

RFMSS Fits Right In with the ATIS Portfolio
Rachel Christie, Army Training Information System

Product Manager Army Training Information System (PdM ATIS) develops products that address the training needs and requirements of the Army's civilian and military workforce. These products align with PdM ATIS mission to be the premiere, one-stop solution for the total force. This includes the latest product under the ATIS portfolio, the Range Facility Management Support System (RFMSS).

In 1995, the Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA) funded two automated systems to assist Installation Commanders in managing the Army's training areas and firing ranges – the Range Facility Management Support System – Converged (RFMSS-C), developed by Program Executive Office Enterprise Information Systems (PEO EIS) Project Officer, Hazardous Substance Management System/Installation Support Modules (PO HSMS/ISM), and the Range Facility Management Support System Version 3.5 (RFMSS-3.5), developed by the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command (AMCOM). The cost associated with maintaining two separate systems facilitated the strategic analysis to determine the Army move to a single converged system.



Soldiers have used RFMSS to schedule ranges for live fire exercises such as in the above photo

To migrate the entire Army to a single, integrated system, HQDA DCS G-3 Training Directorate

“RFMSS fits in perfectly with PDM ATIS because it is solving the problems associated with facilitating regional range scheduling, data collection and the usage of training facilities on live fire training ranges that the Army used to experience; representing the right solution at the right cost. The scheduling and handling of the Range facilities are much easier now because of RFMSS.”

**Dr. Claude L. Jenkins II,
Assistant Product Manager
(APM) for RFMSS**

asked PEO EIS to conduct an assessment of both RFMSS-C and RFMSS 3.5 functionalities against the convergence functional requirements developed by the Army's RFMSS Integrated Product Team in FY99. The results of the assessment were briefed in October 2002 at the Army's Range and Training Land Program Management Review. After discussions and deliberations, the assembled Major Army Commands (MACOM) Range Control Managers recommended the PEO EIS version of RFMSS. This became the standard baseline for the development of "RFMSS 2002" - a single application for use throughout the Army. HQDA DCS G-3 Training Directorate approved the recommendations of the Program Management Review committee and deployed the system to all 94 Army installations and 10 USMC sites.

Between 2001 and 2018, RFMSS made several enhancements to the system. One of those major developments was the Enhanced Graphics Fire Desk (EFGD). This tool displays the appropriate Safety Danger Zones (SDZs) and Weapon Danger Zones (WDZs) in real time and provides an accurate depiction of safe and unsafe areas on the range and using ArcGIS. This then provides RFMSS Fire Desk Operators enhanced geospatial situational awareness.

Another enhancement was an external interface with Military Airspace Data Entry (MADE) Special Use Airspace Management System (SAMS), which allowed airspace schedules to be sent from RFMSS to the FAA SAMS. These augmentations have made RFMSS what it is today – an integrated range utilization reporting application that addresses the needs of the Army.

RFMSS also allows training units to reserve Range Training Areas (RTAs) as far as 3 years in advance of the desired training start date. These units can then initiate scheduling requests, as well as manage and track training activities. RFMSS is also the Authoritative Data Source (ADS) for Army, Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Navy, and the Marines for range utilization data. The utilization data is used in analysis and models to drive funding decisions that in turn save money for the Department of Defense. In many cases the AdHoc Query Tool, a functionality that is maintained outside of RFMSS and requires additional access, is used to produce many of the customized and static utilization reports.

In turn, RFMSS supports ATIS's goals of improved individual and unit readiness for the Army, standardization of training and training management across the Army, and cost savings/cost avoidance for training events, while maintaining the quality of the training experience.

“Having access to RFMSS has been invaluable to the U.S. Navy. Although the Navy does not have a requirement for range control/live-fire conflict resolution, leveraging RFMSS for automated range scheduling and data collection has maximized range use, and improved tracking of utilization data used to inform efficiency and program improvement initiatives.”

Leonard Garcia, Small Arms Ranges Program Coordinator for the Navy