

National Guard on Board with AFMIS

This completes the Army Food Program Automation Circle



The Army National Guard (ARNG) is now online with active duty and Army Reserve food service operations around the world. After months of debating and careful consideration the ARNG has signed on to use the Army Food Management Information System (AFMIS).

The ARNG had certain apprehensions⁷ about the system at first because of their unique structure and it would be too costly and labor intense to convert 3007 different

locations. They were also concerned the system would be incapable of supplying information required for Installation Status Reporting (ISR).

However, after ensuring the National Guard Bureau (NGB) AFMIS could deliver everything they required and more; the ARNG agreed an automated system would improve as well as expedite approval, ordering, and reconciliation of subsistence orders for Drill weekends and Annual training missions. The system would also provide an automated inventory accountability process that would allow managers and food advisors real time on hand inventory status. One of the major selling points of AFMIS was that NGB and the seven Regional Food Advisors would have access and visibility on their subordinate commands from their work stations. This is done through the Decision Support System that provides daily status of dining facility operation which in some cases meant their living room.

Once the ARNG adopted AFMIS as their official food service operating system they needed a launch site to validate system. CW2 John Bruce, Florida State Food Advisor, volunteered Florida. Software Engineering Center Lee (SEC-L) began training 15 August 2008 in St. Augustine, Florida. Approximately 50 Soldiers, Military Technicians and DA Civilians were trained on how to operate AFMIS. A month later the entire State of Florida was using AFMIS as their food management operating system; thus validating the functionality of the system.

According to CW2 Bruce, AFMIS has streamline the request, approval and reconciliation process of requisitioning Class I subsistence; greatly improving the overall efficiency of managing food service operations at the State level. CW2 Bruce also noted the accuracy of subsistence accountability and reporting has increased by 30 %; and the amount of time it takes to receive end of the month closeout reports has decreased from one month to 2-5 days.

Since the launch of AFMIS in August 2008, the ARNG has 15 of 54 States and territories trained and operating AFMIS. That number literally increases daily as NGB and SEC-L are currently fielding AFMIS to the remaining States and territories. NGB and SEC-L are projecting to have AFMIS completely fielded by the end of FY2010.