

Weapon Storage and Tracking: Keeping it Simple and Effective



In 2007, Alan Blaum, Sergeant at the National Institute of Health (NIH), ran an online search to find help for a police headquarters remodeling project he was planning. His needs for the re-design project included re-designating the armory space. What he found was LEID Products, LLC and their BACS Asset Management System.

Prior to the remodel, the NIH kept weapons in a large secured closet, revolvers hung on pegs and long arms were secured on racks with locked chains strung through trigger holes. Just like many of LEID's customers, the police department used a manual process for checking assets in and out. The process meant that officers were wasting a significant amount of time attempting to track down a supervisor in order to manually log items in and out. Alan describes the ripple effect that occurred with their old system, explaining "every time an officer unchained any of the long arms, the movement through the trigger holes to access one long arm would take its toll by marring up the trigger areas."

Although Alan kept meticulous manual logs of his equipment, government auditor records did not always match up. If someone had incorrectly entered even one character of a serial number from one piece of equipment, the records were completely incorrect. This was not only a significant pain point for Alan, but for the entire group of 100 sworn officers at NIH. At the time, NIH did not realize there was a better system for tracking department assets, weapons and equipment. They did not know what they were missing without LEID's BACS System. They did not know a system like BACS allowed the ability to see where all inventory was, in real time, at all times.

And so Alan's search began. He started by looking through government surplus listings to see what he could track down in the area of post office style boxes to store revolvers. His thought process behind this was that each box would have its own locker combination and each officer could have a locker. In addition to his wish for locker style weapon storage, Alan really needed a different kind of solution for long arms, and it was at this time during his internet search that he came across LEID. He did not know that a system like LEID's even existed. Immediately, Alan printed out information from the website and took it to his boss, who supported contacting LEID to research our solution.

The BACS System now gives NIH an actual database of firearms, a significant benefit of using the system. The database provides government auditors with an accurate accounting of inventory, whereas, Alan's



manual tracking was more time consuming to verify. NIH has the capacity to store a large number of weapons and assets in their [Electronic Modular Access Units](#), long arms in their [SmartRail Gun Racks](#), and they are working to budget an expansion to store more rifles in additional SmartRail Gun Racks.

LEID Products' engineering team worked closely with Alan to get the system up and running. In addition, LEID sent in a firearms expert to assist with tagging the various weapons with the RFID chips. As Alan explained, "the BACS System has replaced the old method of tracking down a supervisor, with the self-service ability to access equipment, saving time and providing electronic tracking reports to account for equipment."

NIH's process of issuing equipment now encompasses ease of use; it is much quicker for an officer to access equipment, something especially important in cases where an officer needs access to equipment during an emergency. Officers have the authority to access only the equipment they have been qualified to use based on their training credentials. Real time inventory means all of their assets can be accounted for instantly. They can track down exactly who has what item checked out, so if there was ever a missing item, officers would be able to identify exactly who had it the last time it was accessed.

The BACS database provides government auditors with an accurate accounting process for inventory because there is a biometric signature that ensures accuracy of information. This avoids the wasted time consuming task of going through pages and pages of manual records to track down information, or try to fix an error.