



# NEWSLETTER

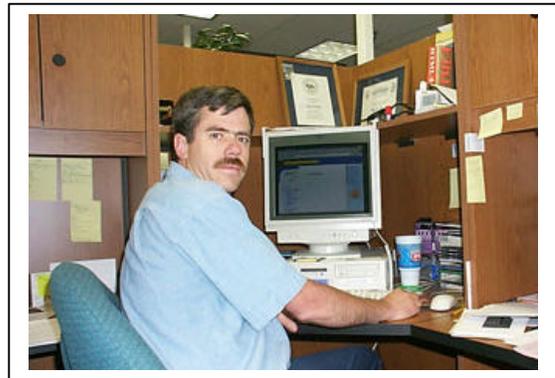
Volume 1, May 2000

The ROSS Project is conducting an assessment to better understand the network infrastructure and linkages in place at dispatch offices nationwide. The data will help identify baseline network measurements of DMS and ROSS components, minimal network requirements, anticipate data migration needs, maintenance criteria, as well as infrastructure needs for the future. A previous study assessed dispatch network utilization during peak and non-peak times of the day and seasons. All information gathered will be synthesized and passed to IRM organizations supporting dispatch offices.

The measurement will help clarify organizational structure, profiles, ROSS training needs, disaster recovery and anticipated impact on networks. Analysis will include traffic associated with all-risk events utilizing dispatch including responses to natural disasters, law enforcement calls, and wildfire incidents.

Later this month, the ROSS Team will be distributing a questionnaire to dispatch offices across the country to gather needed information. Shortly thereafter, a series of conference calls will be held to answer any questions. Information on the calls will be distributed, as more details are available. To become involved in the data gathering and/or analysis, contact Nancy DeLong at 208.373.4099.

A new test platform server is coming on-line. Making a server available for testing ROSS will allow selected dispatchers the opportunity to test various screens right at their own desk using DMS.



Flint Cheney, partner from Rocky Mountain Area testing ROSS application

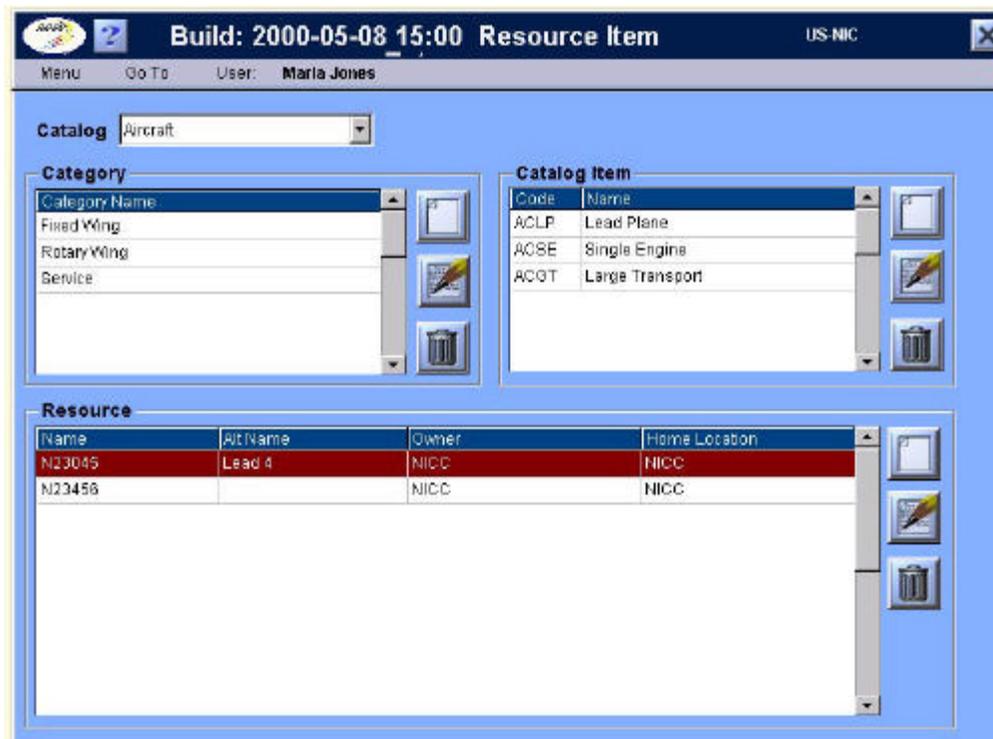
For the past month, Lockheed Martin Information Services has been developing the ROSS application screens for system and data administration. These modules deal with activities relating to system security, organizational information, and entry of location information. The first usability testing for these modules was completed in April in a controlled environment at Lockheed Martin.

The post-test review revealed that all participants agreed that the application was "particularly easy to use." Also, testers "were able to figure out the steps with no instruction and (could) easily edit the screens...." "It was easy to know which button to click when, and the screen explanations were adequate to perform tasks."

Ince October, Lockheed Martin Information Services has been creating components of the ROSS application by module. The development team utilizes subject matter experts from the dispatch community to build and test every phase of the application. “The direct involvement of subject matter experts from the various wildland fire agencies on the development team” said Paul Condit, Lockheed Martin Project Manager, “has been key to the design of an efficient ROSS application.”

The team is currently working on the dispatch module, “The dispatch module creates the actual resource order which will be used in ROSS” said Andy Gray, detailed to the ROSS Team from the Southern Area Coordination Center. “This is truly the ‘meat’ of our business.” Data and system administration components have already been completed. Remaining components to be developed include the dispatch and travel modules.

Extensive field tests are scheduled to begin at NICC and in the Rocky Mountain Area this summer. Below is a sample screen from the resource module.



Sample ROSS Resource Item Entry Screen currently under development.

check out the ROSS web page [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#) or call (208.373.4099).

