



PM J-AIT ITV Operations and Training Newsletter

Check out the **PM J-AIT Web site** at the new URL: <http://www.ait.army.mil> to view the latest PM J-AIT contract(s) for AIT and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) hardware, software, technical engineering services, and maintenance.

The Most Common Site Registration Problems

In setting up your Read/Write site, it is critical that you provide complete and accurate information for all registration fields when registering your interrogator or tag docking station (TDS). For more in-depth information on how to register your site, you can view the on-line training by logging on to the **Radio Frequency In-transit Visibility (RF-ITV) Tracking Portal**; then at the bottom of the left column of the Home Page, click on the link that reads: **Click Here to access RF-ITV Online Training** or contact the RF-ITV Global Help Desk at: 1 (800) 877-7925 or help.rfitv@us.army.mil. The following are some common problems we continue to see:

1. **Incorrect or Incomplete Point of Contact (POC) Information** - People are transferred and duties are often reassigned; therefore, we recommend a periodic review of your previously registered interrogators to ensure that contact information (e.g., name, phone number, email) is kept up to date. If your interrogator POC information is incomplete or inaccurate, your unit will not be able to be contacted for system or software updates, problems, or maintenance.

If information concerning your site changes, the site should be re-registered as soon as possible so that the new information is uploaded to the **RF-ITV Tracking Portal**. It is also a good idea to log on to the **RF-ITV Tracking Portal** about an hour later and confirm that your updates/changes have been made.

2. **Incorrect Naming Convention** - For the RF-ITV infrastructure to provide In-transit Visibility (ITV) across the strategic and tactical spectrum of operations, the RFID devices must be properly and accurately named and registered using common naming conventions. The use of these common naming conventions assists in identifying and locating active shipments throughout the Department of Defense (DoD) RF-ITV infrastructure and enables a broad range of users to associate a shipment and its respective content-level data to a specific, clearly identified location. The naming convention applies to all RFID devices (e.g., RFID interrogators, tag docking stations, and write cables) that report to the regional ITV Server.

For **more** information on Naming Conventions log on to the **RF-ITV Tracking Portal**, from the Home Page click on **RF-ITV Documentation** near the bottom of the page, then scroll down to **RF Device Registration Naming Convention**.

The Device Name consists of three parts for Scenario A and four parts for Scenario B:

Scenario A: Station with one device attached:

- 1) Military Installation or City Name (e.g. LEE or BRAGG)

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RF-ITV Training: RF-ITV Global Help Desk
help.rfitv@us.army.mil
 1 (800) 877-7925 DSN 94 (wait for dial tone then dial 1 (800) 877-7925

- 2) Station Function (R=read, W=write)
- 3) Sequence number representing the attached device

Scenario B: Station with multiple devices attached:

- 1) Military Installation or City Name (e.g. LEE or BRAGG)
- 2) Station Function (R=read, W=write)
- 3) Next sequence number available representing the additional attached device <hyphen>
- 4) Sequence number representing the device attached to the same station

Device Name Examples:

Scenario A:

1 station with 1 device:

R Station 1/Device 1: AL DHAFRAR1

5 stations with 1 device each:

R Station 1/Device 1: AL DHAFRAR1
 R Station 2/Device 1: AL DHAFRAR2
 R Station 3/Device 1: AL DHAFRAR3
 W Station 1/Device 1: AL DHAFRAW1
 W Station 2/Device 1: AL DHAFRAW2

1 station with 1 read device and 1 write device:

R Station 1/Device 1: AL DHAFRAR1
 W Station 1/Device 1: AL DHAFRAW1

Scenario B:

1 station with 2 devices:

R Station 1/Device 1: AL DHAFRAR1-1
 R Station 1/Device 2: AL DHAFRAR1-2

2 stations at a location, with 2 devices each:

R Station 1/Device 1: AL DHAFRAR1-1
 R Station 1/Device 2: AL DHAFRAR1-2
 R Station 2/Device 1: AL DHAFRAR2-1
 R Station 2/Device 2: AL DHAFRAR2-2

Additional information:

- Spaces in the military installation or city name are allowed, where grammatically appropriate.
- We continue to see duplicate Device Names. Interrogator/Device Name should be verified with what is already on the **RF-ITV Tracking Portal**. Duplicate names cause issues with data posting to the **RF-ITV Tracking Portal** as there is a conflict as to which site the name belongs.
- Duplicate sequence numbers are being used. To verify the next available sequence number, log on to the **RF-ITV Tracking Portal** in advance.
- Entries can be entered in lowercase or uppercase. The application/server will convert it to uppercase on the server.
- You cannot simply change the “W”, (Write) to “R”, (Read) under **“Register device.”** It will still list the site as a Write site rather than a Read site. When using a Hand Held Interrogator (HHI) to register a Read site, don’t forget to change the device designation from “W” (Write) to “R” (Read) in the Mobile Choekpoint section.
- **NOTE: If you have a site that is no longer active or required, contact the RF-ITV Global Help Desk to remove it from the RF-ITV Tracking Portal.**

3. **Incorrect Device Description** - The Device Description consists of up to 5 parts:

- 1) Device Location
- 2) 2 character State (if site is in the United States) or Country Code (if site is outside the United States)
- 3) Functional Description of the Site (device’s function) (e.g., All American Convoy Exit ; ASP Truck Gate; Log Center ARV/DPT; Pier 8 East; Pier 8 Building)
- 4) System Designator (e.g. SARSS, SAAS, TCAIMS, GATES, CMOS, AMS) (if applicable)
- 5) Mobile Type (select one of the following: EEDSK, HHI, PDK, DK-RFID, OTHER-MOBILE) (if applicable)

Device Description Examples:

AL DHAFRA AB AE HANGAR 4
 LINCOLN NE A45 BLDG 2950 SARSS
 BLOUNT ISLAND FL 832ND HELO LOT EEDSK
 AL ASAD IZ MULTICLASS SSA (W1C) SARSS
 YOKOSUKA JA DEFENSE DISTRIBUTION DEPOT JAPAN BLDG J39
 BAUMHOLDER GM USAG BAUMHOLDER TCAIMS
 RED RIVER TX AMS DEFENSE DEPOT AMS

The RF-ITV Global Help Desk needs to be notified if the site is being replaced with a different interrogator/docking station/write cable in order to prevent having two sites with the same name and different interrogator ID’s.

.....to be continued in future editions

Site Analysis: BONDSTEELW1, T904120017, Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo

For this month's analysis we looked at the data quality of RFID tags being written by the Army at Camp Bondsteel. Using the **Site Activity** query, we looked at the tag writing workload of BondsteelW1 (T904120017) for the period of 28 April – 17 May 2011. The query identified 89 tags, and the results of our data analysis follow:

- By comparing the Consignee Department of Defense Activity Address Code (DODAAC) and Point of Debarkation (POD) on the tag to the "Read" events of the tag and Last Reported Interrogator Name, it was determined that 63 of 89 tags (71%) had reached final destination. Of the remaining 26 tags, six tags were last read leaving Bondsteel and have not been read since; five shipments cannot be determined due to final destination not having RF-ITV Read capability; and one tag was written at Bondsteel but has never been read by a Read interrogator. Regarding the other 14 tags that were en-route to Djibouti, one was last read at Antwerp, Belgium and had no further reads, one was last read leaving Bondsteel but was not read again, and the remaining 12 tags were last read at the Macedonia, Kosovo border and have not been read since. Due to blank POD and Port of Embarkation (POE), we are unable to determine the mode of transportation; and with the lack of reads we are unable to determine if tags made it to their final destination.
- Of the 63 tags that reached final destination, 35 tags created a "TK6" transaction. TK6s are created when the "Consignee DODAAC" written to the tag matches the "Supported DODAAC" entered on the Read interrogator's registration page.
- All 89 tags contained valid Consignor and Consignee DODAACs.
- The commodity data listed on 15 of the 89 tags was adequate; however, they lacked any nomenclature data. Seventy-four tags had missing commodity data. Complete commodity data allows users more options for query searches and provides more complete data sharing with other ITV systems.
- Further analysis showed that 15 of the 89 tags were missing POE and POD data. We also found—according to consignee DODAAC—that the final destination is Djibouti, Africa but we were unable to determine the mode of transportation.
- By using the Archive data selection on the **RF-ITV Tracking Portal**, it was determined that 85 of the 89 tags had been previously used.
- None of the 89 tags used were of the new International Organization for Standardization (ISO) tags.

For and From the Field

Inland Location Codes (ILCs) for CENTCOM: In support of **Operation New Dawn**, a new ILC has been established in the Table Management Distribution System (TMDS) and the **RF-ITV Tracking Portal**:

<u>ILC</u>	<u>FORT / CAMP / POST / BASE / SITE</u>	<u>CITY</u>
87R	UMM QASR DOS OSC-I	UMM QASR, IRAQ

The following CENTCOM ILCs have been **deleted** from TMDS and the **RF-ITV Tracking Portal** and should no longer be used as it will create an error in the Global Transportation Network (GTN):

<u>ILC</u>	<u>FORT / CAMP / POST / BASE / SITE</u>	<u>CITY</u>
83B	CAMP BUCCA	UMM QASAR, IRAQ

Standard Army Retail Supply System (SARSS) Read Sites: In the recent **SARSS Interim Change Package (ICP) L1Y-05-03**, SARSS sites were upgraded to SmartChain Workstation 6.0. Since International Organization for Standardization (ISO) tags cannot be read with the previous version of SARSS software, it is critical to make sure your software has been upgraded to SmartChain Workstation 6.0. Once your site has been upgraded, re-register your site to ensure your site is known as ISO compliant.

Tag Return Address Update: Depending on geographical location, customers who are returning tags to wholesale management under the Materiel Returns Program should address the active tags to the respective regional site indicated as follows:

SW3100 DLA Distribution Susquehanna Transportation Officer 2001 Normandy Drive Door 113-134 New Cumberland, PA 17070-5002	SW3224 DLA Dist DDJC Rec Whse 16B-3 25600 South Chrisman Road Tracy, CA 95376-5000
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The Regional Training Team's (RTT's) Tips and Tricks

TIPS Write Device Configuration Utility

Recently the RF-ITV Global Help Desk has had numerous calls regarding the communication type for the write device using the newest **TIPS Write 4.3.0.5** software. This article will give a step-by-step procedure for selecting the right device for your application.

Begin with the knowledge that **TIPS Write** is installed on the Field Data Unit (FDU).

1. Open the **TIPS Write Device Configuration** tab by double clicking on the icon. →
2. This will bring the **TIPS-Write Device Configuration Utility** window.



There are 6 options to choose from:

- **ISO USB Cable**
 - o This should be selected when utilizing a write cable that has a 9 PIN serial to USB cable connection.
- **Savi Write Cable or Tag Docking Station**
 - o This should be selected when utilizing a SAVI write cable with a 9 PIN serial connection
- **Savi Mobile Reader SMR-650**
 - o This should be selected when utilizing a SAVI Mobile Reader with a 9 PIN serial connection
- **Savi Interrogator SR-650 on RS-485**
 - o This should be selected when utilizing a 25 PIN-to-9 PIN Patton converter connection
- **Savi Interrogator SR-650 on Ethernet(UDAP)**
 - o This should be selected when utilizing a network with CAT-5 cable connection
- **ISO USB Cable**
 - o This should be selected when utilizing a USB-to-Micro USB cable connection

3. The next step will be choosing the collect mode option. Default settings are set to "DUAL" mode. Dual mode will allow you to collect ANSI and ISO tags.



4. The other option that may be selected is ISO 180007. This should only be selected if you are using equipment that will only be collecting ISO tags.



5. The next step will be choosing the right connection ID. All settings should stay default unless designated differently.



The Regional Training Team's (RTT's) Tips and Tricks (cont'd.)

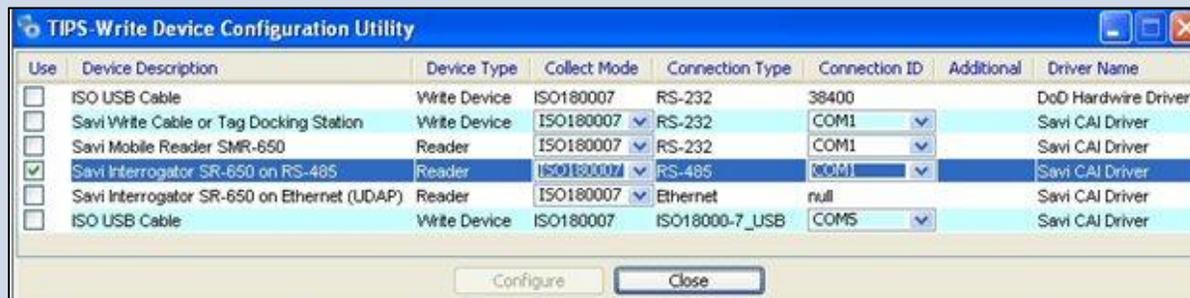
6. Once the proper settings have been selected, click on the **Configure** button.



7. The **Configured Successfully** screen will pop up once the configure button has been selected.



8. Click the **OK** button. This should close the pop-up window and return you to the **TIPS-Write Device Configuration Utility** screen. The **Configure** button should be gray and not clickable.



9. Click on the **Close** button and you have successfully configured your TIPS Write device.



RF-ITV Global Help Desk (GHD)

Toll Free: 1 (800) 877-7925, **DSN:** Dial 94 plus (800) 877-7925,
Commercial: (703) 579-2834

AKO Instant Messenger Username: help.rfitv

Green Force Tracker/Lotus Sametime Group Name: PEO EIS-PM J-AIT-GHD
(4 AM – 9 PM EST)

Email: help.rfitv@us.army.mil

The RFID GHD should be contacted before any attempt to reach an FSE in your area.

If you would like to subscribe to the newsletter or if you have a noteworthy RF-ITV story, lesson-learned, or short article for publication in the newsletter, please submit to Jerry Rodgers, PM J-AIT, jerry.d.rodgers@us.army.mil.