

# LOGISTIKAMT DER BUNDESWEHR (LogABw)



## COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF COMPLEX SYSTEMS

### BUNDESWEHR LOGISTICS: SYSTEMS INTEGRATION (SYSINT) IS THE KEY TO EFFECTIVE CONTROL

At its St. Augustin and Siegburg bases, the Bundeswehr Logistics Office (Logistikamt der Bundeswehr or LogABw) is adapting its mission and structure to serve the new German armed forces organization and the realignment of logistics services.

#### MISSIONS OLD AND NEW:

The traditional LogABw's mission to act as the cataloguing authority for the Bundeswehr, who are the German armed forces and for individual administrative sectors of the federal government and the German states, has remained unchanged. This means, the office supports German manufacturers as well as allied states with information on individual equipment items.

Now, as a completely new mission of great future significance, LogABw is assuming responsibility for material used throughout the armed forces. This has led to the creation of an "Equipment and Utilization" directorate, whose organization is based on CPM 2001 (Customer Product Management 2001). This publication regulates the introduction of weapon systems and electronic data processing projects in the armed forces).

The re-ordering of Bundeswehr logistics has brought electronic data processing tasks together in a newly-established organizational domain based on the individual armed services, and to which LogABw belongs. Its two electronic data processing branches have assumed the role of central end-user office for non-weapons-system related national and multinational electronic data processing projects now running. In doing

so, LogABw has taken on significant responsibility for ensuring the continuing operation of the armed forces, including computerized logistic support in deployments. All in all, the Bundeswehr logistics office now directs some 110 electronic data processing projects.

SysInt stands out in this landscape of electronic data processing projects in that it generates no data of its own. Instead it channels data from different logistics projects and EDPCs (electronic data processing centers) into a single database and presents it to the user in a uniform format. This database uses harmonized and consolidated data from the systems in use and other data sources. It can therefore lend powerful support to the Bundeswehr as it undertakes migration to the SAP R/3 enterprise resource planning system.

SysInt makes updated and comprehensive assessments possible. It can be graphically displayed without additional effort. Users are no longer bound to the HOST system, and long waiting times are a thing of the past. SysInt is user-friendly and available via the Web browser on the Bundeswehr Intranet. Users require no programming skills and training takes one or two days at most. The system is installed on the project's own server platform. Its data warehouse comprises the Cognos products Impromptu®, PowerPlay®, Cognos Query (Web as well as client products) and Architect for central metadata management, plus Informatica's ETL tool PowerCenter in the data exchange area.

The Bundeswehr decided on Cognos products mainly because they were convinced by their fully Internet-capable and user-friendly operability and scalability, by their simpler administration, as well as all data warehouse functionalities, and by their flexibility of use in various system environments (HOST, SAP R/3, and other systems). A further and more important consideration that favored Cognos is that no client software components had to be installed. Cognos applications can be accessed using a standard browser – a critically important feature for use on foreign deployments. This is a “future-proof” concept that can meet not only existing but future requirements as well.

The current build offers users about 200 standard queries, the ability to create ad hoc reports and to evaluate the data cubes interactively. These data cubes, created in Cognos PowerPlay, are the real value add of the system, as they offer flexible and high-speed analytical capabilities.

In order to guarantee logistics operability on deployments, where the user has no time to pose academic inquiries for the “correct” source and interpretation of the data, SysInt has been extended by the Deployment component. This began by supporting ISAF (International Security Assistant Forces), in Afghanistan by the end of 2004 and will be implemented by the KFOR (Kosovo Forces) soon.

This expansion was undertaken by a LogABw project group formed from selected staff of the DV-Log 1 section. The project was achieved with the support of experienced civilian consultants from EDS.

To limit administration resources, only one server per deployment contingent is provided for international deployments owing to the limited quantity of data compared to German in-country requirements. Three servers are operated in Germany: a database server, a communications server, and a data warehouse server. At the outset, this service will be stocked with the essential basic data from the in-country database. The amount of data to be installed depends on the organizational elements and the equipment deployed. If, for example, no tracked vehicles are deployed, data on them will not be installed. Later, the only data transfers will be of data that has changed since the latest transfer and which are relevant to this deployment. For security reasons, data transfer is encrypted.

SysInt is now an established fact, and the user group is continually expanding. Its benefit is now recognized in other areas and there is more and more interest in expanding it. Currently, it is taken into consideration to incorporate logistic data from selected Air Force and Navy electronic data processing projects, to provide the Armed Forces Support Command and thus the Armed Forces Logistics Center with a comprehensive database for the first time ever. This would facilitate not only comprehensive evaluations and analyses, but would also make resource requirement forecasting a reality.

## **WHY COGNOS?**

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