



NEWS RELEASE

HEADQUARTERS STANDARD SYSTEMS GROUP

Public Affairs Office

490 East Moore Drive

MAFB-Gunter Annex AL 36114-3004

Telephone: 334-416-4319 DSN: 596-4319

FAX: 416-4428

E-Mail: belinda.bazinet@gunter.af.mil

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ARMS program tracks training

By Belinda Bazinet

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MAXWELL AFB, GUNTER ANNEX, Ala--To be ready to fly and fight at a moment's notice, aircrew members are required to continuously train for any operation.

Tracking those training requirements is made easier thanks to computer software designed, developed and tested by a team from the Standard Systems Group.

The Aviation Resource Management System provides data at a click of the mouse. It can alert managers when training is due, tracks the hours for a pilot or navigator, the number of jumps a paratrooper has performed or track when and where a sonic boom occurred. The program also tracks information on Unmanned Aerial Vehicles such as the Global Hawk and Predator.

"ARMS is a software program that allows the Air Force to track any aircrew member's flight data," Inez Butler, ARMS program manager, explained. "With a few simple clicks of the mouse, a commander can determine in a matter of minutes a pilot's total career flight hours or what aircraft he or she is qualified to fly."

The software uses a common graphical user interface and standard menus that allow people to type in information and point and click through various options. With centrally located servers, users have real time access to information.

The program is fully transportable, only needing a laptop, modem and telephone line. It tracks aircrew flying hours, survival and life support training, incentive or hazardous duty pay and other data commanders need to determine the readiness and status of their aircrews. The system can also generate aeronautical orders and keeps logs of the orders issued.

“The program really helps us do our job better,” Master Sgt. Scott Ratcliff, operations superintendent with the 908th Operations Group, said. “We track about 25-50 ground and air training events for 100 people. We just input the date and the computer does the rest.

“It’s very useful for the commander, because we can print out specific products he wants to see, such as a listing of those who are close to being overdue for training,” he said. “This program flags training that could potentially ground an aircrew member.”

According to Chief Master Sgt. Clay Gaddis, the lead functional for the program, the program is an invaluable tool for commanders. “The program provides an overall picture of aircrew experience. It gives aircrew managers information about which aircrews are qualified to perform missions, such as air-to-air or airlift/airdrop missions.”

As an added bonus, ARMS interfaces with the Military Personnel Data Systems (MILPDS) to provide flying hour and career aviation data that is instrumental in the assignment and promotion process. Commanders and personnel specialists can use the data from ARMS to place the right mix of people in assignments. ARMS is working to

provide enhanced capabilities in the coming months, such as secure web access for aircrew members to access their individual flight and training information from a PC.

The Standard Systems Group, located at Maxwell AFB's Gunter Annex, provides and sustains combat support information systems for the Air Force and Department of Defense. The group procures leading edge information technology products used by virtually every organization on Air Force military bases worldwide.

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