In order to meet and master the volatile and challenging conditions of the modern battlefield, the U.S. Army relies on advanced information logistics solutions such as the Movement Tracking System (MTS). MTS is the U.S. Army’s standard system used to communicate with and deliver real-time information regarding logistics convoy and cargo units in the field.

The key issue was that the field systems had to meet rigorous MIL-STD requirements and be highly reliable and maintainable. Comtech Mobile Datacom Corp., which is the U.S. Army’s prime vendor for MTS, partnered with NCS Technologies to engineer the mission-specific ruggedized hardware that would perform reliably under brutal and unpredictable conditions.
RISING TO THE TASK

NCS specially engineered the two configurations crucial to the computing engine driving MTS. The first was a vehicle mounted unit serving as the mobile client on a vehicle. The second was a Control Station notebook for command center operations.

The Vehicle Mounted unit was a ruggedized compact computer tablet that came with a daylight readable 10” LCD screen, an Intel® Pentium® M processor and Windows® XP Pro. The unit was specifically designed to draw power from the vehicle and interface with an Army-provided satellite transceiver. This tablet was MIL-STD-810F and MIL-STD 461E compliant. It was also capable of operating in a wide temperature range from -20° C to 65°C under severe shock and vibration conditions.

The Control Station was a Titanium IV semi-ruggedized notebook computer with a larger 15.1” LCD screen for observing and controlling multiple mobile units more effectively. The Titanium IV was powered by an Intel® Celeron® M processor and utilized Windows® XP Pro. The Titanium IV was also MIL-STD-810F compliant with partially sealed housing to help improve reliability. Finally, the Titanium IV also enclosed the hard disk with an anti-shock and anti-vibration mounting bracket to lengthen its service life.

SOLID RELIABILITY

Since 2005, NCS has delivered approximately 18,000 vehicle mounted tablets and 4,000 control stations to the U.S. Army, helping to ensure that critical supplies arrive when and where they are needed all while enduring harsh and unpredictable conditions. The vehicle mounted units delivered by NCS measured at a noteworthy 99.75% reliability rate, as opposed to the 30% failure rate of the previous generation vehicle platform computer.1

“Our engineering expertise along with program management, deployment and logistical experience made us an ideal partner for Comtech,” states An Nguyen, President of NCS Technologies. “We understand the safety, environmental and the critical nature of combat requirements. Not only do we have the capabilities to meet them, we meet them enthusiastically.”

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<http://www.usaasc.info/alt_online/article.cfm?iID=0808&aid=03>.