PEO STAMIS

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The DEPLOYER

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OPEVAL To Take Systems Through Their Paces

TC ACCIS participates in Turbo Y2K

TRANSCOM's Y2K Operational Evaluation (OPEVAL) Turbo Y2K kicked off Monday, April 5, 1999. The OPEVAL will demonstrate whether automated data exchanged amongst several automated transportation systems will be unaffected by Y2K.

Although each of the 21 systems involved in the OPEVAL have been separately Y2K certified, there has been no full-scale test of their interconnectivity. That's what Turbo Y2K aims to do. In testing the various systems, TRANSCOM is using actual CENTCOM data.

TRANSCOM realized that without TC ACCIS, they would have to use fabricated data

TRANSCOM will exercise nearly all of the systems belonging to its Transportation Component Commands TCCs (read: MTMC, MSC, and AMC). Importantly, TRANSCOM will also look at systems belonging to TRANSCOM *per se*, like the Global Transportation Network (GTN). The evaluation will exercise both unit deployment and sustainment transportation operations.

Although TC ACCIS belongs neither to TRANSCOM nor one of its TCCs, it is a vital enabling system for Turbo Y2K. TRANSCOM realized that without TC ACCIS data, they would have had to use fabricated unit movement data for the evaluation. This, they felt, would not faithfully replicate the way things are really done.

TC ACCIS is transmitting the Integrated Booking System (IBS) report to MTMC and network GTN. We are also sending the Computerized Movement Planning and Status System (COMPASS) report to GTN and our modified Advanced Transportation Control and Movement Document (ATCMD) data to the Consolidated Aerial Port System II (CAPS II). The information that TC ACCIS

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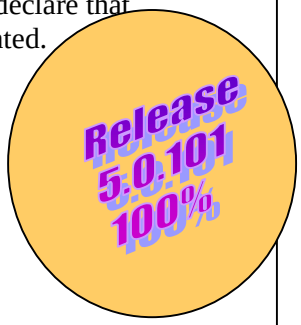
Thank You!

We recently sent out Release 5.0.101, the TC ACCIS Y2K implementing software, and thereupon immediately asked you to stop everything and load it. As we explained in our phone calls to so many of you, it was extremely important that TC ACCIS be able to declare that it was fully Y2K implemented. The speed with which you responded to our pleas was truly astonishing. It was by far the quickest release load in TC ACCIS history. Moreover, we now find that, for the first time, we can claim all sites are on the same release. We know that TC ACCIS is a partnership; that we need the sound professionalism of one another to achieve our common mission. It is immensely fulfilling to see such a dramatic example of this partnership in action. What else can we say but, THANKS!



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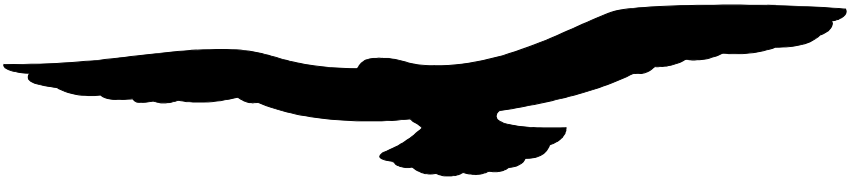
sends to IBS is used to support vessel bookings. More over, IBS uses that data to construct ATCMDs which it sends to Worldwide Port System (WPS) for that system to use as the DOD Port Management System.

Obviously, these feeds are important, but the aim of the OPEVAL is not to be a stress test. Rather it is meant to validate correct Y2K operation. Accordingly, the amount of data passed is relatively modest. The variations of dates used are key. The first week of the OPEVAL will be performed using the current date. This will form the baseline for the test. The following weeks will see the automated system's clocks time warped into the 21st century and a repetition of the same information used for the baseline test. This will ensure that all of the evaluated systems are Y2K compliant when they interface. The ultimate goal is guarantee to you, the customer, that transportation requirements will be satisfied with fully Y2K compliant automated systems well into the 21st century.

Calendar Date	Item Tested
15 Mar - 02 Apr	Communications Check Phase II
05 Apr - 30 Apr	Phase III (OPEVAL A, Deployment)
05 Apr - 08 Apr	Test 1, Baseline
12 Apr - 15 Apr	Bye
19 Apr - 22 Apr	Test 2, 31 Dec - Jan 00
26 Apr - 29 Apr	Test 3, 29 Feb - 1 Mar 00

Turbo Y2K Time Warps



TC-AIMS II To Participate in Foal Eagle

Foal Eagle 99 is a field amphibious assault exercise designed to "train staff and exercise plans & procedures relating to the defense of the Republic of South Korea. Foal Eagle is the world's largest joint military exercise. The exercise will involve five CINCs, four services, DISA, DLA, and TC-AIMS II, which is expected to prove its mettle while managing reception, staging, and onward movement integration. TC-AIMS II, with its advanced AIT capability is expected to also further the mission of maintaining strategic transportation information and status.

Although exact participating units have not been finalized, we know at least that a brigade out of 4th ID, Ft. Hood, will deploy to the Korean Peninsula. Stateside, the POEs will be Gray AAF and Beaumont. The PODs in Korea will be Osan, Taegu, Pohang, Kimhae, and Pusan.

What is RSOI?

Reception, Staging Onward Movement, and Integration describes that process whereby personnel and equipment are brought into a theater of operation and are rejoined into combat ready units which are thereupon integrated into the theater's command structure.

Although obviously not a new concept, RSOI factors are an ever more important consideration in a post-cold war age where there is far less reliance on pre-positioned troops or equipment.

Paraphrased from FM 100-17-3

GATES To Replace CAPS

On Jan 23, Lt Gen John B. Sams Jr. officiated the ribbon cutting ceremony for the first increment of the Global Air Transportation Execution System, or GATES, and in so doing ushered in a new era as well as the beginning of the end for the useful, if short-lived TC ACCIS-CAPS interface.

GATES began as a hardware replacement and software modernization program, and evolved into a modern passenger reservation system, rivaling those used in commercial industry. In addition to the passenger functionality, GATES provides AMC leaders with oversight of worldwide cargo movement. The GATES database gives decision-makers one-stop shopping for gathering metrics needed to manage and improve AMC processes and customer service.

GATES was selected by the Office of the Secretary of Defense as a migration system, one of twenty-three in USTRANSCOM's defense transportation system. As a migration system, GATES is consolidating the functionality of five legacy systems into one program, while interfacing with other migration systems to eliminate duplication of effort. System designers used commercial-off-the-shelf software, state-of-the-art development tools, and new hardware platforms to maximize the maintainability and reliability of GATES. These technology improvements increase data quality, speed delivery of enhancements to the customer, and save money.

With a new beginning…an End.

Few TC ACCIS products have demonstrated so much gratitude as the TC ACCIS CAPS interface. Borne from a direct order from CINCTRANS in November 1996, the CAPS interface was rapidly developed to provide visibility of Army Cargo on Air Force assets.

As happens with such developments, operators quickly saw the necessity for more refinement. So in July 1998, TC ACCIS fielded a revision to its CAPS interface that allowed for the following enhancements:

Fault tolerant copying
Intelligent unit aggregation
Limited email capability
Special edits of codes

No plans are currently underway to interface TC ACCIS and GATES.

With the first release of GATES operating at 125 sites for more than 850 users, the GATES team is now focused on the next phase of the program. GATES Build 2 will replace the Aerial Port Management System in place at worldwide AMC bases and enroute stations. (Paraphrased from Internet material from GATES Program Management Office, AMC Computer Systems Squadron.)

DD 1265 Problem Fixed

You may have experienced difficulties in producing large convoy documentation. The problem has been identified when more than 62 Items Types are listed in the Convoy Clearance Requests (DD 1265) Section 9 and the Section 9 continuation report is required. An Item Type is a unique combination of Vehicle, Vehicle/trailer match, or Vehicle/trailer/trailer match. In the near future, the TC ACCIS application will be corrected to produce the DD 1265 Section 9 continuation report to list 63 or more Item Types, but also including Item Types number 5 to 60. For the user who can not wait, it is recommended to divide the convoy into convoys where the number of Item Types is 62 or less, and TC ACCIS application will generate the DD 1265 correctly.

Transitions

He's Back

Aaron Has Returned

On 26 April, Aaron Mack returned for work in the TC ACCIS Implementation Branch of RAM Inc. Aaron has been away from work for 15 months, recuperating from a severe automobile accident he was involved in on 27 December 1997. As the result of that accident, Aaron suffered a Spinal Cord Injury (SCI).

The plan is to have Aaron return back to the grind slowly, working only 19 hours per week at first. Aaron hopes to return soon to a full schedule, and there is definitely a need to be filled. He has all the necessary equipment to address/resolve your trouble calls. Aaron can be reached at Extension 171. So, beware; He's baaaack…

Thanks go to Smart Technology Facility Management for their work in facilitating the necessary building modifications for Aaron's return.

A Final Farewell to David Sauerbry

Dave Sauerbry, TC ACCIS's all-knowing, communications specialist, who recently retired from TC ACCIS, filled with anticipation for his retirement, died on March 17th in San Antonio, TX from surgical complications. We were obviously shocked and saddened by the news of his death.

We looked to Dave as the answer man for anything that had to do with communications, and it was not unusual for people from other systems to request his assistance as well. Dave was one of those rare individuals who knew his craft instinctively. For the past 10 years, he was an incredible asset to our project. He was an infamous straight shooter and approached every problem as a seasoned technician. Dave authored so much of what is TC ACCIS, from communications scripts to microutilities. His creations had his unmistakable imprint. It had that quality of essentialness—where only what was needed was there to serve the customers needs.

Many of us last saw Dave at his farewell luncheon, where we all vowed not to lose touch. His long stated plans to sell his house and see the country with his wife, Virginia, in their travel trailer became a reality for them. We were taken by the romanticism of living the life of a modern vagabond, traveling around the country.
He would regularly call us with updates of his travels and willingly answered any communications questions we had on hand. We will miss those calls…

Funeral services were held in Oregon on March 22nd. This news came as such a great shock to all of us, and we feel an even greater loss for losing a wonderful friend.

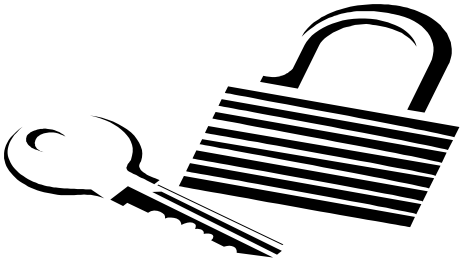
Please join us in offering his wife Virginia, their two children, and their grandchildren our condolences. Those he left behind will miss him.

TC ACCIS Welcomes Leroy Philips

Leroy Phillips has joined our staff. Recently returning from Europe where he operated his own business, Phil has worked for the government as a civilian for over 25 years in many capacities, such as operator, programmer, computer systems analyst, and supervisory computer specialist. Phil retired from the U. S. Army Reserves in 1995 where he served in logistics with the 310th TAACOM.

Secretary of the Army, Information Systems Requires More Security on UNIX Platforms.

The Secretary of the Army, Information Systems recently sent a message to us and all the DOIMS that reiterated and consolidated several earlier messages regarding security in UNIX systems. By now some of the various TC ACCIS SA's have seen this message as well.



In its entirety, the message requires a number of steps that TC ACCIS, both the PMO and the separate sites, must jointly work on to provide for better security. These steps are specific to UNIX type systems and, as TC ACCIS runs on SCO UNIX, we are affected.

Some of the mandated adjustments are sure to reduce the level of convenience with which we are accustomed. But these inconveniences are necessary to address real security threats. For instance, there is a requirement to disable logins after three failed attempts. Currently the PMO TC ACCIS has this setting at 99, that is, a user can fail to put the correct password in 99 times before the Operating System (OS) will lock them out. We provide for a very forgiving number of bad entry attempts due to the high rate of personnel rotating out of their positions, increasing the probability of unsuccessful login attempts. Alas, there is an inherent conflict between ease of operations and sound security requirements. In obedience to the latter, changes must come.

"All unencrypted root account access must take place on the physical console…Passwords will be aged"

We will incorporate other changes in upcoming releases. Most of these will be transparent to you, but a few will be anything but. For instance, the message mandates that passwords will age.

An aged password is one with a limited life. At some specified time, the user will be alerted that his/her password has expired and he/she will be required to enter a new one. Currently TCACCIS does not age passwords.

A number of the required changes, though transparent to you, will require extensive re-working of how we currently do things. For example, The Secretary of the Army, Information Systems requires us to impose restrictions not just on users (you and I) but on system processes as well. Just as system users have certain restrictions, system processes will have restrictions as well. For instance, we have some processes that assume the powers of root to accomplish certain actions without hindrance. The fear is that hackers could use these processes to abridge security and gain access to unauthorized areas. TC ACCIS, though it is unclassified, is a sensitive system. That makes these changes more imperative.

We realize that a number of you have (or soon will) been asked by your local DOIM about specifics contained in the message and you have come to us for answers. Do we use SSH? Do we use SETUID upon execution? What are our unnecessary ports and have these been closed? These are a few examples of some questions To make sure you can sound intelligent if these questions come your way, we included a FAQ of likely questions with the best current answer. Where possible we've included some expectation of when items will be addressed along with actions that must occur first (so called predecessor actions) and resource implications. This should give you both the facts and the flavor you may need to address local DOIM concerns

We intend to keep you updated on this issue as we confront it. Thanks for the valuable input we have received thus far.

Communications Is a Priority.

PEO STAMIS has modified the telephone systems at the software development facilities of TC ACCIS and TC-AIMS II.

The existing telephone system was replaced because it was not Y2K compliant. The only impact to our customers is that extensions have changed from four digits to three digits; e.g., if the old extension was 1069, it is now 169 – the first 0 was eliminated.

Should you need any assistance, don't hesitate to call us.

Functional Support
1-(800)-635-0921
Steve Oge - Extension 160, enter #2160
Aaron Mack – Extension 171, enter #2171
Raquel Soranzo - Extension 170, enter #2170

System Administration
1-(800)-635-0921
Rich Wilson - Extension151, enter #2151
John Weldon - Extension 152, enter #2152

TC ACCIS to the Rescue

"Using TC ACCIS during Redeployment" by Captain Corey A. New was a featured article in the March-April 1999 issue of the Army Logistician.

Captain New, commander of the 377th Transportation Company (HET) in Graafenwoehr, Germany, was the Plans Officer for the 27th Transportation Battalion in Eagle Base, Tuzla, Bosnia. He wrote the TC ACCIS article for the Army Logistician to describe the transition of the redeployment process from Taszar, Hungary, to Tuzla, which was closer to the base camps in Bosnia.

Read the article yourself at—

http://www.almc.army.mil/orgnzatn/alog/MARAPR99/MS345.htm

Prior to the 27th Transportation Battalion's deployment from Wiesbaden, Germany, "it was decided that two railheads, Lukavac and Brecko, in Task Force Eagle's area of responsibility in Bosnia, would be used to redeploy" unit equipment back to the United States and Germany. These two railheads would alleviate the need for long convoys from the base camps in Bosnia to the two existing railheads in Taszar.

The major concern was moving the COMPAQ 4500 Fileserver from a secure environment with existing power and communications capabilities in Taszar, to Eagle Base in Tuzla.

The article relates how the use of TC ACCIS was expanded beyond the use of dumb terminals and telephone/modem communications (TC ACCIS Microcomputer Utilities) to using personal computers (PCs) and the Internet with EWAN (Emulator without a Name). Without moving the COMPAQ 4500 Fileserver from Taszar, Unit Movement Officers (UMOs) could access the Taszar box via PCs and the Internet to update their Deployment Equipment Lists.

The article further relates that there was a disadvantage with Telnet owing to its inability to print DELs and shipping lables from a remote location.

CPT New details our efforts at developing a file transfer package that tackled this problem, allowing files to be sent to a personal computer at the Tuzla office and printed by a printer connected to that PC. Thus, Tuzla had the capability to print DEL's and shipping labels on printers attached to the movement control team's PC.

Our thanks to Captain New for recognizing the TC ACCIS role in the deployment/redeployment process, and for describing the response of the 27th Transportation Battalion and the TC ACCIS PMO to the Army's changing redeployment needs.

Technical Tips

Cut and Paste your TC ACCIS reports

If you are running the TC ACCIS application from a remote location, you are not able to print the information on your local printer. The alternative option, sending your input to the remote printer doesn't offer instant gratification. However, a useful, if not perfect, technique may be used to somewhat remedy this situation.

If you connect to the TC ACCIS application via a PC running EWAN, you can use the Windows "cut and paste" technique to capture the information on the TC ACCIS screen. The following will guide you in capturing TC ACCIS information to your PC. As an example, the following instructions can be used capture an Equipment List Summary.

Log on TC ACCIS
From the TC ACCIS main menu
Select 1 – Equipment List Processing
Select 2 – View Equipment List Reports
Enter Type Data Code
Select UIC from select UIC Screen. When the UIC is selected, the roll up screen will be displayed.
Enter 1 ROLLUP
Left click and drag over the equipment display that you want to capture.
On the EWAN task bar, click on **Edit**, then on **Copy**.
When finished, click in the upper right corner to minimize the window for EWAN.

Click on the **START** Box on the Microsoft task bar scroll up to **Programs**, then click on **Accessories**, then click on **Notepad**.

The notepad screen will open. Click on **Edit** and then on Paste. The data will now be pasted to your notepad.

Click on **File** then on **Print**. If the data needs to be saved, click on **Save As**. At the filename located at the bottom of the screen, type in the name of the data, then save. You have completed the process and can exit at this time.

Note: You may substitute your favorite Word Processor for the NOTEPAD.

FAQs for TC ACCIS UNIX Security modifications:

Much attention has been paid recently to certain security vulnerabilities of popular operating systems, including the operating system on which TC ACCIS resides, SCO UNIX. Although generally considered secure, SCO UNIX is an adaptable OS which can be made more vulnerable to unauthorized intrusion if due care is not taken. Because of this, Secretary of the Army, Information Systems (SAIS) has recently directed systems using our OS to take measures to frustrate system compromise. You may have been asked specific technical questions about these measures. We want you to be forearmed with knowledge if asked any questions, hence, this FAQ on UNIX security modifications.

Q: Is the TC ACCIS system vulnerable to unauthorized intrusion?
A: All systems are, to some extent, vulnerable. While it makes little sense to discuss specifics about our vulnerabilities as the very discussion of them could cause more vulnerability, know that we are looking at ways to tighten up security. Some of the system's vulnerabilities come from the fact that we have tried to make TC ACCIS convenient. We know that many TC ACCIS users come and go, so we have made the system's security controls more forgiving. Of course this means that when we implement some security measures, there is apt to be more inconvenience to you. We certainly would like there to be another way around it, but the threat of intrusion and destruction is real.

Q: Why are these changes being taken now? Has there been some kind of compromise?
A: We know of no act of intrusion into TC ACCIS. The security measures that we are undertaking are in response to message traffic FM PTC EMAIL SYSTEM WASH DC R 060048Z MAR 99. Knowing how important TC ACCIS data is, we are not necessarily resistant to these changes.

Q: Someone asked me if TC ACCIS had unnecessary or unused ports? Does it? What are ports anyway?
A: A port is a potential point of connection to our system. Automation security analysts are concerned about ports because a point of access is a possible point of vulnerability to unauthorized access/attack. TC ACCIS does have unnecessary or unused ports. We are currently experimenting with disabling unused ports to determine any adverse effects to our system.

Q: What about "unnecessary services" like RPC, TFTP, Gopher, NFS, NIS, HTTP, FINGER, NET, SAT? I've been asked if TC ACCIS has these.
A: TC ACCIS does not use any of these services.

Q: My DOIM asked me about vulnerability patches. He/she asked me if all current vulnerability patches have been loaded.
A: Vulnerability patches are enhancements/corrections developed by the Operating System vendor, in our case, SCO UNIX, to address some type of security vulnerability. Sound development procedures forbid us from simply, uncritically installing these patches into TC ACCIS. Like any modification of TC ACCIS, we must first analyze and test the change. Quite often, a software change designed to affect one area of the system will introduce unexpected, collateral changes to another area. We try to keep up with relevant security patches as they become available, but there is some lag between when we receive them and when they are installed.

Q: Are Guest Accounts disabled.
A: As a rule, there are no guest accounts on TC ACCIS fielded systems. Guest accounts are Operating system-defined accounts that may be used to allow for the temporary, but highly-restricted, use of computer resources. It is the TC ACCIS policy that if there is a need to use TC ACCIS, a proper, normal account should be established.

Q: Are Xhost and Chroot, or any other application or process that use setuid to root upon execution used in the TC ACCIS application?
A: No. Xhost and Chroot are not used there are logins that by design have "root" privileges; however, within the TC ACCIS application, setuid is not used to assign root privileges.