

# CASE STUDY



## U.S. Army

### Custom Global Distribution Management Tool Solves a Problem for the U.S. Army

Deployed coalition forces in Afghanistan rely heavily on commercial logistics support contractors to transport all classes of supplies, fuel, materials, and equipment needed to support the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission. To track and manage those missions the U.S. Army utilizes a Tapestry Solutions custom developed software named Global Distribution Management System (GDMS). GDMS™ is a map-centric tool which provides real-time In-Transit Visibility (ITV) of satellite transponder equipped contractor vehicles which perform thousands of missions a month. When the U.S. Army wanted to build on this ITV capability to more effectively manage those missions and cargo, they asked Tapestry to collaborate to develop a new application.

To manage these logistics operations, the U.S. Army located a Movement Control Battalion (MCB) at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan. For several years, the MCB recorded movement requests and execution of all cargo shipments, in excess of 8,000 monthly missions, using a variety of basic Microsoft Excel tools. This required a tremendous amount of

tedious manual data entry and eventually became a sizable encumbrance, impacting operations. These tools and approaches were unable to provide the control, ownership, and accountability the MCB needed to effectively manage its operations. Key MCB challenges included:

**Routing and Reporting:** Trucks and cargo were frequently sent to incorrect locations in a war zone and reports were inaccurate due to manual data entry.

**Delivery Information:** The MCB did not have a way to record and ascertain Arrivals, In-Gates, & Out-Gates in real-time.

**Verifying Demurrage Claims:** Real-time contractor Demurrage Status was unavailable, which cost the U.S. Army millions of dollars in demurrage payments to contractors every month.

**Managing Contractor Performance:** With thousands of shipments per month and limited manpower, it was extremely difficult to determine if trucking contractors were meeting their contractual requirements and obligations.

#### CHALLENGE

- Tremendous amount of manual data entry, impacting operations.
- Trucks and cargo sent to wrong locations.
- Tracking deliveries was limited.
- Demurrage Status was unavailable, costing millions of dollars.
- Unable to manage contractor performance.

#### APPROACH

- Develop a custom web-based, deployable system for the U.S. Army.
- Build a centralized database, storing information related to shipment of cargo.
- Link missions with cargo movement request with vehicle-based satellite transponders to provide enhanced situational awareness.
- Real-time location of shipments.

#### RESULTS

- In seven months and three releases GDMS-MT was delivered to the U.S. Army in Afghanistan.
- The solution tracks 7,000 - 10,000 missions per month.
- Adopted throughout the country by subordinate units, saving the Army millions and improving efficiency.



PROVEN & DEPLOYABLE

IN-TRANSIT VISIBILITY,

IMPROVE DATA INTEGRITY, REDUCE TIME TO CAPTURE

## ABOUT OUR CUSTOM SOFTWARE

We build premier software solutions to solve critical business problems within the following domains: Planning, Rehearsal & Mission Execution; Logistics Training, Simulations & Analytics; Deployment & Distributions; Enterprise Asset Management; Maintenance Repair & Overhaul; and overlaying, Logistics Command and Control.

## ABOUT OUR COMPANY

Tapestry Solutions is The Boeing Company's Logistics Information Management Systems subdivision. Providing premier logistics COTS and custom software solutions to customers worldwide.

Fully operational in Afghanistan after 7 months - Managing 7,000-10,000 missions per month.

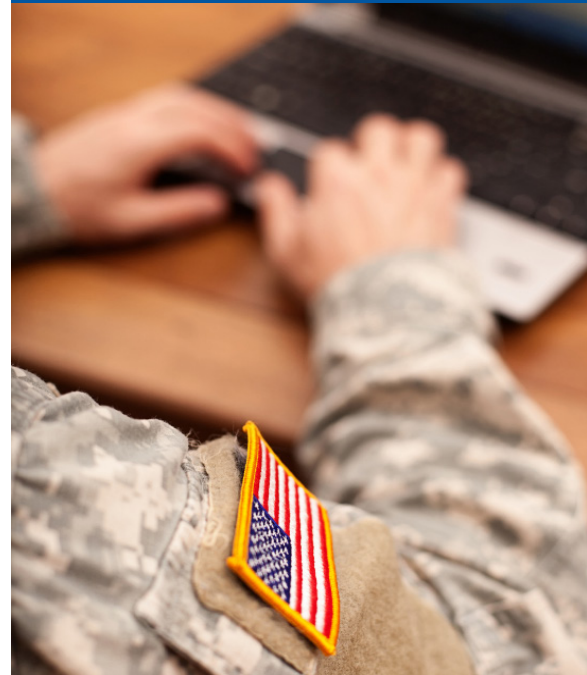


A group of Army Officers and NCOs identified problems causing negative impacts to operations and turned to Tapestry to create a tool for tackling these logistical problems. Utilizing its ITV expertise and software development capabilities, Tapestry created GDMS-Mission Tracker (MT), a web-based application to address the challenges of managing commercial trucking in a deployed environment. It is a centralized database which fuses and stores information relating to a shipment of cargo in Afghanistan. It manages 7,000-10,000 missions per month, linking cargo movement requests with vehicle-based satellite transponders to provide enhanced situational awareness to the MCB on the exact history and real-time location of its mission cargo. The implementation of this solution eliminated contractor fraud and abuse. Advanced Geo-Fencing capabilities automatically register vehicle entries, departures, and arrivals of cargo without manual processes. Custom-built alerts within the system allow for soldiers to identify fraud and take corrective action. Tapestry was able to complete development and deployment in seven months. It was adopted throughout the country by subordinate units, saving the U.S. Army millions and improving the efficiency.

Working in close coordination with the U.S. Army, Tapestry rapidly designed, developed, and delivered a custom-built application exceeding customer expectations. The deployed MCB quickly deployed and integrated the system into contract oversight operations, more effectively managing and executing the National Afghan Trucking contract with less manpower.

**Tapestry Solutions**  
Offices in USA, UK, Saudi Arabia, Oman, India  
t +1.858.677.2100  
e [marketing@tapestrysolutions.com](mailto:marketing@tapestrysolutions.com)

# CASE STUDY



GDMS-MT, A MAP-CENTRIC TOOL, PROVIDES REAL-TIME IN-TRANSIT VISIBILITY (ITV) OF CARGO MOVEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN FOR THE U.S. ARMY.

