



e-Suite Briefing Paper January 2011

Background

In June 2006, the NWCG chartered the Incident Business Automation (IBA) Project with implementing a web-based I-Suite Application. NWCG stated in the Charter that the focus area and business need for this project are:

“Conversion of the I-Suite application to a web-based application which can be hosted as stand-alone, on a local area network at an incident, and on an Enterprise Level.

The I-Suite System has been very successful, but because it is a client based solution, it has experienced numerous issues with agency approvals, security, installation, and general support. Converting the application to a web based approach will mitigate many of the current issues and provide for further scalability and widespread agency and interagency use.”

The web-based application is known as e-Suite, and is now in development and design stages. The original I-Suite application will continue to be supported until full implementation of e-Suite is accomplished.

e-Suite Overview

e-Suite will consist of current I-Suite functionality, plus address areas that need to be fixed or enhanced. It is designed to better support wildland fire as well as all-hazard incidents. e-Suite consists of two areas: Site and Enterprise. The Site level is intended to be used as a stand-alone networked application on an incident, similar to how I-Suite is used today. The Enterprise level can be accessed on any computer (office, virtual workplace, etc.) and used for Type 3-5 or other types of incidents to easily create and manage IAPs, costs, invoices, etc. This data can be transferred to the Site level should an incident transition to a Type 1 or Type 2 incident. Similarly, the Type 1 or Type 2 incident data can be accessed via the Enterprise level when transferred back to the local unit.

Benefits

- Integration with other systems
 - ROSS
 - ICBS-R
 - FireCode
 - Albuquerque Service Center
 - Other Agency payment centers and financial systems as capability is developed
- Centralized Enterprise system
 - Ability to track costs beginning with initial attack on a local unit
 - Issue payment documents as needed for local incident
 - Data Warehouse/Operational Data Store allows for data-mining capability
- Ability to manage data based on incident type (e.g. hurricane, oil spill, fire, special event)
- Ability to transfer information between Site and Enterprise
- Ability to gather information on a local/geographic/national scale for upward reporting
- Enhanced Security

Potential Users

Users of e-Suite will far exceed the number of users of the current I-Suite program due to the opportunity to use the Enterprise level of the application at a local unit. Potential users include*:

- ❖ USFS – Forests / Grasslands and Districts = approximately 700 offices

- ❖ NPS – National Parks = 58 offices, with the potential for additional use at Monuments, etc.
- ❖ FWS = 548 Refuges and 66 Fish Hatcheries
- ❖ BIA – within the Office of Field Operations - Regional and Agency offices = 95 offices
- ❖ BLM - State, District and Field Offices = 188 offices
- ❖ Dispatch = 339 dispatch centers including NICC, APHIS, Canada and Australia/NZ
- ❖ External Users = Caches, Buying Teams, Tanker Bases
- ❖ States
- ❖ Local and County Government Offices

This reflects 2,500+ offices, with multiple users in each location totaling over **8,000 potential users**. There will be additional users at each incident site.

*Source for number of offices: Wikipedia, FS web, BLM web, NPS web, FWS web, ROSS

Testing Timelines

A two-phased approach will be used for Subject Matter Expert (SME) testing incorporating both the Site and Enterprise functional areas in each phase.

Phase 1 SME testing target is July 2011. This will include:

- Login
- User Accounts
- Incidents
- Resources
- Time
- ROSS Import
- Associated Reports

Phase 2 SME testing target is July 2012. This will include:

- Cost
- IAP
- Custom Reports
- Additional Audit Functionality
- Financial Export
- Supply
- Injury and Illness *
- Data Warehouse/Operational Data Store *
- Web Services to Other Systems (if applicable) *

* Will be included if schedule allows or implemented in future releases.

User Acceptance Testing target date is August - October 2012.

Implementation Timelines

Implementation of e-ISuite is targeted to begin in June 2013, with full implementation by the end of October 2013.

The target date to decommission current I-Suite is December 2013. No further development or support by the IBA Project Team or the Interagency Incident Application (IIA) Helpdesk will be provided to the current I-Suite application once it is decommissioned.

Training Strategy

We are currently developing a training strategy and anticipate that training will begin in February 2013. The training strategy will include:

- Web-based training
- Classroom training
- A training server for e-ISuite will be set up and available for users

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