

How the Air Force Successfully Utilizes IUID Labeling

The Challenge

In working with the Air Force since 2008, A2B has been a significant partner in IUID rollout. The Air Force has been a leader in IUID implementation since the program was introduced in 2003. In the last five years, A2B has manufactured and delivered approximately 3 million IUID labels to USAF bases worldwide.

The challenge is to provide military personnel with an effective template for marking and registering of legacy and government furnished property (GFP) in any large enterprise.

Labeling is a much more complicated process than it may first appear to be. The person must know which label to use, how to prepare the part for marking, which label material to use and how to position and affix the label. In addition, data management challenges must also be addressed to capture, cleanse, verify and register serialized item data. The system must be consistent with IUID data management best practices.



The Details

In working with the Air Force, A2B Tracking developed an approach that is both comprehensive and effective in parts marking, which involves worldwide coordination, intensive training, a precise process for project management, field support, as well as innovative problem solving and diplomacy in dealing with tough issues. It all began with a single base – MacDill AFB in 2009. A2B was tasked with part marking for MacDill, while the Air Force was also involved with a part marking effort at five other locations.

Since that first pilot project at MacDill, A2B has played a central role in the development of the Air Force's approach to contractor part marking. As A2B's role expanded with the Air Force due to their ability to provide outstanding results, they were able to develop an approach based on early experiences and challenges that were overcome. In an effort to find effective teams around the world, A2B developed a detailed personnel deployment plan that guides the team fielding process. A2B continues to make customization and improvements to this approach as required.

The Results

With these systems in place, A2B has the tools needed to provide the training and support necessary for successful implementation of legacy marking. A2B provides a steady plan to effectively train and support field personnel. The starting point is a centralized train the trainer conference for team support. Other procedures include interconnectivity between teams, web-based training materials, an in-house help desk, and access to other partners. This system has proven effective in what is currently up to 221 bases.

A key component specific to part marking is called "Surge Strategies" which adjusts to unforeseen changes that occur midstream in a project, which provides a series of measures that range from increased velocity to adding technicians. The efforts are paying off, with nearly three million Class VII Assets – major end items – marked to date. As a result of improving the systems, the Air Force can more effectively redistribute its assets. In the long run, these efforts will save the taxpayers money by improving inventories and using current equipment rather than replacing equipment and vehicles.