PC Development in the Security Assistance Arena

By

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INTRODUCTION

For those of us in the security assistance community, the Security Assistance Network (SAN) is a welcome addition. The ability to access data through telecommunications and a bridge known as IDSS (Interoperability Decisions Support System) has linked security assistance users and information worldwide. The computer systems now available to us as security assistance managers are unlimited. We can access such systems as the "Central Bank of FMS" at DFAS, Denver; the Navy's Management Information System for International Logistics (MISIL); the Army's Centralized Integrated System for International Logistics (CISIL); and the Air Force's Security Assistance Management Information System (SAMIS), to name a few. The field security assistance officer has never before had access to so much information.

But what about the other end of the spectrum? What about the needs of the host country to do iterative or repetitive work, to maintain an inventory, to provide maintenance transaction reporting, to trace repairable items and shelf life items? Many of the application needs of our customers are already developed. We need to let them know about these products that are now available as off-the-shelf applications.

PRODUCTS

I would like to discuss four of those products. They are the Supply Information Processing System (SIPS), the Preventive Maintenance System (PMS), the Ship's Automated Maintenance System (SAMS), and the Controlled Equipage List (CEIL). Let me explain the purpose of each of these application products.

SIPS is a PC-based system which uses interactive, menu-driven processing to replace non-integrated manual processing. Files are automated allowing file access on multiple criteria. For example, you may search by part number, stock number, or noun name for an item. SIPS provides for standard operations of procurement, receipting for, accounting for, issuing, stowing, and expending materials. SIPS is based upon the criteria established in the U.S. Navy's Afloat Supply Procedures; however, it may be used to automate small supply departments, small shop stores, or ready supply stores. SIPS has the capability to prepare requisitions which may then be transferred through the Security Assistance Network (SAN) to the appropriate military department going through DAAS (Defense Automatic Addressing System), Dayton, Ohio. SIPS can comfortably handle an inventory of 20,000 to 25,000 line items on a PC with an Intel® 386 processor.

PMS is a PC-based system which manages scheduled preventive maintenance actions for a ship or unit. PMS tracks all actions, the people who performed the actions, the schedule of when the actions need to be performed, and more. For example, all maintenance actions, whether they be daily, weekly, monthly, bi-monthly, semi-annually, or annually, are tracked for completion. Inspections scheduled must be completed or deferred before moving on to the next period. The maintenance actions completed are linked to the individuals that performed the maintenance actions and their requisite qualifications. The PMS system employs user-friendly, menu-driven procedures. It is recommended that a PC with a 386 micro processor be used.

SAMS is a PC-based maintenance system which tracks those items which have failed while in service. It provides maintenance personnel with a "user-friendly," yet comprehensive tool for the tracking and controlling standard maintenance action information, configuration changes, and material issue requests. SAMS follows the specifications that have been outlined in the Navy's Maintenance and Material Management Manual (3M). One of SAMS' advantages is the validation of information entered against the ships configuration file. The system will not allow the use of invalid part numbers, reference numbers, etc. On-line help for specific instructions and generation of images to floppy disc for later transfer to update the history of a Ship's Maintenance Actions, and configuration changes, are some of the features provided to facilitate repair actions and documentation.

CEIL is a PC-based system which tracks controlled portable items with sub-custody signature for those held accountable for these items. This type of material is often considered plant and minor property. However, many purposes beyond that scope may be adapted to the CEIL system. For example, organizational clothing issued to a person, special tools assignment, or pack up kits for field exercises may be tracked. CEIL allows for the tracking of sub-custody items to various levels of accountability, and tracks items by custody/sub-custody, item name, manufacturer of items, and departmental assignment. Reports, both on screen and paper, are readily available. Custody records may be updated as often as requirements dictate.

HOW COULD IT WORK?

Imagine, if you will, the diesel generator fails. Your activity uses SAMS which allows for the entry of information that identifies a specific repair action which is required to fix the problem. You generate the material issue requests from SAMS which are provided to SIPS for furnishing the material to correct the problem. SIPS then prepares requisitions to replenish the stock. The requisitions are then forwarded via the SAN for replenishment action. Additionally, failure rate, configuration accounting, demand for specific parts, and cost are some of the automated records kept by the activity A schematic approach is depicted in Figure 1.

COST

The application products listed are virtually free to our customer base. Costs for travel, training, installation, modifications, and site surveys are an expense to be borne by the requesting customer.

CLOSING

It has only been a scant ten years since the personal computer has been on the market. It has done in that short time what took twenty-five years on the main-frame environment. Personal Computers are an affordable item for our customer base. Coupling the price with the application software that is available gives a win-win situation to our friends. If we can be of any further assistance in explaining these products in greater detail, contact the Navy Fleet Material Support Office (FMSO), 5450 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg, PA, USA, 17055. Commercial phone number is (717) 790-1633.