For STARR/PC tracking, freight forwarder receipts and shipments must be coded and reported using specific codes.

LOGISTIC REPORTS

There is a wide variety of logistics management reports available through STARR/PC which in some cases are user selective between document number and stock number. Listed below are some of the reports available and a brief explanation of each:

- **NMCS REPORT** – Status of “not mission capable supply” items with the status code and the estimated shipping date, if available.
- **DUE-IN** – A total listing of all outstanding requisitions that are due-in by the purchaser.
- **CASE** – Provides summary data for all requisitions on a selected case.
- **DUE-IN FREIGHT FORWARDER** – Reports item recorded as shipped but not reported as received by the freight forwarder.
- **ITEMS AT FREIGHT FORWARDER** – Lists items reported as received by the freight forwarder but not shipped.
- **ITEMS SHIPPED BY FREIGHT FORWARDER** – Lists items reported shipped by the freight forwarder. This list, along with the above report, can be used to trace shipments.
- **MRRL [Materiel Repair Requirements List] CROSS REFERENCE** – Helps to trace materiel returns under the Air Force repair/replace program. Items are usually returned for repair using one document number and the replacement item is ordered and shipped using another document number. This report can cross reference the original document number to the replacement document number, and is available in either sequence.
- **MASTER DATA** – A general purpose system interrogation by stock number or document number in individual status or summary format.
- **STATUS** – Reports all MILSTRIP status against input criteria by stock number or document number.
- **TRANSPORTATION CONTROL NUMBER (TCN)** – By entering the TCN the user can retrieve data concerning all requisitions shipped under one TCN. This can be used to determine contents of multi-pack shipments.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial Management reports are available at country, case, or line level. The information includes total values, commitments, and deliveries.

- **TOTAL LINES** – User inputs the master case designator and receives financial status of all line items within the case.
- **SELECTED CASE/LINE** – The data is the same as provided in the above report except by specific case and line.
- **ALL CASE AND LINE** – This report details the latest financial position on all current FMS cases for the *country*, sequence is by case and line.

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- **SELECTED CASE/LINE** – This will produce a printed report of the status for the requested case and line.
 - **SELECTED CASE (LINES)** – This will produce a printed report of all lines for the requested case.
 - **SELECTED TYPE/CASE** – This printed report will show financial status for a selected type of FMS case.

REQUIREMENTS

In order to access the logistics and financial data in STARR/PC, the user must be an ILCS subscriber. The subscription includes the DAASO Asynchronous Message Entry System package furnished by DAASO which requires a 2400 BPS bisynchronous modem for communication with DAASO.

The user must also have the following hardware and software:

1. A personal computer that is 100 percent IBM PC/AT compatible and which has a hard disc drive of at least 20 megabytes. The exact requirement for the hard disc is determined by the size of the country's FMS program.
2. A standard PC printer for printing reports.
3. A 2400 BAUD Asynchronous Hayes compatible modem.
4. Software, DOS 3.2 or higher. A registered copy of DBASE III+ (Version 1.1) and Carbon Copy Plus is also required.

The STARR/PC terminal should be located at the user's requisitioning point, normally in-country. Other terminals may also be useful at country management locations in the U.S., such as embassies and liaison offices.

CONCLUSION

STARR/PC allows a country to become very active in the management of its cases with the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army. It offers a high degree of self-sufficiency by providing status and reports on demand. Besides providing near-real-time status and requisitioning capability, STARR/PC can cut down on the preparation of unnecessary Reports of Discrepancy (RODS). Without STARR/PC, countries that have non-receipts or shortages, submit RODS to the International Logistics Control Offices for investigation. With STARR/PC an inquiry can be made to determine if the item(s) in question has been received by the freight forwarder. If a freight forwarder receipt has been reported, then submission of a ROD is not indicated. The country can start its investigation at the last activity reporting receipt of the item(s) to STARR/PC, i.e., freight forwarder or in-country depot. STARR/PC is not intended to be all that is required for an in-country logistics or supply system; however, it can be a big part of such a system.

Interested parties can obtain more information about STARR/PC from the respective U.S. service offices listed below. Most of the information for this article was obtained from a STARR/PC systems brochure available from these offices. Also available is a STARR/PC user's manual that provides specific details about the operation of this system.

U.S. Air Force
HQ AFLC ILC/XMDA
Wright-Patterson AFB OH 45433-5000
Phone: (513) 257-5760

DAASO Information
DAASO/DL
Dayton OH 45444-5320
Phone: (513) 296-5044

U.S. Army
Commander USASAC
AMSAC-MP-O
5001 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria VA 22333-0001
Phone: (703) 274-8433/34

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mr. Robert W. Hanseman is an Associate Professor of Security Assistance Management at DISAM. He has served DISAM for more than 9 years, first as a USAF officer and subsequently as a DOD civilian. Mr. Hanseman is the functional coordinator for all logistics subjects within the curriculum and additionally serves as the International Military Student Manager (IMSM) with responsibility for managing the Foreign Purchaser courses at DISAM. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing from the University of Cincinnati and a Master of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Northern Colorado.