

U.S. Army Depot Utilizes IUID

“When we talked with people from other depots who had tried to design their own systems, they told us their efforts didn’t work out. So we decided to save time by buying a good system and then we just started marking.”

– John Arnold



The Problem

John Arnold, the directorate of maintenance at Army Depot, was informed of a new directive spelled out in MIL-STD-130, the need to uniquely identify items flowing through his department. As Directorate of Maintenance he knew that the stringent IUID requirements would apply to the vehicles his crew repairs and sends back into the field.

John’s team first researched the IUID technology available at the time and decided they wanted a turnkey system that would handle all the steps for compliance – create the IUI, mark the item, verify and validate the mark, and submit the information to the IUID Registry.

The Plan of Attack

John and his team selected A2B Tracking Solutions’ UC! Web™ software not only because it was the best IUID data management software product for their legacy environment, but also because of the knowledge and responsiveness of A2B’s staff.

A2B engineering personnel made several onsite visits to assess technical considerations including IUID plate design, marking options and the IUID registration process. Currently, there are 40 separate items that require marking, although that number is growing steadily as the TACOM (Tank and Automotive Command) program manager identifies additional items. Because his process requires a variety of marking options, he set up an IUID Lab, where UC! Web™ Software drives YAG and CO2 flatbed lasers as well as Metalphoto®, and dot peen marking systems. UC! Web™ also provides verification and validation via a Microscan verifier and a Microscan Hawkeye scanner.

The Results

Now that John has successfully implemented IUID he no longer thinks of it as a “pain in the neck”; he can see the big picture and the potential for being able to track the military’s assets from cradle to grave. When the other maintenance systems at his depot are set up, he plans to implement Serialized Item Management (SIM) by tracking all items, internally, throughout the re-assembly process.

Now, when he drives into the depot, John views the vast stockpile of materiel differently. He understands that, because of IUID, the day is fast approaching when there will be visibility behind every wall and indeed inside every asset within the military’s Wide Area Workflow. That granular visibility creates efficiencies unimagined in military history, and John knows that he is at the cutting edge of something big.

“Anytime we need to change something, A2B is very responsive, and their support is really excellent.”

– John Arnold

