

# Tinker Air Force Base



Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, is using Net-It Central as part of the B-1 Bomber global support network.

The B-1 Bomber System Program Office provides worldwide maintenance and repair support for U.S. Air Force B-1 bombers from the Air Logistics Center at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The backbone of America's long-range bomber force, the B-1 provides massive and rapid delivery of precision and non-precision weapons against any potential adversary anywhere around the globe on short notice. Initially deployed in 1985 as a replacement for the B-52, the B-1 was dedicated to a nuclear deterrence role through 1991. Capable of flying intercontinental missions without refueling, the B-1 was first used in combat in support of operations against Iraq during Operation Desert Fox in 1998. B-1s were also used in NATO's 1999 Operation Allied Force in the Balkans against the forces of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic. In late 2001 and early 2002, B-1 bombers attacked Taliban and al-Qaida targets in Afghanistan as part of the U.S.-led war on terror.

## Organizational Challenge

Keeping the fleet of nearly 100 B-1 bombers ready for global combat deployment on short notice requires a sophisticated communications infrastructure that is secure, reliable and capable of transmitting massive amounts of information across a distributed, geographically dispersed network. Each \$200 million aircraft has thousands of mechanical, hydraulic and electronic systems that must be tracked and maintained on a continual 24/7 basis. Documenting the operation and maintenance of these systems is a complex management challenge that requires the application of sophisticated networked computer technology. Access to this information must be provided immediately to those with the proper credentials and must be denied absolutely to those without.

## Technology Solution

Since 1997 a key component of the secure intranet that links hundreds of civilian and military support staff at more than a dozen U.S. Air Force facilities around the country is Net-it Central, the web document publishing software from Informative Graphics. Net-it Central automatically converts Word, Powerpoint, Excel, PDF, and other standard desktop applications to HTML and posts them to the secure B-1 support site. "The routine work of updating, publishing and distributing 3,000 documents such as maintenance schedules, work orders, parts inventories and engineering assignments is a massive task," said Shawn Wright, primary administrator and team leader for the group's web application staff. "With Net-it Central, publishing updates is an automated push-button process that eliminates the need for laborious, manual HTML conversion. We can design our own custom templates to meet a variety of functional needs and

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## Industry

Federal Government - Military

## Company Facts

Tinker Air Force Base and the Air Logistics Center maintains global combat-ready status for the long-range B-1 Bomber

## Challenge

- Maintain immediate documentation support for a 24/7 combat-ready logistics and support program for the B-1 Bomber. Up to 30,000 documents are produced by a variety of systems, software programs and workgroups on a regular basis.

## Environment

- Web (secure intranet) network of 15 Air Force bases using Microsoft Office, PDF and other desktop applications

## Return On Investment

- Move from 3-ring paper binders to paperless system that provides order-of-magnitude reduction in labor and labor costs; increase in speed and accuracy.



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create a common look and feel. And because it's browser-based, our users don't need to have the source applications to view the contents."

## Operational Results

Before Net-It Central, the B-1 Primary Depot Maintenance Work Specification resided in a 4-inch thick binder that had to be continually updated. Printing and distribution costs have been eliminated and updates can be accessed in a much more timely manner. With reports and forms available on the secure web site, email distributions no longer clog group mail servers. Net-it Central replaced a number of alternative conversion solutions that provided incompatible and fragmented results. "The labor hours we used to apply to document printing and document conversion are now spent on higher level tasks," said Wright. "Thousands of labor hours have been redirected. We are much more productive with Net-It Central. It provides a clean, common interface that makes us more efficient and focused on the mission." As a result of the B-1 team's positive experience with Net-It Central, two other support groups at Tinker's Air Logistics Center have also implemented the solution.