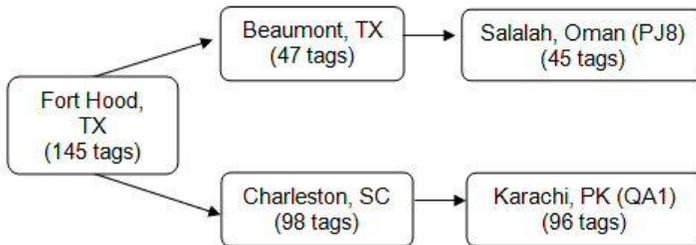


ITV Operations and Training Newsletter

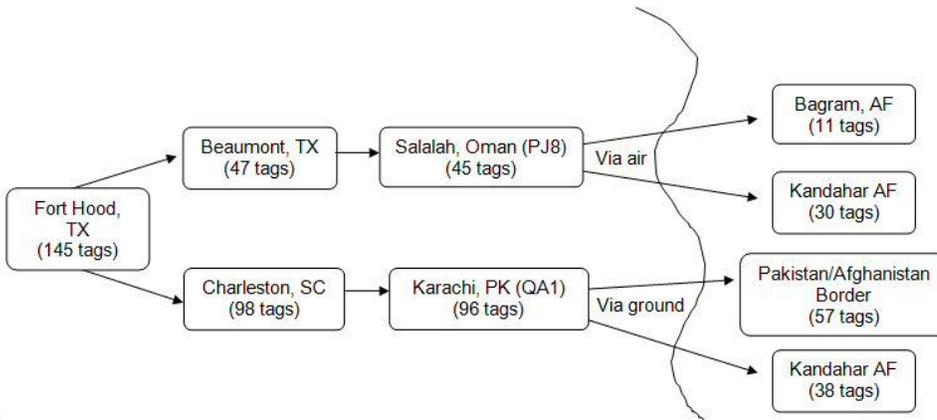
Check out the PM J-AIT website at the new URL: <http://www.ait.army.mil> to view the latest PM J-AIT contract(s) for AIT and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) hardware, software, technical engineering services, and maintenance.

Tracking the 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade

We followed the tag movement for the deployment of the 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade (BfSB) from Fort Hood, TX to the CENTCOM Theater. Using the **RF-ITV Tracking Portal**, we looked at the Operation/Missions currently listed on the RF-ITV server and extracted 145 tags for mission **504BFSB OE**. We found that these tags took two primary routes from Fort Hood, TX to "PJ8" (Salalah, Oman) or "QA1" (Karachi, Pakistan). Comparing the Point of Debarkation (POD) on the RF tag to the "Read" events of the tag, and Last Reported Interrogator Name, we were able to track 141 tags to the POD. Two tags were read at Beaumont, TX and 2 tags at Charleston, SC which showed no further read events.



On 135 tags, the Department of Defense Activity Address Code (DODAAC) WS2FDQ written on the tag was for the American Consulate in Pakistan. On the remaining 10 tags, the DODAAC WS2GDQ was used. WS2GDQ is not listed on the **RF-Tracking Portal**, and we assume it was a typo. Since these tags were not re-written and showed onward movement from Pakistan, we questioned why the Write site would have used WS2FDQ. We called Fort Hood and found out that for the past two years their tagging process has been to use WS2FDQ for shipments going to Afghanistan. Knowing that these shipments were going to Afghanistan, we continued to track onward movement into country for the 141 tags that made it to the POD.



For questions or comments, please contact one of the following:

Cynthia Jones, RF-ITV Team Chief
cynthia.i.jones26.civ@mail.mil
(703) 325-2289 DSN (312) 221-2289

Reggie Madden, RF-ITV Operations
reginald.m.madden.civ@mail.mil
(703) 325-3237 DSN (312) 221-3237

Jerry Rodgers, Operational Readiness
jerry.d.rodgers.ctr@mail.mil
(703) 325-2988 DSN (312) 221-2988

Douglas Cantaral, COCOM RF-ITV Operations
douglas.h.cantaral.civ@mail.mil
(703) 325-3096 DSN (312) 221-3096

Jose Gonzalez, Operational Systems Engineer
jose.l.gonzalezlortres.ctr@mail.mil
(703) 325-3026 DSN (312) 221-3026

Solina Mao, RF-ITV Asset Manager
solina_mao.civ@mail.mil
(703) 325-2299 DSN (312) 221-2299

Chris Maeger, RF-ITV System Analyst
christopher.a.maeger.ctr@mail.mil
(703) 325-3018 DSN (312) 221-3018

PM J-AIT LNOs:

Virgil Green -Southwest Asia
virgil.green@kuwait.swa.army.mil
Commercial: 011-965-389-6935
DSN (318) 430-6935

Charles Van Sistine-CENTCOM
charles.a.vansistine.ctr@mail.mil
(813) 529-4106 DSN (312) 529-4106

Ken Smith-EUCOM & AFRICOM
john.smithsr@eur.army.mil
Commercial : 011-49-6221-57-8821
DSN (314) 370-8821

Andy Smith-NORTHCOM, FORSCOM, TRANSCOM, SOUTHCOM, National Guard Bureau, Army Materiel Command, US Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps
andy.o.smith.ctr@mail.mil
(703) 325-3116 DSN (312) 221-3116

Whit Norris-PACOM
whit.norris.ctr@pacom.mil
Commercial (808) 477-8071 DSN 315-477-8071

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

Of the 141 tags that made it to the POD, 136 tags were tracked to Afghanistan. The remaining 9 tags that did not arrive in Afghanistan were last read in the following locations:

Last Read	# of tags
Beaumont, TX	2
Charleston, SC	2
Thumrait AB, Oman	4
Karachi, Pakistan	1

We could not determine why these 9 tags did not make final destination by the conclusion of our analysis. Other observations from our analysis were that out of 145 tags, 17 tags were sensor tags. We also observed that out of 145 tags, 116 tags reported “over-interrogation” at one or more nodal points. For the purpose of our analysis, we counted more than 300 hits per day as over-interrogation. The following interrogators are the nodes that reported over-interrogating tags:

Interrogator	# of occurrences
HOODR2-2	126 occurrences
KICT-GATEIN	27 occurrences
BEAUMONTR1	17 occurrences
SPINBOLDAKR1	7 occurrences
CHARLESTONR4	5 occurrences
CMN-CHKP	3 occurrences
KANDAHARR1	3 occurrences
KANDAHARR12	1 occurrence
KANDAHARR5	1 occurrence

Of the 116 tags that reported over interrogation, 43 tags (37%) indicated low battery readings. Since most of the instances of over-interrogating occurred at HOODR2-2, we assume that is due to the fact that these shipments were probably prepared and staged near the interrogator until it was time for shipment.

It is important to make sure your read sites are not over-interrogating. Over-interrogating will impact the longevity of the life of a battery. RF tags with low battery power may not operate properly and tags with dead batteries will not be read by interrogators thus losing all in-transit visibility of your shipments.

To avoid over-interrogation of your tags and make sure that you maintain visibility of your shipments, you can do the following:

- Turn the battery around if your shipment has reached its destination or if the item is not scheduled for movement. Be sure to verify that the batteries are activated or in the “ON” position when your shipment is ready for movement.
- If batteries are not deactivated until ready for movement, it is recommended that tagged items are placed as far away as practicable from an interrogator until they are ready for movement.
- Make sure your tags are not being repeatedly hit by alternating interrogators or “ping-ponging”. This problem occurs when interrogators have been placed too close together. Constant alternating hits will also wear down battery life.
- Check the interval rate of your interrogator to see if it could be lowered.
- Re-evaluate current procedures/processes of your established RF infrastructure.

If you have followed these tips and still have a problem with over-interrogation at your Read site, contact the RFID Global Help Desk at 1 (800) 877-7925 to request support from a Field Service Engineer (FSE).

Even though tags were written at the strategic level (e.g. sea port to sea port), using the **RF-ITV Tracking Portal**, we were still able to track 94% of the tagged equipment’s onward movement into the Theater Area of Responsibility (AOR). It is still important to use valid information correctly when writing your tags so that your shipments can be tracked. DODAACs, port codes, and inland location codes can be looked up on the **RF-ITV Tracking Portal** at **Tools and Support > Lookup Tables**.

For and From the Field

Inland Location Codes (ILCs)

There have been some recent additions and deletions of ILCs for all Theaters. To get the latest list of ILCs, go to the CASCOM ITV Website at: <http://www.cascom.army.mil/organizations/cdi/esd/itv/ilcs.aspx>

Site Analysis: T002264B179E6, Bluegrass Army Depot, KY

For this month's analysis, we looked at the Write site BLUEGRASSW7, T002264B179E6 at Bluegrass Army Depot located in Richmond, KY. The Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD) is one of five Army installations in the United States that currently moves armor supplemental items and repairs general supplies. It is a subordinate activity of the Joint Munitions Command which is primarily involved with industrial and related activities associated with the storage and maintenance of conventional and chemical munitions.

This is a moderately active site that moves distribution of supplies worldwide on a daily basis. Using the **Site Activity** query, we took a look at the tag writing workload at the BLUEGRASSW7 for one day, September 1, 2011. The query results identified 80 tags written that day. The following findings are based on an analysis of those 80 tags:

- By comparing the Consignee DODAAC and POD on the RF tag to the "Read" events of the tag, and Last Reported Interrogator location, it was determined that all tags reached final destination.
- All tags left from Port of Embarkation (POE) "WRI" (McGuire Air Force Base) and arrived at POD KWI (Kuwait International Airport). The airport codes used are valid codes and used properly based on RF-ITV reads.
- All RF tags commodity field contained level-six content data.
- All 80 tags contained valid Consignor and Consignee DODAACs.
- By using the Archive data selection on the **RF-ITV Tracking Portal**, it was determined that none of the 80 tags had been previously used. The RFID tag IDs had grouped sequence numbers indicating they were new tags and would not have archive records.
- After plotting the latitude and longitude of the Interrogator location via *Google Earth*, it showed the interrogator was in the correct location. In addition to the latitude and longitude, the remainder of the information on the registration page was verified as correct.
- The overall tag data quality was very good and provided a clear and accurate depiction of their tagged shipment data. Due to the excellent tag data provided, it was easy to track these shipments from origin to final destination.

Regional Training Team's (RTT's) Tips and Tricks

Verifying the transfer of files from SmartChain Workstation 6.0 to the National RF-ITV Server

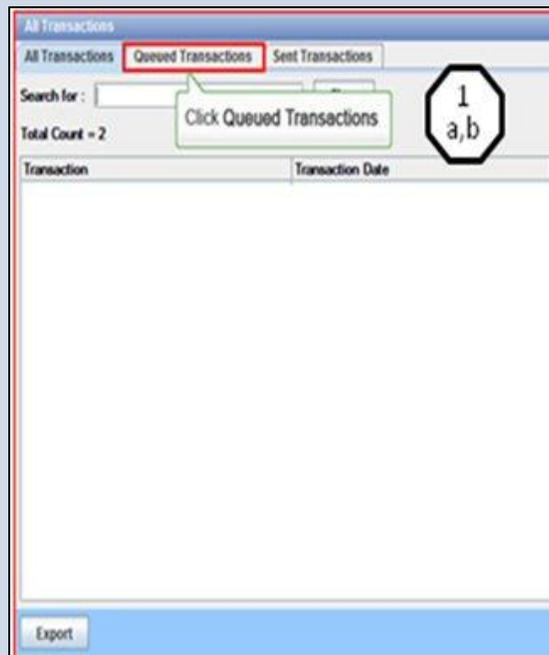
The purpose of this article is to demonstrate to end users how to verify that files sent from SmartChain Workstation were exported properly to the RF-ITV Server.

In order to upload files to the National RF-ITV Server using SmartChain Workstation 6.0, the end user will go to the following directory located on the left side of the user interface window:

1. Select the blue bar labeled **Transactions** so that the dropdown is visible:



- a. Select **View Transaction** and all transactions will be visible. To check which files are **Queued** and not sent, select the second tab labeled **Queued Transactions**. To send the files you must select each file by clicking the file one time. If there are multiple files, hold the control key while selecting. Now select **Synchronize with Server** shown above in step 1 to send your files or file to the RF-ITV Server.



Regional Training Team's (RTT's) Tips and Tricks (continued)

- b. Select the third tab to view the **Sent Transactions** for verification that your files have been uploaded.
- c. Next go to the **RF-ITV Tracking Portal** to verify your upload.

*Sent Transactions may not truly represent which items made it out of the Edge Service program to the server. That is why it is important to verify your transactions on the **RF-ITV Tracking Portal** at <https://national.rfitv.army.mil>.*

2. If you do not see your files posted on the **RF-ITV Tracking Portal**, it is recommended that you check with the **Edge Services Status Report**, also found under the transactions bar shown in step 1. This is a true representation of files sent from your device.

If you see files in the **Edge Service Status** report and you have verified connection to the National RF-ITV Server by looking for your uploaded data, then contact the RF-ITV Global Help Desk at:

Toll-Free: 1-800-877-7925. If calling from a DSN, add the prefix 94 then the 1-800 number.

DSN: 809-4-OFF-DSN (809-463-3376). Wait for dial tone, then dial 1-800-877-7925, if calling from a switch that is using outdated software.

Commercial: 703-579-2834 or email us at: help.rfitv@us.army.mil

Edge Services Status	
Session Started at :	13 SEP 2011 14:23:03
Transactions received	:11
Transactions queued	:1
Transactions aborted	:0
Transactions delivered to server	:10



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.