

ITV Operations and Training Newsletter

Check out the J-AIT website: <http://www.ait.army.mil> to view the latest contract(s) for Automatic Identification Technology (AIT) and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) hardware, software, technical engineering services, and maintenance.

Satellite Tracking on the RF-ITV Tracking Portal

We often hear that Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tracking is limited because RFID can tell you only where the cargo was last seen (in other words, where it was interrogated last by an interrogation device), not where it is currently located. In many situations and locations where the DOD operates today this is not sufficient to meet the needs of the Warfighter. Utilization of satellite transponder technology that provides real-time or near real-time position location data, when associated with the content-level detail provided by the RF-ITV server, overcomes this shortfall. Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) have provided the opportunity to prototype, test and field multiple commercially owned Satellite Tracking System (STS) devices. It is worthy to note that all the STS owned by or used under contract to support DOD logistics requirements are feeding into the RF-ITV server - making it a single data collection center for all visibility information whether the source is RFID or satellite based.

The **RF-ITV Tracking Portal** provides the capability to process incoming STS device feed(s) to attain visibility of conveyance movements (e.g., trucks, trains, ships, etc.). This capability enhances In-Transit Visibility (ITV) of shipments by providing ITV in locations where a fixed infrastructure isn't established. Vehicles equipped and tracked with the military's satellite-based Movement Tracking System (MTS) also capture and report the locations of tagged pallets/containers. The RF-ITV system takes this location information data and integrates that data with the content-level detail to show a complete distribution/ITV picture - the only system capable of doing that - and the information can be displayed on Google Earth allowing users a good geographic location view of transportation and supply.

Satellite tracking provides a Commander and planning staff, in any Area of Responsibility (AOR), the ability to view and expand RFID read capability for operational planning. In the U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM), for example, the Army National Guard (ARNG) is using this capability and integrating RFID into its planning responses to natural and man-made events. Half of the Army's inventory of over 15,000 MTS units, as well as hundreds of Portable Deployment Kits (PDKs) are in the ARNG.

On the **RF-ITV Tracking Portal**, the **Satellite Tracking > Advanced Search (Query Builder)** allows the user to customize their results by selecting multiple data points and also provides the ability to save these queries for later use. Because of the versatility of this query and the limited space we have to cover it in the newsletter, we'll only focus on a few select features in this issue.

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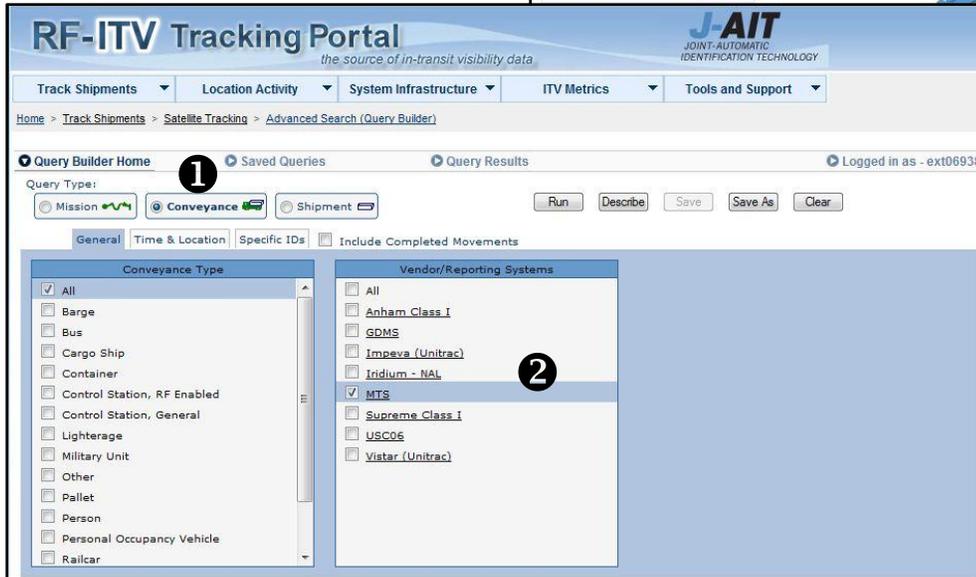
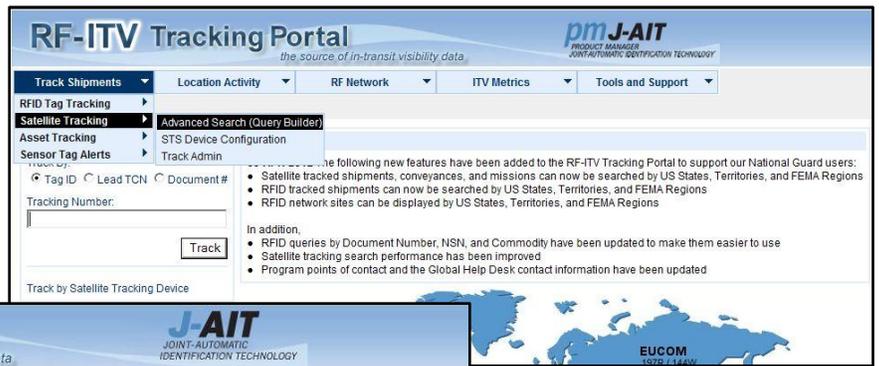
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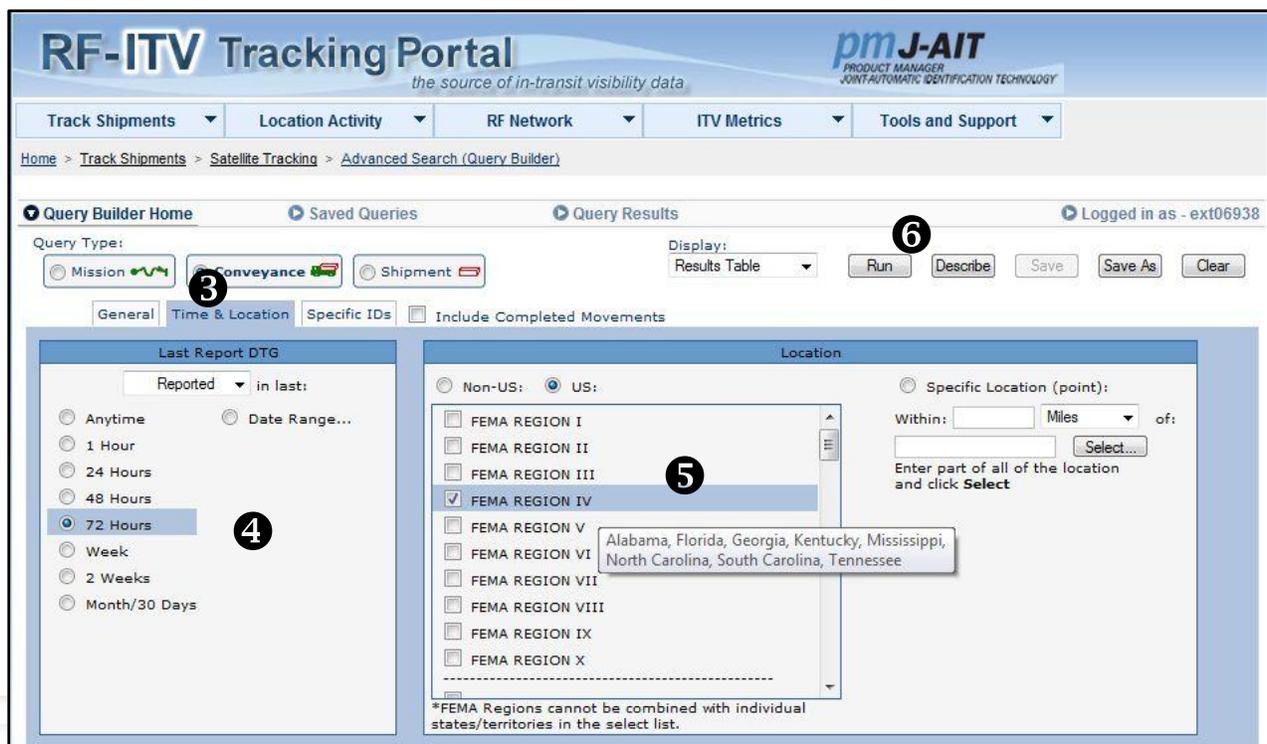
RF-ITV Training: RF-ITV Global Help Desk
help.rftv@us.army.mil
1 (800) 877-7925 DSN users dial your local DSN off-net access number, wait for dial tone, then dial 1 (800) 877-7925

To use satellite tracking, under **Track Shipments**, click **Satellite Tracking** > **Advanced Search (Query Builder)**.

The **Query Builder Home** screen is displayed. From the **Query Builder Home** screen, click the **Conveyance** radio button **1** and select **MTS** **2**.



Click the **Time & Location** tab **3**. Select a time in the **Last Report DTG** box **4**. Click the **US** radio button in the **Location** box and select **FEMA REGION IV** **5** (if you roll-over each region, a mouse-over screen will appear indicating which States are in that region). Click **Run** **6** to get the query results after you have made all the selections for this query.



The **Query Builder** results will be displayed. Depending on your internet connection and the amount of data you have selected, it may take a few minutes for the results to display. You can click on the Conveyance Alias **1** to get specific Carrier details or you can click on Google Earth **2** to see a graphic display of all your results.

RF-ITV Tracking Portal
the source of in-transit visibility data
pmJ-AIT
 PRODUCT MANAGER
 JOINT-AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION TECHNOLOGY

Track Shipments | Location Activity | RF Network | ITV Metrics | Tools and Support

Home > Track Shipments > Satellite Tracking > Advanced Search (Query Builder)

Query Builder Home | Saved Queries | Query Results [Refresh] | Logged in as - ext06938

Results For: **No Name**

Find and display all active Conveyances that... - have reported a position in the past 72 hours - have reported from FEMA REGION IV:Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee

138 Conveyances [50 per page] | Displaying 1 to 50 | Excel | XML | PDF | Google Earth | Google Earth (NIPRNET)

Conveyance Alias	Device ID	Sensor	Last Report DTG	Last Report Location
AL-167TSC-1200-HHC23	MTS160559	NO	06-AUG-12 13:08	42.07 K NNE of NASHVILLE, TN, US
AL731-HQ45	MTS103090	NO	06-AUG-12 13:08	43.15 K NNE of NASHVILLE, TN, US
AL731-HQ44	MTS103205	NO	06-AUG-12 13:08	42.4 K NNE of NASHVILLE, TN, US
AL731-HQ42	MTS161837	NO	06-AUG-12 13:08	41.88 K NNE of NASHVILLE, TN, US
AL-167TSC-1670-T308	MTS181235	NO	06-AUG-12 13:08	65.37 K NNE of NASHVILLE, TN, US
AL-167TSC-1670-HHC1	MTS158585	NO	06-AUG-12 13:08	24.31 K NW of ELBA, AL, US
49QM-530TH-111-24	MTS163194	NO	06-AUG-12 13:07	50.3 K W of LEXINGTON BLGR AD, KY, US
GA-JFHQ-MCC	MTS052319	NO	06-AUG-12 13:07	2.31 K NW of MARIETTA NAS, GA, US
AL-167TSC-1200TH-HHC-14	MTS135393	NO	06-AUG-12 13:07	42 K NNE of NASHVILLE, TN, US

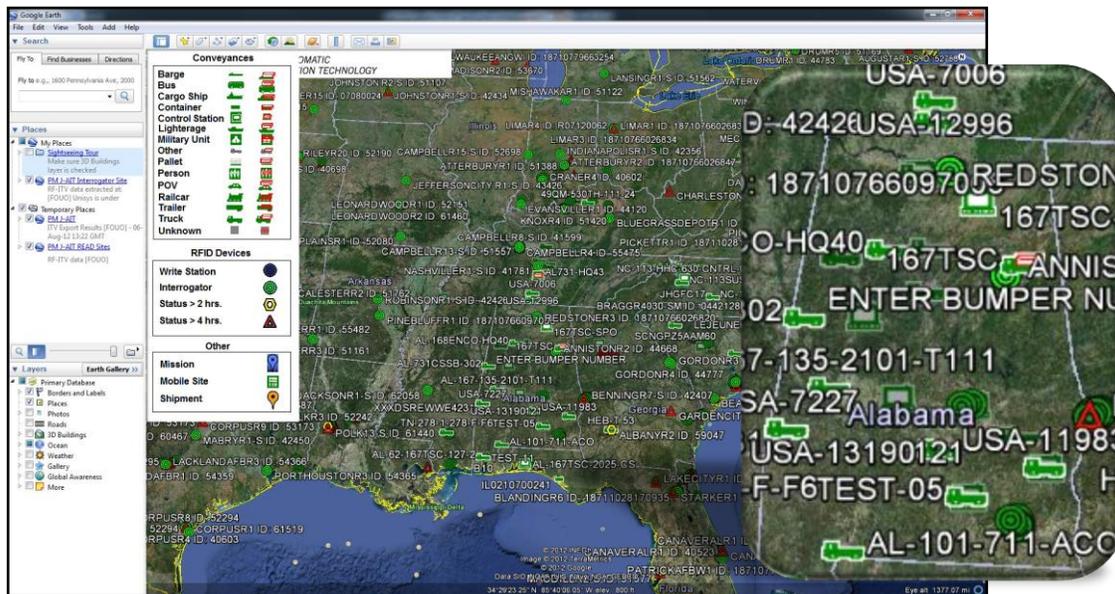
Click on Google Earth and it will open in another browser window. The results show the most recent locations where shipments have been read.

The screenshot shows a Google Earth interface with a map of the Southeastern United States. Numerous RF-ITV tracked conveyances are plotted on the map, each with a small icon and a label. The labels include conveyance IDs such as AL-167TSC-1670-T308, AL-167TSC-1670-T301, AL-167TSC-1670-T307, AL-167TSC-1670-T306, AL-167TSC-1670-T305, AL-167TSC-1670-T304, AL-167TSC-1670-T303, AL-167TSC-1670-T302, AL-167TSC-1670-T301, AL-167TSC-1670-T300, AL-167TSC-1670-T299, AL-167TSC-1670-T298, AL-167TSC-1670-T297, AL-167TSC-1670-T296, AL-167TSC-1670-T295, AL-167TSC-1670-T294, AL-167TSC-1670-T293, AL-167TSC-1670-T292, AL-167TSC-1670-T291, AL-167TSC-1670-T290, AL-167TSC-1670-T289, AL-167TSC-1670-T288, AL-167TSC-1670-T287, AL-167TSC-1670-T286, AL-167TSC-1670-T285, AL-167TSC-1670-T284, AL-167TSC-1670-T283, AL-167TSC-1670-T282, AL-167TSC-1670-T281, AL-167TSC-1670-T280, AL-167TSC-1670-T279, AL-167TSC-1670-T278, AL-167TSC-1670-T277, AL-167TSC-1670-T276, AL-167TSC-1670-T275, AL-167TSC-1670-T274, AL-167TSC-1670-T273, AL-167TSC-1670-T272, AL-167TSC-1670-T271, AL-167TSC-1670-T270, AL-167TSC-1670-T269, AL-167TSC-1670-T268, AL-167TSC-1670-T267, AL-167TSC-1670-T266, AL-167TSC-1670-T265, AL-167TSC-1670-T264, AL-167TSC-1670-T263, AL-167TSC-1670-T262, AL-167TSC-1670-T261, AL-167TSC-1670-T260, AL-167TSC-1670-T259, AL-167TSC-1670-T258, AL-167TSC-1670-T257, AL-167TSC-1670-T256, AL-167TSC-1670-T255, AL-167TSC-1670-T254, AL-167TSC-1670-T253, AL-167TSC-1670-T252, AL-167TSC-1670-T251, AL-167TSC-1670-T250, AL-167TSC-1670-T249, AL-167TSC-1670-T248, AL-167TSC-1670-T247, AL-167TSC-1670-T246, AL-167TSC-1670-T245, AL-167TSC-1670-T244, AL-167TSC-1670-T243, AL-167TSC-1670-T242, AL-167TSC-1670-T241, AL-167TSC-1670-T240, AL-167TSC-1670-T239, AL-167TSC-1670-T238, AL-167TSC-1670-T237, AL-167TSC-1670-T236, AL-167TSC-1670-T235, AL-167TSC-1670-T234, AL-167TSC-1670-T233, AL-167TSC-1670-T232, AL-167TSC-1670-T231, AL-167TSC-1670-T230, AL-167TSC-1670-T229, AL-167TSC-1670-T228, AL-167TSC-1670-T227, AL-167TSC-1670-T226, AL-167TSC-1670-T225, AL-167TSC-1670-T224, AL-167TSC-1670-T223, AL-167TSC-1670-T222, AL-167TSC-1670-T221, AL-167TSC-1670-T220, AL-167TSC-1670-T219, AL-167TSC-1670-T218, 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Users have the ability to turn on/off several layers (or overlays) as desired. One layer of particular interest to ITV users is the "RF Read Sites" layer. To overlay fixed infrastructure read sites with MTS locations, minimize your Google Earth browser window and go back to the **RF-ITV Tracking Portal** browser window. Click **RF Network > Site Coverage Map (Non-NIPRNET)** ①. Click **Map of Read Sites** ② then **Open** ③.

The screenshots illustrate the steps to access the Site Coverage Map (non-NIPRNET) in the RF-ITV Tracking Portal. The first screenshot shows the 'RF Network' dropdown menu with 'Site Coverage Map (non-NIPRNET)' selected. The second screenshot shows the 'Site Coverage Map (non-NIPRNET)' page with 'Map of Read Sites' selected. The third screenshot shows a 'File Download' dialog box with 'Open' selected.

The fixed Read sites will be overlaid on the Google Map over your previously selected MTS vehicles. Zoom into the location on the map you wish to view.



For additional help on Query Builder go to: https://cac.national.rfity.army.mil/Tutorial/Presentation/Query_Builder_Intro/index.html

For additional information on Satellite Tracking, go to: <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/files/37304574>

RF-ITV Global Help Desk (GHD)

Toll Free: 1 (800) 877-7925. **DSN:** Dial your local DSN off-net access number, wait for dial tone, and then dial 1 (800) 877-7925.

AKO Instant Messenger Username: help.rfity

Green Force Tracker/Lotus Sametime Group Name: PEO EIS-PM J-AIT-GHD

Help available 24hours/7 days a week

Email: help.rfity@us.army.mil

The RFID GHD should be contacted before any attempt to reach an FSE in your area.

If you would like to subscribe to the newsletter or if you have a noteworthy RF-ITV story, lesson-learned, or short article for publication in the newsletter, please submit to Jerry Rodgers, J-AIT, jerry.d.rodgers.ctr@mail.mil.

For and From the Field

Invalid Port Codes

During the week of 23-29 July 2012, we found the following examples of shipments moving through the logistics pipeline with invalid Port of Embarkation (POE) and Port of Debarkation (POD) codes:

INCORRECT POE/ILC	# OF TAGS	POE/ILC SHOULD HAVE USED
HCT	58	23A
D35	26	OA4 or 81F
GHZ	25	OA1
D40	19	OA4 or 81F
D54	18	OA4 or 81F
OA4	16	OA4
D58	12	OA4 or 81F

INCORRECT POD/ILC	# OF TAGS	POD/ILC SHOULD HAVE USED
D58	124	OA4 or 81F
GHZ	20	OA1
RTO	17	OA1
OA4	14	OA4
HFX	10	37A

The Combined Arms Support Command (CASCOM) ITV Team contacted the sites using these codes and provided corrective guidance. Steps are being made by the users to correct the codes. Inaccurate codes affect other systems such as the Battle Command Sustainment Support System (BCS3) and Integrated Data Environment/Global Transportation Network Convergence (IGC) (formerly known as Global Transportation Network (GTN)). For example, IGC validates POE/POD/ILC codes against the U.S. Transportation Command (TRANSCOM) Reference Data Management (TRDM). If the tag data contains improper or invalid codes it will not process into IGC.

Port Codes and ILCs can be found on the **RF-ITV Tracking Portal** under **Tools and Support > Lookup Tables**. ILC lists are also updated/maintained and can be downloaded and/or printed from the CASCOM ITV website at: <http://www.cascom.army.mil/organizations/cdi/esd/itv/ilcs.aspx>.

We need everybody's help to ensure that accurate codes are written to their tags.

Site Analysis: LEATHERNECKW509, LEATHERNECK, AFGHANISTAN

At the request of the Future Operation section of the Distribution Management Center in Albany Georgia, we looked at RF-ITV Write site, Device ID 51509, Device Name LEATHERNECKW509 for this month's analysis. Our analysis was focused on the data quality of RFID tags being written at site LEATHERNECKW509 and to provide recommended corrective actions as necessary. Using the **Site Activity** query, we looked at the tag writing workload from 1-30 June 2012. The **Site Activity** query identified 66 tags that were written during that period. The results of this data analysis are as follows:

- All of the 66 tags we analyzed had blank Consignee/Consignor Department of Defense Activity Address Codes (DODAACs) fields. We found that the Consignee DODAAC was listed in the Transportation Control Movement Document (TCMD) data written to the tag; therefore, there is no reason why the consignee DODAAC field should have been left blank.
- The Operation data field was populated with 66 disposition codes instead of a proper Operation name. The Operation field is for major deployment names or field training exercises (e.g., Operation New Dawn (OND), Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)). If you do not have an Operation name, we recommend using another data field such as the "Free Text" field for any identifying information. The Free Text field can be searched using the **Advanced Search Query** to locate your shipments on the **RF-ITV Tracking Portal**.
- Of the 66 tags, 65 tags (98%) contained valid POE and POD codes. On the one remaining tag both the POE and POD were blank.
- All of the tags contained complete commodity data which gives users "in the box" visibility and provides more complete data sharing with other ITV systems. Due to retrograde shipments traveling as space is available, we were unable to track these retrograde shipments to final destination. Very few shipments had moved by the end of our analysis.

The RF-ITV Training Team's Tips and Tricks

TIPS Write 4.3.2.4 Release Update

Three major updates have been made to the latest release of the TIPS Write software. This article provides a quick view of the updates. Contact the RF-ITV Global Helpdesk at help.rfitv@us.army.mil for a full list of updates and changes to the TIPS Write program and request the TIPS Write 4.3.2 *User's Guide* and/or the TIPS Write 4.3.2 Release Notes.

Update 1: Unit Move write capabilities have been added to this release which include new fields (Figure 1).

The screenshot shows the 'Edit Shipment' window with the following fields and labels:

- A: SUN: D23456
- B: Bumper Number: C23456
- C: LIN: H30766
- D: UIC: B23456
- E: ULN: A234567
- F: Serial Number: BELL0394-0
- G: Model: 34-KZ1234
- H: Cmdty S/H Codes: F2345
- I: Unit Name: HHC, 1ST SIGNAL BN00X
- J: Home Station: 0020 0010005X
- K: Equip Description: EQUIPMENT DESCRIPTION

New Fields Highlighted (Figure 1)

- D. **UIC** — Unit Identification Code - (JOPES) code for Active, Reserve, or National Guard units (max six characters)
- E. **ULN** — Unit Liner Number- (JOPES) code that describes a unique increment of a unit deployment plan (max seven characters)
- F. **Serial Number** — Number used to authorize and account for assigned equipment (max 10 characters)
- G. **Model** — Equipment Model Number (max 10 characters)
- H. **Cmdty S/H Codes** — Water/Air commodity and Special Handling Codes assigned to the conveyance container or equipment (max five characters)
- I. **Unit Name** — Name of the unit shipping the equipment (max 20 characters)
- J. **Home Station** — Free text name or DODAAC (max 15 characters)
- K. **Equip Description** — Free text description of the equipment (max 32 characters)

Update 2: TIPS Write 4.3.2.4 has been officially released for use with the Windows 7 32-bit Operating System. If using a Windows 7 64-bit platform; the *User's Guide* states to contact the RF-ITV Global Helpdesk at help.rfitv@us.army.mil for more information on configuring the software.

Update 3: The latest drivers that support the Windows 7 32-bit platform were also added. The only driver not added automatically is the USB International Organization for Standardization (ISO) write cable for ISO Tags. If using a USB write cable to write ISO tags; see section 2.1.3 of the TIPS 4.3.2 *User's Guide* for installation instructions. If using the Windows 7 64-bit Operating System contact the RF-ITV Global Helpdesk at help.rfitv@us.army.mil for the 64-bit drivers for the USB ISO *write* function.