

SECURITY ASSISTANCE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (SAMIS)

BY

W. DAVID CAREY

DISAM Assistant Professor of Security Assistance Management

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Effective 1 October 1983, the Air Force International Logistics Center (AFLC/ILC) will be replacing the current International Logistics Management Information System (ILMIS). The system, more commonly known as the HO51 system, will be replaced by the Security Assistance Management Information System (SAMIS). SAMIS, which will provide AFLC/ILC with the accurate and timely information for more effective management of security assistance programs, is to be implemented in phases, each of which will have several increments. Phase 1, Increment 1, scheduled for 1 October, will contain 83% of the planned capability. Increment 2, Phase 1 will concentrate on periodic management requirements. Other planned phases have not been fully defined at this time.

The age of the HO51 system hardware combined with the rapid growth of the security assistance program made it imperative that this technologically obsolete system be replaced with one that is more responsive to change and is more "user" oriented. SAMIS computer technology advancement will allow for providing on-line, interactive capabilities of updating stored data, interrogating data using "step-through" procedures, and improved problem researching techniques. SAMIS will also be able to respond quickly to rapidly changing world conditions, especially policy changes directed by Congressional, Executive, Department of Defense (DOD), United States Air Force (USAF) or Air Force Logistics Command (AFLC) activities. In addition, the SAMIS will improve a case manager's ability to manage by exception, mechanizing many of the functions that are presently performed manually.

In order to understand the advantages and improvements offered by SAMIS, it is necessary to offer a comparison between the two computer systems. HO51 is an early second generation data system developed in the late 1950s. SAMIS, on the other hand, will operate on a "state of the art," large mainframe computer. HO51 is tape/batch oriented; a sequential processing system. Data is stored on a magnetic tape and input is collected and batched for once-a-day processing. In order to select data about country X's program or case, the system must first search through all stored data concerning countries A through W. Such search routines account for the large amount of time consumed in daily processing (i.e., approximately 10 hours [Saturday-Thursday] and approximately 60-80 additional hours to cover Friday's cycle plus any special cycles required during the week.) In comparison, SAMIS, with its on-line capability, significantly reduces report processing time but still maintains a batch cycle for data base updating required to produce large volume reports in either paper or microfiche form.

The volume and mode of data retention has saturated the current HO51 storage capacity and in essence, precludes the addition of new types of

information. Conversely, SAMIS data storage will not be a problem because of the new hardware and the fourth generation software.

While the HO51 system does not maintain or reflect data for both master case designator and line item number (sub-case), SAMIS provides management capability at case or line level. Further, HO51 does not serve as the single focal point for release of supply information to customer countries or agencies which can result in incompatible records between the AF/ILC and the various customers. SAMIS on the other hand, serves as the single focal point for receipt of requisitions and release of status to the customer. All transactions are processed through SAMIS. Although limited in scope, HO51 does generate internally, automatic follow-ups to aid managers in assuring responsive requisition surveillance. SAMIS, on the other hand, will maintain the current status of requisitions at all times allowing rapid response to customer initiated follow-up transactions.

Air Force managers can access SAMIS through remote terminals located throughout the Air Force Logistics Command and at HQ USAF, Washington DC. Products provided by the terminals can be tailored to single line answers. Response time to specific questions (e.g., What is the status of my document number, case? How many times has a stock number been requisitioned?) will be greatly improved.

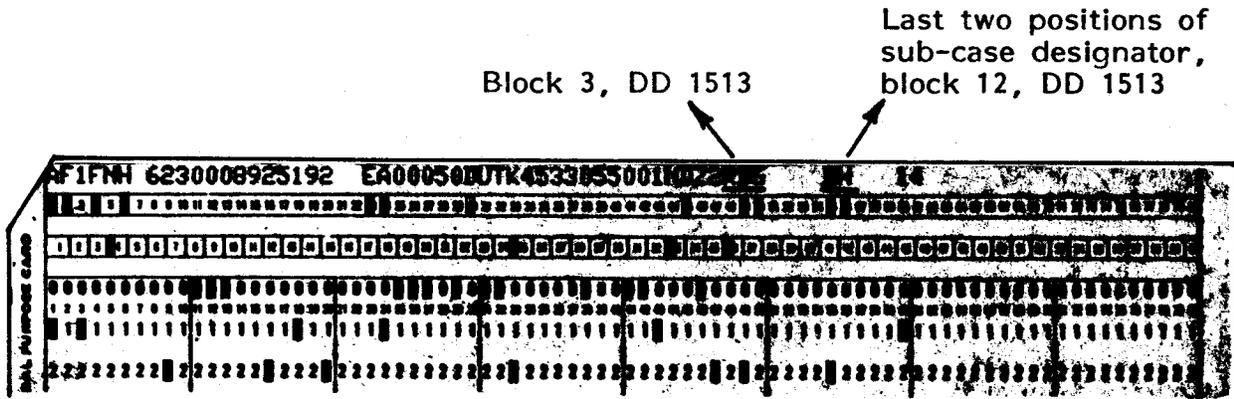
Now that we have looked at the contrast and comparison of the old and new data systems, the remainder of this article will examine the specifics for requisition processing and format changes in status documents brought about by the introduction of a new computer system. The information provided is an update to the HQ AFLC/MIM message, DTC 011930Z Mar 83, Conversion from HO51 to SAMIS; Requisition Processing Impact on Security Assistance Countries. This message also appeared in Vol. 5, No. 3 (Spring) issue of the DISAM Journal, p. 93. Changes are demonstrated by using illustrations of portions of a DD Form 1513, a DD Form 1348, and a status document.

When preparing requisitions for submission to the current HO51 system, FMS customers are required to place the sub-case designator (line item number) located in Block 12 of the DD Form 1513 into card columns 48-50 of a DD Form 1348, as illustrated in Figure 1. With the implementation of SAMIS on 1 October 1983, FMS customers will be required to place the case designator, located in Block 3 of the DD Form 1513, into card columns 48-50 of a DD Form 1348. In addition, the last two positions of the sub-case designator must be placed in card columns 55 and 56 of a DD 1348, illustrated in Figure 2. SAMIS must be able to identify master case and line item number; therefore, once implemented, requisitions submitted for cases written before 1 Oct 83, as well as those written after, must be prepared as explained above. To help the FMS customers with this situation, AFLC/ILC will provide a product, to be addressed later, that will identify both master case and line numbers for cases written before 1 October 1983. In some instances, the sub-case designator found in Block 12 of the DD Form 1513 and the case designator found in Block 3 are the same. If this situation occurs, the customer should follow the same process illustrated in Figure 2. The first position of the Block 3, case designator, and the Block 12, sub-case designator, must always be the same, therefore that position will only be required in card column 48 of a DD 1348.

It is extremely important that the customer understand the impact of this change. If the procedure for preparing requisitions, illustrated in Figure 1, is followed after 1 Oct 1983, requisitions will be rejected and result in delays in processing customer requirements. This change in requisition processing emphasizes that the customer must refer to both master case designator (Block 3, DD Form 1513) and sub-case designator (Block 12, DD Form 1513) in future correspondence with Air Force activities.

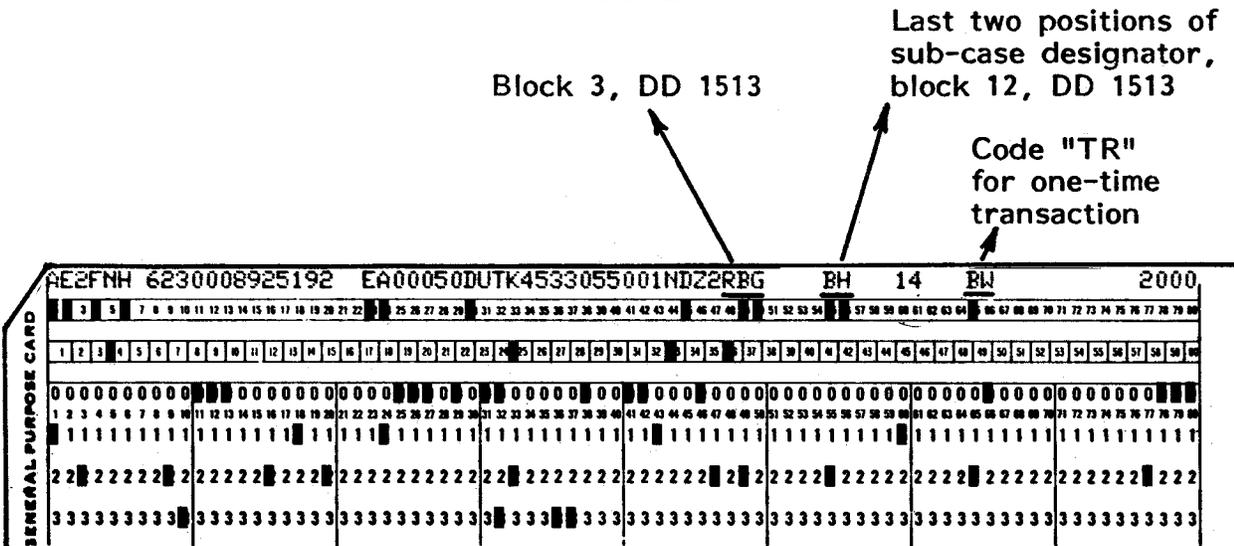
There will also be some changes in the format of MILSTRIP documents prepared by the customer. These documents [e.g., requests for cancellations (AC), follow-ups (AF and AT), and requisition modifiers (AM)] will also require identification of master case and line item number, illustrated in Figure 3.

FIGURE 3



SAMIS reporting (e.g., AE and AS status documents) will also be changed. Figure 4 is an example of a status transaction that will be provided to the customer.

FIGURE 4



The Air Force International Logistics Center is offering a one-time transaction so that FMS customers can identify master cases and their associated sub-cases. This product will be similar to the document illustrated in Figure 4 with one modification. A unique code (i.e., TR) will be entered in card columns 65 through 66 so that the customer can identify this special product. Another suggested source for the same information is the quarterly bill (DD 645) provided by the Security Assistance Accounting Center. Column 6 of the DD 645 identifies both master and sub-case designators.

SAMIS holds much promise. This short description of its advantages has only addressed some of those that are more obvious. The changes in requisition processing and the new formats for status documents were addressed because of the direct impact on our FMS customers. More information about SAMIS will be provided in either future DISAM releases or in correspondence from the Air Force International Logistics Center.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mr. David Carey has been a member of the DISAM faculty since 1980, and specializes in the case process and financial aspects of security assistance management. He holds a BBA degree (Bachelor of Business Administration) from Eastern Kentucky University and a Master of Arts degree (Management and Supervision: Logistics Management) from Central Michigan University.