

# *‘A tool we wouldn’t want to be without’*

Squadron Leader Phil Leighton



## SUMMARY OF KEY FACTS

### Organisation

The Royal Air Force

### Contract signing date

July 2005

### Service/s delivered

Consultancy, integration, disaster recovery, help desk, project management and managed service.

### Benefits For MOD

- Operational deployment plans produced within hours
- Plans more dependable
- Familiar browser interface
- Robust and flexible security
- New plans can be based on existing plans

### The challenge

Planning an operational deployment used to take days and significant email traffic. After determining aircraft and personnel requirements, the RAF Logistics Support Centre then had to consult a number of experts to confirm the totality of support and supplies that would be required, and how everything should be transported and maintained.

When the Modularised Support and Force-packaging IT System (MSFITS) was developed in 1999, the associated improvements to process and planning capability were remarkable. Outline plans could be completed in hours, expert advice was readily accessible within the system and the speed and efficiency of RAF deployment planning was transformed.

As the system’s utility became increasingly apparent, its limited availability became a problem (only 6 people were trained to use it). Fujitsu was appointed prime contractor in 2005 with a brief to increase capacity and usability, while recommending ways to future-proof the technology and improve scalability and resilience.

### The solution

MSFITS2 is based on Microsoft SQL Server with a browser front-end that is compatible with the DII(C) SECRET environment.

Fujitsu is Prime Contractor for the solution, with Northgate (previously known as Anite) as subcontractor responsible for application development.

Fujitsu provides consultancy, integration, disaster recovery, help desk and full project management for the system.

## Benefits

**A faster plan** An outline deployment plan can now be produced within hours. Previously, it would take days, and significant email traffic.

**A better plan** Plans are more dependable and generate greater confidence at all levels. The accuracy of source information is maintained by the subject matter experts themselves and draft plans are shared with equipment experts so that they can be endorsed quickly.

**A user-friendly plan** Fewer specialist application skills are now needed to create a plan. The system prompts users and guides them through the process using a module approach, on a familiar browser interface.

**A secure plan** Now that the system is hosted on DII(C), security is both robust and flexible. Permissions can be managed broadly or hierarchically, permitting access by users at a particular level, or to a specified 'tree' of users at different levels.

**A re-usable plan** New plans can be based on existing plans, saving even more time and including stages and processes that have been shown to work well during previous deployments.

## Implementation

In 2005, Fujitsu migrated MSFITS2 to RAF CCIS (now part of the DII/F programme), which has greatly enhanced accessibility while ensuring the long-term stability of the system and its technology.

Squadron Leader Phil Leighton (Logistics Support Centre) said, "MSFITS is a really useful tool we wouldn't want to be without and is a good example of partnership - from a customer perspective the relationship works really well."

## Expertise

Fujitsu has been an IT partner to the RAF for decades. Fujitsu is a tier 1 contractor for DII (C) and (F), and also manage RADSA and SAPPHIRE applications.

Outside the RAF, we're also one of the UK Defence Industry's biggest IT suppliers and we have a long standing association with Defence Intelligence Staffs.

Among IT suppliers, only Fujitsu has a dedicated Defence Centre, staffed with specialists who spend 100% of their time on Defence and National Security work.

No-one else has 1,900 staff who are at least SC cleared, 350 of whom are mobile engineers, many of which live and work alongside military personnel.

## ASK FUJITSU

Phone 0870 242 7998  
email [askfujitsu@uk.fujitsu.com](mailto:askfujitsu@uk.fujitsu.com)

Ref. 3041