

U.S. Military Benefits From RFID

The Problem

A military armory can house over 1500 individual weapons of all shapes and sizes, including: M4 Carbine Rifle, M9 Pistols, M16 A2 Rifles, M24 Sniper Rifles, M249 Assault Rifles, M203 Grenade Launchers, M240B Machine Guns, and Model 870™ Modular Combat Shotguns. With the physical inventory counts required at each shift taking several hours to complete, the inventory was often left unfinished. When it was, the incomplete paper-based system caused even more problems. As a result, weapons could be easily misplaced, were difficult to find, and were nearly impossible to track. In addition, it was impossible to trace a weapon's history or utilization, adding to the difficulty of managing a weapon's maintenance schedule. The armory needed a solution that would allow them to quickly and easily account for a weapon's location, as well as its usage and maintenance history.



The Plan of Attack

The U.S. military decided to implement A2B Tracking's RFID Asset Tracking system, which was installed without any interruptions to the armory's day-to-day operations. RFID tags were affixed to each weapon, and RFID readers and antennas were installed in the armory. Now, instead of having to conduct a physical inventory, a handheld RFID scanner will allow military personnel to "sweep" through the weapons rack and inventory items without having to scan each weapon individually. Military personnel are now able to get real-time location data with the A2B tracking software on a computer, making it the work of seconds – rather than hours – to find assets within the arms room. The ability for the RFID tags to store complex data allows for a check in/check out history—with the weapons portals automatically reading the tagged inventory as it leaves and returns to the armory—streamlining the checkout process and maintaining a record for each weapon.

The Results

RFID weapons tagging and tracking has cut inventory time from hours to less than 30 minutes. Military personnel can now locate and monitor assets within seconds, and benefit from an automated check-in/check-out process for weapons. In addition, the RFID tracking system can generate emails to inform the armory staff when a weapon is due for maintenance. Overall, A2B Tracking's RFID Asset Tracking Technology will save the U.S. Military time and money.