INTEGRATION OF NAVY FMS CASE CONTROL SYSTEM

By

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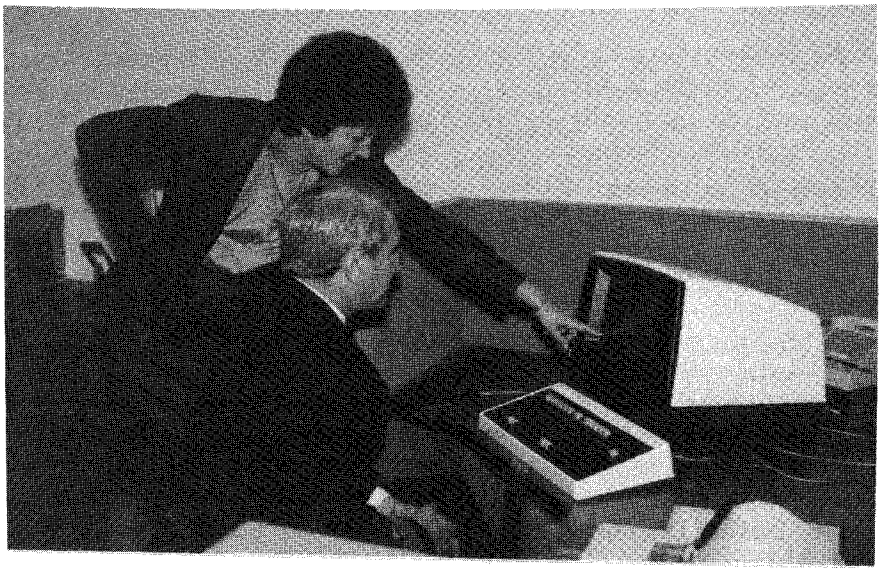
With RADM Andrew A. Giordano, Commander, Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP), cutting the ribbon at an informal ceremony on 6 March 1984, a newly integrated Automated Data Processing (ADP) capability to support the Navy's Security Assistance Program was implemented. This interactive, "user friendly" system, known as the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) Case Control System (CCS), is a part of the Management Information System, International Logistics (MISIL) which is the Navy's major tool for keeping track of both FMS and military assistance programs.



Ms. Ruth Sanders (NAVSUP 07) explains some of the new system features to Rear Admiral Giordano as he prepares to transmit the first message.

The FMS CCS gives the Navy, for the first time, a fully integrated and automated capability to track FMS cases all the way from the foreign government's original letter of request through a completion of the last supply or training action, payment of the final bill, and closure of the case. The new system marks, ". . . an important milestone in our efforts to improve the management of the Security Assistance Program." Those words, plus his thanks for a job well done, were part of the official "open for business" message transmitted by RADM Giordano during the ceremony. This new capability did not just "happen;" the policy decisions which led to its development occurred more than seven years ago.

In June 1977, the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Comptroller (ASD(C)) issued policy and procedural guidance intended to improve financial management in the FMS program. One major facet of that guidance focused on the control of obligational authority issued from the FMS Trust Fund to those Department of Defense (DOD) agencies tasked with implementing FMS orders. This direction required that DOD components implement new accounting procedures for tracking the FMS obligational authority to ensure that economical, uniform, and effective FMS controls were established. The Security Assistance Accounting Center (SAAC) and the Defense Security Assistance Agency (DSAA) recommended that the Navy employ a standardized system patterned after the Army Customer Order Control System (ACOCS). Through the contractual services of the Control Data Corporation (CDC) and in conjunction with the Army, the Comptroller of the Navy (NAVCOMPT) developed the Navy Customer Order Control System (NAVCOCS) for use by the Navy in 1977. In 1982 the military departments were directed to open up CDC's support role for competition. The plan which the Navy developed to accomplish the ASD(C) requirements represented the joint efforts of the Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP), the Fleet Material Support Office (FMSO), the Navy International Logistics Control Office (NAVILCO) and NAVCOMPT.

On 12 October 1982, the Plan of Action and Milestones (POA&M) was completed. In addition to meeting the ASD(C) requirements, it called for the integration of NAVCOCS into MISIL. The system which was integrated into MISIL on 6 March 1984 provides the following capabilities:

-- On-line tracking and updating of FMS cases from the letter of request stage to and including case closure.

-- An on-line system for controlling the request, receipt, and issuance of obligational authority for FMS cases.

-- On-line inquiry of case data showing changes made and/or the value of pending changes.

-- An on-line review process for establishing, changing, and closing cases.

-- Establishment, maintenance, and closure of training cases for the Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET).

-- On-line interchange of pertinent data between NAVILCO, SAAC, CNET, and other Navy activities.

-- Review and update by FMS case managers of data relative to the cases they manage.

Reflecting the system's up-to-date capabilities, the basic operating tool of the FMS CCS is the Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) terminal. Once the system user has successfully "logged on" (through a series of identifying checks designed to preclude unauthorized use), three generalized processes are available. First, there is the FMS Case Control process which is used to provide financial control of the FMS case and to monitor/track the progress of the case through the implementation or closure process. Second is the Case Control Report process which is used to produce either standard reports or

reports which are tailored to specific requirements by the user. Third is the User Message Module process which is used to provide rapid communication between the various users.

At SAAC in Denver, three of the uniformed services, represented by (left to right) COL Jackson Todd, USA, Col John Blose, USAF, and LCDR Roger Willis, USN, check out the new equipment as the system comes on line.

With minimal assistance from a user's manual, the system itself leads the user through the necessary steps to accomplish the needed actions. If the user makes a mistake, the system provides helpful guidance right on the CRT screen to assist with error correction. The system is "smart" enough to know that not all users are permitted to perform all of the available functions.

In addition to the increased capabilities which the FMS CCS provides to the Navy's security assistance community, the new system will be much less expensive to operate than its predecessor. As a direct function of its integration into MISIL and as a result of its "in-house" development, the FMS CCS will save approximately $256,000 during its first year -- including the initial start-up costs. Thereafter, it will save about $1.05 million each year.

The development and implementation effort was led from NAVSUP headquarters by the Directorate for Security Assistance. Providing that leadership was Mr. Richard E. Vatter, Jr., Director, Policy, Procedure, and Systems Division. Assisting Mr. Vatter were Ms. Ruth Sanders, head, Systems Development and Implementation Branch; CDR Carl Rapp, SC, USN, Director, Systems Planning, NAVILCO; and Mr. David Rau, Director, MISIL systems Division, FMSO. Supporting the efforts of Ms. Sanders, CDR Rapp, and Mr. Rau was a team of more than 50 people from FMSO, NAVILCO, CNET, NAVCOMPT, Naval Accounting and Finance Center (NAFC), the Aviation Supply Office (ASO), and the NAVSUP Comptroller, Inventory and Systems Development, and Security Assistance Directorates.

Initially, the system is being used by 17 Navy and Marine Corps activities in Washington, DC; Mechanicsburg and Philadelphia, PA; Orlando and Pensacola, FL; plus SAAC at Denver, CO. In the near feature, additional users will participate in sharing and updating information vital to the mission of managing the Navy's responsibilities to its foreign government customers.

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