



U.S. ARMY ★ ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND

PROGRAM EXECUTIVE OFFICE
COMMAND, CONTROL
AND COMMUNICATIONS-TACTICAL

FOR

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release: # 12-58

May 2012

Contact: PEO C3T Public Affairs Office

'Social media behind the firewall' reaches 200,000 users across enterprise

1 of 2 pages

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md.— The Department of Defense (DoD) reached a historic milestone in its efforts to collaborate and share information using social media behind the firewall this week, as the 200,000th unique user registered on milSuite, the military's secure collaborative platform.

MilSuite is a DoD enterprise-wide suite of collaboration tools that mirror existing social media platforms such as YouTube, Wikipedia, Facebook and Twitter. Through the platform, DoD professionals and leadership access a growing repository of the military's thousands of organizations, people and systems around the globe.

The milSuite user community includes more than 200 flag officers across the DoD, including eight U.S. Army four-star generals, as well as nearly 20,000 field officers.

Through milSuite, these senior leaders can share their best practices with an enterprise-wide community, as well as leverage existing knowledge to improve current processes and reduce duplicative efforts.

"It is important that the DoD leverages existing proven technologies to enable the workforce to work more efficiently," said Tom Curran, product director of milSuite. "MilSuite does this by making data, information and knowledge available more quickly, enhancing the decision-making process and enabling collaboration outside of the office space."

Currently, milSuite is comprised of four tools: milWiki, a living knowledge bank with more than 14,000 military encyclopedia entries; milBook, a professional networking tool and collaborative space which hosts more than 2,500 working groups; milBlog, a place to

share and comment on internal news and events; and milTube, a video-sharing capability. The tools are integrated through a common user profile and linked by a Google search appliance.

Approximately 55,000 new accounts have been added on the platform since the launch of milSuite enterprise edition in 2011, which enabled registration through a Common Access Card (CAC).

“These applications allow us to break down barriers in how we collaborate because they encourage instant communication and real-time information sharing across geographic and organizational divisions,” said Emerson Keslar, director of the Army’s Military Technical (MilTech) Solutions Office, which developed the product and led the effort to institute its use on behalf of the DoD. MilTech Solutions is assigned to Army’s Program Executive Office for Command, Control and Communications-Tactical (PEO C3T), which provides networked mission command solutions for Soldiers throughout the world, enabling them to collaborate their missions through information technology.

As milSuite continues to expand, MilTech Solutions is working with Army and DoD leadership to begin offering milSuite as an official enterprise product.

The next generation of milSuite, version 4.0, is planned for release later this year. The upgrade will include enhancements, including integration with Microsoft SharePoint, the ability to leverage widgets across milSuite and a developers’ area that will provide application programming interfaces to extend milSuite products through external resources.

MilSuite is available to individuals from the active services, as well as the DoD’s civilian and contractor work forces. Registration and site access are enabled through CAC authentication.

“Today, thousands of Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen, Marines and DoD civilians discover information, engage with other experts and collaborate in a protected environment regardless of their location,” said Curran. “We hope to continue to increase that user community.”

