

Case Study:

INET, Operation Telic

Customer:

Coalition forces in Iraq

Overview

Following the commencement of Operation Telic, the UK's military involvement in Iraq between 2003 and 2011, the MoD commissioned main contractor, Fujitsu, to design and build an IT network across Iraq. To help deliver these projects, Fujitsu engaged Quadratek Consulting to provide specialist technical services.

Our challenge

As part of MoD Project Synergy, we were asked to design, build and install a mission secret system that supported communications among the multi-national coalition forces in Iraq. The 32-eyes system would be used by more than 3,000 people across 15 sites in the country and by naval officers on board four type-22 frigates.

What we did

Following detailed discussions with key stakeholders, we created the INET system. Designed for deployment in vehicles and naval platforms as well as fixed sites, INET enabled communications and collaboration over very narrow bandwidth bearers.

Aware that ease of use would be vital to the effectiveness of the system, we created an experience they would be at home with. Features such as Windows and familiar working interfaces like Microsoft Office, Outlook and a series of custom developed web applications helped users get up and running with INET quickly and smoothly.

This project resulted in the rapid reduction of uniformed Royal Signals presence in Iraq through commercialisation of in-theatre communications

As with all Quadratek systems, INET was designed with future expansion and ease of scalability.

We took every measure possible to ensure the security of INET. We worked in strict accordance with MoD guidelines and created innovative encryption, firewalls and password/PIN biometrics to ensure the safety of all data and communications.

Quadratek implemented tools that enabled local and remote monitoring of individual hosts, PCs and laptops for unauthorised access. We kept a close eye on environmental influences from our UK monitoring base. Vibration, temperature, power consumption and other factors influential to system performance were under close – and continual - scrutiny.

The results

The INET 32-eyes system provided a secure, efficient and intuitive platform for coalition forces of 32 countries to collaborate, communicate and cooperate. In so doing, it freed up valuable MoD time and resource, allowing key personnel to concentrate on their core duties.

What the client said

“This project resulted in the rapid reduction of uniformed Royal Signals presence in Iraq through commercialisation of in-theatre communications. The team managed the entire project, replacing nearly all the theatre military assets more rapidly than achieved in any previous operation. This resulted in a 90 per cent manpower saving in the communication personnel deployed to Iraq, allowing 1,800 Royal Signals soldiers to be redeployed. The project team displayed wide ranging skills, flexibility in planning and determination to meet tight operational deadlines.”

Air Chief Marshal Sir Malcolm Pledger, Chief of Defence Logistics
(2002 – 2005)

“Quadratek freed up valuable MOD time and resource, allowing key personnel to concentrate on their core duties.”