

U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVES READY FOR ACTION WITH RCAS

RESULTS

The Reserve Component Automation System (RCAS), which is being developed by Boeing Information Services, supports the office automation, unit administration, and mobilization requirements of the U.S. Army National Guard (ARNG) and U.S. Army Reserve (USAR). When fully deployed, RCAS will link over 10,500 Guard and Reserve units at over 4,000 sites located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Europe, and the Pacific Rim. Functionally, RCAS addresses several areas, including human resources, logistics, safety, aviation, resource management, and information management.

While RCAS has been operational for close to six years, it is only within the last three years that the large-scale, automated information system has become a “true” ARNG and USAR asset. A key member of the team responsible for this recent success is KPMG Consulting, which, in 1995, was asked by the chief of the National Guard Bureau to recommend, implement, and support changes related to a major restructuring of the RCAS project. At the time of the bureau’s request, the RCAS project was well over budget and possessed a systems architecture that was not flexible enough to meet ever-changing user requirements. The team responded to the challenge by recommending changes that reduced project costs by approximately \$1 billion and led to the development of a systems architecture based on a secure, scalable, common operating environment.

A KEY PART OF THE TEAM

Colonel Sammy J. Cowden, RCAS project manager, declares “KPMG Consulting has been, and is, a key player on the RCAS team. The firm supported contract

- KPMG Consulting professionals recommend changes to existing RCAS project that reduce project costs by approximately \$1 billion
- When fully deployed, RCAS will link over 10,500 Guard and Reserve units at over 4,000 sites, supporting office automation, unit administration, and mobilization requirements
- Functionally, RCAS will address several areas, including human resources, logistics, safety, aviation, resource management, and information management
- KPMG Consulting supports end-to-end implementation of project, including acquisition and life cycle management, quality assurance, software and systems testing, and integrated logistics support

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renegotiation with the prime contractor [Boeing Information Services]; identified a completely new systems architecture; supported the restructure of the Project Management Office [PMO]; implemented an integrated approach to project management to include the application of earned value management, metrics, and risk management concepts and techniques; and leveraged its knowledge and experience in commercial industries.” (KPMG Consulting utilized practices established by some of its past clients for configuring and shipping computers in a cost-effective, efficient manner.)

Cowden further remarks, “In addition to playing a major role in the restructure, KPMG Consulting continues to play a major role in implementing the contract.” Working directly for Cowden and the RCAS PMO, KPMG Consulting continues to support the day-to-day programmatic aspects of RCAS—acquisition and life cycle management, quality assurance, software and systems testing, and integrated logistics support— and acts as a “cop on the beat.”

INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Additional benefits cited by Cowden include “KPMG Consulting’s discipline and confidence. Clearly, we can ask them to do just about anything and they always do an outstanding job.” For example, Cowden says, “When we had issues on the quality of products vendors are providing to Boeing, we asked KPMG Consulting to do assessments for us and they always did a remarkable job. They identify issues and they come up with solutions to those issues—they don’t just sit back and look at the problems.”

Although Cowden was not among the original RCAS team that chose KPMG Consulting, he says, “There has never been a question in anybody’s mind about keeping KPMG Consulting on the job. The firm is familiar with the kinds of management tools we need to continue implementing.” In fact, says Cowden, if he had to do it over again, the only thing he would do differently is “have KPMG Consulting play an even greater role.” Finally, Cowden offers a comparative analysis: “This is the first time I have ever dealt with KPMG Consulting. I’ve worked with a lot of contractors in similar roles, and I would say KPMG Consulting is the best I’ve run into. They are responsive to our needs, they bring the right skill sets to the requirements at hand, and they’re

innovative—some of the methods and tools they’ve developed for the project are very creative and as good as or better than what anyone else in the Department of Defense community is using. KPMG Consulting’s work is top-notch.”

WE’RE ON YOUR TEAM

At KPMG Consulting, Inc. we consider ourselves part of your team. Our job is to help you realize your potential, achieve your goals, and reach optimal performance. Outstanding services and solutions are only the beginning—equally important is the lasting relationship we develop with you and your organization. We strive to make you our client for life. Consider what we can accomplish together.

As a provider of enterprise-wide integration services, we help our clients raise their level of performance, achieve growth, and enhance stakeholder value in the new digital economy. Our experienced professionals deliver wide-ranging services and innovative solutions in the area of business and technology strategy, systems design and architecture, applications implementation, network and systems integration, and related services that enable clients to better serve their customers and business partners, and leverage technology for a stronger return on investment.

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