IUID

Item Unique Identification

Joint Robot Repair Fielding

Supply Chain Management through Item Unique Identification and Catalog Ordering Logistic Tracking System

To improve the identification, tracking, and management of Department of Defense (DoD) assets, the Robotic Systems Joint Project Office (RSJPO) has funded and performed an ongoing project to integrate Item Unique Identification (IUID) into their existing Supply Chain Management (SCM) system, Catalog Ordering Logistic Tracking System (COLTS).

Background

Within the RSJPO, Joint Robot Repair Fielding (JRRF) serves to provide in-theater support for Joint Service Theater Provided Equipment (TPE) ground robots. With a turnaround time of four hours or less to get a repaired robot to the warfighter, the use of a globally unique identifier marked on each robot in machine-readable format is a key step towards achieving sense and respond logistics. Understanding that IUID could provide immediate benefits, the RSJPO successfully transitioned to use of IUID while in theater of operations and while supporting the warfighter on the battlefield without adversely affecting combat operations.

JRRF recognizes that IUID without Automated Information Systems (AIS) does not provide value. A system must capture IUID data and then use it intelligently to support the mission. COLTS was a logical SCM system in which to integrate IUID due to its web-based centralized database and its expansion and upgrade capability. As of November 2007, COLTS had processed:

- 6,073 work orders completed
- 26,375 maintenance actions
- 64,419 inventory events (parts movement)
- 78,467 asset events (robot actions/movement/repair, etc.)
- 4,816 items shipped

During this period of COLTS' SCM activity, 64 Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) robots were rebuilt from destroyed condition for a cost savings of approximately 3.2 million dollars. Additionally, the operational rate on all supported platforms has never been below 100% since April 2005.

Significant actions accomplished during the JRRF project included:

- Continued aggressive fielding and support to the warfighter.
- The transition to serialized accounting and serialized item management utilizing IUID as the common thread.
- Implementation of the Data Link Reference Point (DLRP) process.
- IUID and COLTS integration -- completed in less than five months.

Benefits

Having IUID data on items in machine-readable format as well as connected to active asset data in COLTS results in numerous benefits, featuring:

- No more "lost" data due to human error.
- Shorter repair-cycle time as a result of IUID "scan in and scan out."
- More fidelity of data tracked in COLTS due to IUID decision process.
- Routine logistics processes streamlined with IUID and hand scanner.
- Configuration management integrated with all SCM actions.
- Shipping, Receiving, Maintenance, and Transportation tied to IUID.

As a result of creating data that is more accessible, more accurate, and actively used to manage assets throughout their complete life cycle, IUID and SCM integration saves the RSJPO time, money, and – ultimately – lives on the battlefield.

A MARCbot IV.

Contact

For further information about this project, please contact:

Paul Varian, 256-842-0928, paul.varian@us.army.mil

IUID Item Unique Identification

USD (AT&L), DPAP, DD/PDI
3060 Defense Pentagon, 5D325C
Washington, DC 20301-3060

For further information, please contact
the IUID Help Desk:
Phone: (703) 848-7314
Email: info@uniqueid.org