

Security tests new weapons issuance program

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Region security recently installed a new weapons issuance program for the Pearl Harbor precinct that saves man-hours and paperwork.

Maximus, a contracting company, developed the prototype in 1999. Commander, Pacific Fleet, and Commander, Navy Installation's common access card (CAC) program management office provided funds to procure hardware and implement the system with state of the art Minionix touch screen computers. The program allows personnel to check in and check out weapons, ammunitions and radios for their shifts in a three-window format by using their CAC and PIN, said Calvin C. Beale, Jr., information systems training specialist.

"This is a prototype system," said Chief Gunner's Mate (SW) Tony Hall, regional weapons officer. "To do three windows [and] to do a little over 300 people any given day is miraculous. Pearl Harbor alone supports over 400 Naval Security Force personnel.

Originally, security was manually recording all activity on paper, which proved to be not only time consuming, but nearly impossible to track and file.

"One of our biggest problems was trying to issue weapons, ammunitions, radios and everything else in a timely manner," said Hall.

Hall said the new program saves an average of 30 minutes per shift, leaving time for personnel to get to their posts. Before implementing the program, checking weapons in and out would cut into liberty time and create paperwork that was difficult to organize.

The number one reason for implementing the system was accountability for all weapons, equipment and ammunitions.

"Coming back and actually knowing the exact location of every piece of arms, ammunition and explosive, that's the end result I look at," he said.

"Accountability is the bottom line because you can walk in there right now and hit a button and know exactly how many weapons have been issued," said GM2 Brad Owens, assistant weapons administrator.

The program allows security to maintain a database restricting what types of weapons are issued to certain personnel and flag individuals whose weapons qualifications are expired.

"This system actually holds each individual operator [and]



Photo by JOSN Ryan C. McGinley

GM2 Brad Owens checks in a weapon from Lt. Toney Rice using the new weapons issuance program.

each individual user more accountable for what they have," said Hall.

Owens said the program is extremely user-friendly and it takes about 10 to 15 minutes to train someone to operate the system. The prototype relies on touch screens and keypads that also allow for easy use.

Bob Nering, Commander, Pacific Fleet CAC technical advisor, said the prototype is being implemented region wide at West Loch, Pacific Missile Range Facility, Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station and Lu-

alualei. San Diego area Navy facilities have also requested information on the prototype; however, Nering hopes to bring the program up to 2004 standards before it's used Navy wide.

Security is hoping that this program will revolutionize the way weapons and ammunition are distributed, yielding increased responsibility throughout the Navy.

"You have to move out from yesterday," said Hall. "You have to move into the future. And to be able to move into the future, you have to take steps."