

# Defence School of Transport

Normandy Barracks, Leconfield is an old RAF station set in the quiet countryside of East Yorkshire and is probably the last place you would expect to find the largest driving school in the world. However it is home to the DST, a tri-service, armed forces training establishment which is often referred to in military circles as "The School of Excellence."

Since 1993 a thriving partnership has developed between the DST's Maintenance Squadron and VT Software Solutions, who provide the vehicle maintenance and management software. The efficient use of vehicles and the cost effectiveness of the workshop and stores are two of the main requirements provided by the system.

Every year, over twelve thousand service personnel come to the school and receive a variety of training, from basic licence acquisition to specialised courses such as fleet management, HAZMAT and combat driving skills. Given the sheer volume of courses and the tight schedules involved it is essential that the equipment is in first class condition and so the workshop has a vital role to play.

The training fleet of 600 vehicles, including 70 different equipment types are maintained in the single workshop. In addition, ad-hoc work for other army units is undertaken. The Tranman system creates job-cards for the fitters and job records are updated in real time through two terminals based in the workshop. Parts are issued to jobs through an integrated Stores module and stock availability information can be accessed immediately. This quick access to stock control data has resulted in a considerable reduction in stock levels.



Dennis Wells, the Stores Officer explains, "Tranman is a tried and tested application and works very well for us. Running regular reports on non-moving stock and frequently requested items has enabled us to reduce stocks and cut costs."

The course allocation, service scheduling, stores management, maintenance and accident records are all handled with ease using the Tranman system. The DST runs an intensive training operation so the Fleet Management functions of the software play a crucial role in keeping the flow of vehicles available to meet the high demands and fast turnaround times of the various courses which are taking place.

Paul Jackson the Tranman System Administrator says "The flexibility and ease of use of the system allows a seamless operation to run between departments and provides us with important total Fleet Management information."

It is also worth noting that due to its excellent audit trail facilities, which run across all areas of Fleet Management and Maintenance, Tranman was instrumental in assisting the Maintenance Squadron to achieve ISO 9001 accreditation in 1996.

Graham Tyler, the Workshop Production Manager summarises the project: "The partnership has been a great success. The commitment of our workshop team and the flexibility and functionality of the Tranman software has enabled us to maintain the quality of our service. Quicker access to management information means more efficient use of our vehicles, making it easier to meet the training needs of the armed forces."

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