



# IDE NEWSLETTER



**Brigade Combat Team**  
Project Management Office

## SPOTLIGHT: IN SUPPORT OF MICOS

The BCT IDE provides MICOS support in two ways: First, the secure BCT IDE website has a MICOS page, which provides the latest information about upcoming MICOS, this information includes dates, location, accommodations, and points of contact. Secondly, MICOS documents (videos, Power Point presentations, etc.) are archived in the BCT IDE document management system (iFS). The archived MICOS documents are available to all users with a valid ID and Password, and are located under Library/MICOS folder. The MICOS folders also contain a self-extracting compressed (zip) file, that contains all the MICOS documents.

There is an opportunity for IPT leaders and other MICOS speakers to utilize the BCT IDE document management system as a tool to facilitate creation of MICOS presentations. Work-in-process MICOS presentations can be stored in the document management system and made available to geographically distributed teams for comments and provide the capability for teams to add additional intellectual capital and slides for the MICOS speakers to use. A process to create MICOS intellectual capital that is controlled by MICOS speakers could begin weeks before the MICOS meetings, helping reduce the last minute pressures while providing more time for review. The document management system provides a long-term repository of historical MICOS information that preserves BCT program knowledge even though key individuals may leave the program.

## SUCCESS STORY: ICV IPT

The ICV IPT interacts with over 70 people and is involved with multiple agencies - such as PEO-STRI, TACOM, CECOM, and PEO C3T. Major Bill Fuller, the IPT co-lead, utilizes the BCT IDE document management system (iFS) at least once a week as a data repository for historical files and as a communication tool for providing information to remote sites. He stated that the BCT IDE document management application speed has improved over the last few months and the system is now on par with other Internet tools. The benefits that the BCT IDE document management provides to this IPT are:

- Access by multiple parties to historical data
- An easy method to transfer information to remote sites.

He recommends that other IPTs use the BCT IDE document management system to reduce dependency on key individuals who may leave the program and to develop the BCT IDE as a knowledge base for the Stryker program.

Major Fuller has worked on the Stryker program for eighteen months. He initially served as the APM for the RV and FSV and is now the ICV IPT co lead. His duties include coordinating all ICV activities, along with Rick Davis of GM. He also does high-level coordination between the functional disciplines such as logistics test, and C4ISR. The ICV IPT is responsible for anything that is common across the Stryker fleet.

## BCT IDE SYSTEM AVAILABILITY

### BCT IDE Hours of Operation

The BCT IDE normal operating hours have been established to address the majority of the BCT IDE users' needs and are as follows:

**Monday through Saturday: 0600 to 2400 ET**

### BCT IDE Maintenance Window

A maintenance window has been established in order to perform periodic maintenance as well as operating system, database, and application upgrades. During the maintenance window the users could experience one or more of the BCT IDE components to be unavailable. This window is as follows:

**Sunday 0600 to 1500 ET**

Additionally, Monday through Saturday from 0000 to 0600 ET is reserved for emergency maintenance fixes that cannot wait until the Sunday maintenance window.



**BCT/EDS**



This *BCT IDE Newsletter* is a joint production effort, edited by BCT with support from EDS.





## DOWNLOADABLES

One of the primary functions of an IDE is to provide users the ability to share (electronic) documents with other users that do not have access to the system or network where the data resides. In order to accomplish this, PM BCT has implemented a Web-based download area: from the <http://www.bctide.com/>, select the "Download" button. The download page consists of two areas: the public download area and the private download area.

The public download area is accessible by anyone on the Web and as such may contain only documents, images, videos, etc. that have been OPSEC approved for general public distribution.

The private download area is accessible only after entering the appropriate ID and Password. Its main function is for BCT IDE to share the appropriate documents with users that do not have access to the IDE File Storage (iFS) but with access need to specific documents. As a rule, the private download area may contain only Sensitive but Unclassified (SBU) or lower security level documents.

The content of both areas is determined by IDE users with a need to share documents. Briefly, the process is:

- User contacts BCT IDE Administrators via the BCT IDE Help Desk and submits documents to share.
- BCT IDE Administrators validates the request and verifies appropriateness.
- BCT IDE Administrators places the validated and verified documents on the appropriate download area.
- BCT IDE Administrator provides the requestor a valid ID and Password for distribution to appropriate personnel.

Please contact the BCT IDE Help Desk if you have any question or a need to use this valuable IDE function.

## HOW TO BECOME AN IDE USER

A formal process exists to request a new user to the BCT IDE. The process and appropriate form can be found on the File Storage System (<https://ideifs.bctide.com/ifs/files/>) under the Reference Material/Processes folder. Please note that there is a list of authorized PM BCT "Sponsors" who can submit a user new ID request. A high level view of the process is:

- Prospective user fills out form and emails it to the sponsor.
- Sponsor forwards (approved) ID request form to the [PM-BCTIDEHelpDesk@eds.com](mailto:PM-BCTIDEHelpDesk@eds.com).
- The BCT IDE Help Desk verifies data.
- BCT IDE Help Desk creates ID.
- User is notified of ID and Password.
- Sponsor is notified of ID creation.

This formal process helps us assure that all BCT IDE users have a valid need to access this information source and are actively supporting the BCT Program.

## HUMOR: DON'T QUOTE ME...

"Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible."  
-Lord Kelvin, president, Royal Society, 1876

## WHAT'S NEW?

In order to increase public awareness about the Stryker fleet and related BCT Program Office activities, the BCT IDE web site (<http://www.bctide.com/>) web pages were updated with special machine-readable text for the title, description, and keywords. This was done to help direct people to the BCT IDE website when they try to find information about the Stryker product or the BCT program effort when using a popular search engine such as Yahoo or Google.

Web search engines like Yahoo and Google collect information about web pages using an indexing application that uses this machine-readable text. What this means is that a web page author has some influence over which keywords are used by the search engine to associate with the page, and the description of the page that appears when it comes up as a search engine hit.

There is no way to ensure that a particular web page will be in the top set of search engine results. Even if your page appears close to the top today, there is no assurance that the page will keep its ranking for long. The information on the web is changing at a rapid pace, which causes the search engines to constantly update the association between keywords and web pages. This means that the machine-readable text for the title, description, and keywords will be updated regularly to increase the likelihood that the BCT IDE website will remain in the top search engine results, but there are no guarantees!



Updated Clip & Save

### Your IDE Help List

#### BCT IDE Help Desk:

[PM-BCTIDEHelpDesk@eds.com](mailto:PM-BCTIDEHelpDesk@eds.com)

Phone: 248-265-6020

#### Access to JV/GDLS IDE and Training:

EDS Help Desk

[PM-BCTIDEHelpDesk@eds.com](mailto:PM-BCTIDEHelpDesk@eds.com)

Phone: 248-265-6020

#### Security Officer:

Keith Whitten

[whittenk@tacom.army.mil](mailto:whittenk@tacom.army.mil)

Phone: 586-753-2033

#### IDE Manager:

John Brobst

[brobstj@tacom.army.mil](mailto:brobstj@tacom.army.mil)

Phone: 586-753-2110

#### PMO BCT Website URL:

<http://www.bctide.com/>

