

Terra Harvest, EUGS, and Cursor on Target in the Improved Sensor Integration (ISI) System

by Jesse B. Kovach and Timothy C. Gregory

ARL-TR-6638

September 2013

NOTICES

Disclaimers

The findings in this report are not to be construed as an official Department of the Army position unless so designated by other authorized documents.

Citation of manufacturer's or trade names does not constitute an official endorsement or approval of the use thereof.

Destroy this report when it is no longer needed. Do not return it to the originator.

Army Research Laboratory

Adelphi, MD 20783-1197

ARL-TR-6638**September 2013**

Terra Harvest, EUGS, and Cursor on Target in the Improved Sensor Integration (ISI) System

Jesse B. Kovach and Timothy C. Gregory
Computational and Information Sciences Directorate, ARL

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE			Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188		
Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports (0704-0188), 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number. PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR FORM TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS.					
1. REPORT DATE (DD-MM-YYYY) September 2013		2. REPORT TYPE Final		3. DATES COVERED (From - To) May to September 2013	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Terra Harvest, EUGS, and Cursor on Target in the Improved Sensor Integration (ISI) System			5a. CONTRACT NUMBER		
			5b. GRANT NUMBER		
			5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER		
6. AUTHOR(S) Jesse B. Kovach and Timothy C. Gregory			5d. PROJECT NUMBER R.0008471.2		
			5e. TASK NUMBER		
			5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER		
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) U.S. Army Research Laboratory ATTN: RDRL-CII-B 2800 Powder Mill Road Adelphi, MD 20783-1197			8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER ARL-TR-6638		
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)			10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)		
			11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)		
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES					
14. ABSTRACT The Improved Sensor Integration (ISI) project is an effort to cross-cue various force protection and persistent surveillance systems from unattended ground sensor systems and other data sources. The ISI systems communicate primarily through cursor on target messages. The Terra Harvest controller architecture was adopted to integrate the Applied Research Associates Expendable Unattended Ground Sensor (EUGS) system into the ISI project and provides a potential entry point for other types of unattended sensors. This report describes the architecture used to integrate EUGS into the ISI system by way of Terra Harvest and Cursor on Target, and discusses some of the issues and solutions that were identified during the integration.					
15. SUBJECT TERMS Cursor on Target, CoT, UGS, EUGS, Terra Harvest					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT UU	18. NUMBER OF PAGES 24	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON Jesse B. Kovach
a. REPORT Unclassified	b. ABSTRACT Unclassified	c. THIS PAGE Unclassified			19b. TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include area code) (301) 394-3988

Contents

List of Figures	iv
List of Tables	iv
1. Introduction	1
2. System Architectural Overview	2
3. Terra Harvest Controller Architecture Summary	4
4. EUGS Terra Harvest Integration	5
4.1 EUGS Receiver and Supporting Software	6
4.2 EUGS Terra Harvest Plugin	6
5. EUGS Location Editor Tool	7
5.1 Location Editor	8
5.2 ARLCoordinates.NET Library	8
5.3 Display Conventions	10
6. Terra Harvest Cursor on Target Converter	10
7. Cursor on Target Integration Issues	11
7.1 Type Codes	12
7.2 Time Handling	13
7.3 Height Above Ellipsoid vs. Mean Sea Level	13
8. Conclusions and Next Steps	14
9. References	15
List of Symbols, Abbreviations, and Acronyms	17
Distribution List	18

List of Figures

Figure 1. EUGS ISI architectural overview.	4
Figure 2. EUGS Location Editor tool.	8
Figure 3. Example EUGS location file.	8

List of Tables

Table 1. CoT type mappings.	12
----------------------------------	----

1. Introduction

The Improved Sensor Integration (ISI) project is an effort to cross-cue various force protection and persistent surveillance systems (mostly imagers) from unattended ground sensors (UGSs), including the Expendable Unattended Ground Sensor (EUGS) system from Applied Research Associates (ARA) (1) as well as other data sources. In order to accomplish this, the source sensors must be able to pass target location messages to the destination persistent surveillance systems and the destination systems must be able to parse, interpret, and act upon these messages. Generally, these systems use custom message formats, making interoperability difficult.*

The traditional approach to integrating different sensor systems is to modify each destination system to add support for processing the particular message formats generated by a source system. This “stovepipe” method is often expedient for small integration projects, but does not scale well as the number of systems (and associated translators) increases. As a result, several common architectures and message formats for sensor and situational awareness data exchange have recently emerged. Cursor on Target (CoT) and Terra Harvest are two of these architectures, and a combination of the two was chosen to facilitate integration for the ISI project.

CoT (2) is an extensible markup language (XML) message format and associated (minimalist) communications architecture originally designed by the MITRE Corporation for the Air Force. CoT was designed to be lightweight and easy to implement, and is supported in some fashion by over 100 military systems. CoT messages are exchanged over standard TCP and UDP connections using a straightforward one-message-per-connection protocol often called “Open-Squirt-Close.” Most of the persistent surveillance systems in ISI were already capable of cuing from CoT messages, so CoT was chosen as the message format for integrating persistent surveillance systems into the overall ISI architecture.

Terra Harvest (5) is an emerging UGS system architecture developed by the U.S. Army Research Laboratory (ARL), Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), and the University of Dayton Research Institute (UDRI). Terra Harvest consists of a Java and Open Services Fateway Initiative (OSGi)-based application programming interface (API) for UGS controllers, a standardized common lexicon for UGS observations and commands, and a set of associated wire protocols for sending and receiving these standardized observations and commands (5). Integration with Terra Harvest can be accomplished at the API, wire protocol, or lexicon level. ARL and ARA had previously developed Terra Harvest components for generating CoT messages and interfacing with the

* In the case of UGSs, the use of these custom protocols is often justified due to extreme constraints on power, bandwidth, and other resources.

EUGS system, so Terra Harvest was chosen as the architecture for integrating EUGS (and future UGS systems) into ISI.

Although most of the components and interfaces necessary for the EUGS ISI integration already existed in some form prior to the start of the project, a number of issues were nevertheless encountered during the integration effort, mainly due to differing interpretations of the CoT and Terra Harvest standards. This report provides an architectural overview of the EUGS ISI integration and describes the problems and associated solutions identified during the integration effort.

2. System Architectural Overview

The EUGS ISI integration architecture consists of the following software and hardware components:

- One or more **EUGS sensors**, which detect seismic events and transmit event reports and status messages over a radio link. The EUGS sensors are commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) products from ARA.
- An **EUGS receiver**, which receives transmissions from the EUGS sensors and outputs a line-level audio signal, which connects to a PC sound card. This is a COTS product supplied with the EUGS system.
- The **ReceiverCore software** runs on a PC and decodes the audio signal from the receiver. This is a COTS product supplied with the EUGS system.
- The **THOSE Terra Harvest controller software**, which is a reference implementation of the Terra Harvest controller architecture developed by ARL, UDRI, and DIA. THOSE provides (among other things) an observation store and event handling framework used by the ISI Terra Harvest plugins to store and exchange configuration information and sensor data in a standardized format.
- The **Terra Harvest EUGS plugin**, which runs within the Terra Harvest controller to process messages from the ReceiverCore application and post them to the Terra Harvest observation store. This was originally developed by ARA and updated by ARL.
- The **Terra Harvest CoT Converter Plugin**, which runs within the Terra Harvest controller to retrieve observations from the observation store and convert them to CoT messages. This was preexisting software developed by ARL.

- The **EUGS Location Editor software**, a standalone application for editing the sensor location list used by the EUGS plugin. This was developed by ARL for this project.
- A **CoT message router**, a software application which receives CoT messages from the Terra Harvest CoT Converter as well as other sources and routes them to destinations in a flexible manner. ISI uses a custom CoT router developed by MITRE for this project, details of which are beyond the scope of this report.
- Various **external display and persistent surveillance systems**, which receive CoT messages from the message router and act on them, including the **TerraSight** mapping and video processing system from SRI/Sarnoff[†] (10). Details of these systems are outside the scope of this report.

All of the EUGS integration software components run on a single Windows 7 PC. The interactions and data flow between these components is shown in figure 1.

[†] Despite the similar naming, TerraSight is an independently developed product not related to Terra Harvest.

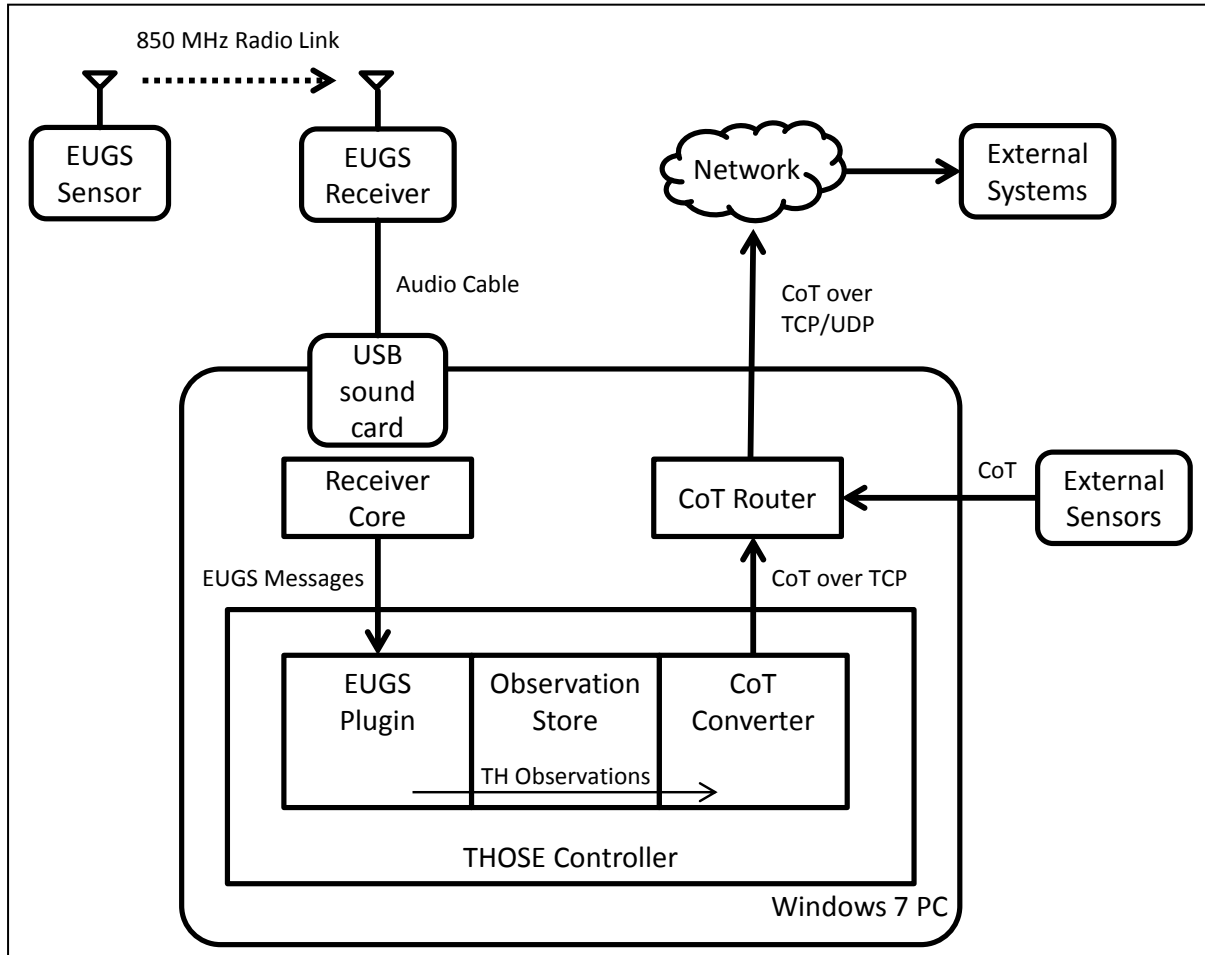


Figure 1. EUGS ISI architectural overview.

3. Terra Harvest Controller Architecture Summary

Terra Harvest is an open architecture for UGS controllers. Terra Harvest defines hardware and software interfaces to support tasks common to all sensors.

An UGS controller functions as a gateway between a sensor and higher level systems. The controller manages sensor configuration, receives and distributes sensor detections, executes sensor commands, and provides communications with other systems. An UGS controller does not provide a display of sensor events or a long-term data store, leaving these tasks to higher level systems.

Terra Harvest software is implemented in Java and based on the OSGi framework, which is an open source module system for Java. The OSGi framework allows functionality to be added,

removed, and updated at runtime without restarting the system. Support for sensors and other desired functionality is added to the system as plugins in the form of Java Bundles. OSGi defines an API for configuration and control of installed bundles. Terra Harvest builds on OSGi to define APIs for UGS-related tasks and provides a Web-based graphical user interface (GUI) to configure the plugins on a controller.

To meet its goal of supporting all sensors, Terra Harvest defines Java interfaces for tasks required by sensors. A list of the supported functions is shown below:

- Defining, configuring, and controlling assets (sensors).
- Custom communications.
- Image capture.
- Event logging.
- Common lexicon for describing events from sensors.
- Collection of events (observations) from sensors.
- Persistence of events and generic data.

Support for an asset (sensor) would be implemented using an asset bundle. An asset bundle must handle all the functions required by the asset such as parsing sensor data, generation of sensor events, activation and deactivation of the asset, and capturing data. An asset bundle must implement the necessary Terra Harvest interfaces to properly interact with the Terra Harvest system.

Events or data from sensors are represented as Terra Harvest Observations. Observations are represented in a common lexicon and stored in a database (the Terra Harvest ObservationStore) that resides locally on the Terra Harvest controller. Data in the ObservationStore are available to other components such as a data exfiltration component, which reformats and distributes them to other systems. For the ISI project, the events are reformatted into CoT messages.

4. EUGS Terra Harvest Integration

The EUGS system (as with most UGS systems) is provided by ARA as a complete solution consisting of sensors, a receiver, and a software application that displays sensor data on a map. To integrate EUGS into the ISI system, the ARA EUGS application was replaced with a set of Terra Harvest components that generate Terra Harvest common lexicon observations from

EUGS events. This section describes the Terra Harvest components used for the EUGS ISI integration.

4.1 EUGS Receiver and Supporting Software

EUGS sensors send four basic message types: activity detections, tamper detections, periodic status messages, and low battery warnings. Each message contains the sensor’s serial number for identification. The sensors do not provide position information. The sensors transmit messages using a custom binary protocol.

ARA produces two versions of the EUGS receiver. The Configuration A receiver demodulates (but does not decode) the sensor transmissions and outputs a line-level audio signal. The receiver is connected to an external computer equipped with an audio input device.[‡] This computer runs an ARA-provided Windows application, ReceiverCore, which decodes the audio signals and outputs the decoded message as XML over a TCP socket connection. The Configuration B receiver contains an embedded processor that decodes the EUGS messages and is equipped with serial and Ethernet connections. The B receiver outputs decoded messages as XML over either the serial port or a TCP socket. Both configurations ultimately use the same (ARA-defined) XML message format. The ISI project required supporting the A receiver.

4.2 EUGS Terra Harvest Plugin

To support a previous demonstration, ARA developed a Terra Harvest plugin to interface with the B receiver. This plugin receives the custom XML messages from the receiver, converts them to Terra Harvest common lexicon observations, and posts the observations to the Terra Harvest observation store. Because the A and B configurations use the same message format, this plugin can be used unmodified with an A receiver if the ReceiverCore application is started manually. To remove this manual step when using the A receiver, ARA developed a new version of the plugin that checks if ReceiverCore was running and starts it, if necessary. The new plugin contains a configuration option to enable or disable this feature so that it can be used with either receiver configuration.

During initial testing, we discovered that ReceiverCore sometimes “hangs” and stops producing data. As a workaround, ARA added an additional check to the plugin to kill and restart ReceiverCore if no messages were received within a defined time interval.

EUGS sensors do not provide position information, so sensor locations must be manually surveyed and entered by the user. The EUGS kit includes a Garmin GPSMap 60Cx handheld global positioning system (GPS) receiver for surveying sensor locations. When emplacing sensors, the user records (or calls in) the locations of the sensors for later entry into the sensor processing system. The standard ARA EUGS display application provides a GUI for entering

[‡] ARA recommends a Creative Labs Sound Blaster X-Fi Go! Pro.

this information, but this software is not used as part of Terra Harvest. The original version of the EUGS plugin stored sensor locations as a single, concatenated, comma-delimited string in OSGi configuration admin. This sufficed for demonstration purposes and allowed the sensor locations to be set by OSGi-aware configuration tools such as the Terra Harvest GUI, but was too cumbersome for operational use. For the ISI project, ARL modified the EUGS plugin to read the location list from an external text file and developed a GUI tool (described in section 5) that allows a user to easily edit the location list. Strictly speaking, this method is not Terra Harvest compliant due to the reliance on an external configuration file that is not visible to standard Terra Harvest configuration tools. Ideally, the location list editor functionality would be made available within the Terra Harvest framework, but the short project schedule did not allow for this development effort.

ARL made some additional modifications to the EUGS plugin in order to streamline setup of the ISI system. The generic default configuration options for the plugin were changed to the values needed for ISI, eliminating several manual steps from the configuration process. An option was added to record signal-to-noise ratio data to an external log file for use when setting up the receiver. Finally, an option was added to maintain a history of sensor tamper warnings and report the tamper status as part of periodic sensor status observations in addition to individual tamper detection observations. This option was added to provide more flexibility in early integration, but was not used in the final configuration.

5. EUGS Location Editor Tool

The EUGS Terra Harvest plugin reads sensor location information (latitude, longitude, and altitude) from a comma-delimited text file. For initial development and testing, this file was edited by hand. However, for operational use, we developed a simple GUI to allow users to easily edit the file and to enter sensor locations using three commonly used coordinate systems. Figure 2 shows a screenshot of the EUGSLocationEditor tool, and figure 3 shows an example location list file generated by the tool.

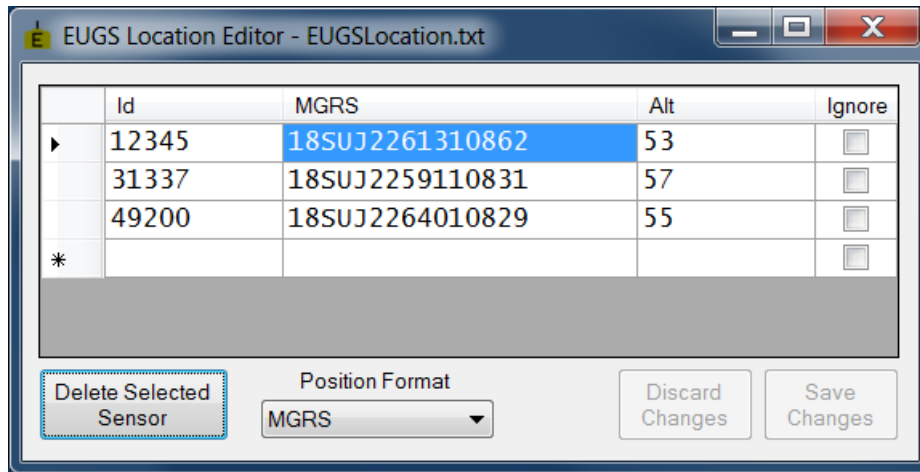


Figure 2. EUGS Location Editor tool.

```

12345,38.928760,-77.046400,53,false
31337,38.928480,-77.046650,57,false
49200,38.928470,-77.046080,55,false

```

Figure 3. Example EUGS location file.

5.1 Location Editor

The location editor was developed in Microsoft Visual Studio 2010 using .NET Framework 2.0 and uses a standard Windows Forms DataGridView control to edit the sensor list. The application allows the user to view and enter sensor locations using decimal degrees, Military Grid Reference System (MGRS), and Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) coordinate formats. Internally, all coordinates are stored as decimal degrees and converted to/from MGRS or UTM as necessary for display and data entry. The DataGridView contains columns for latitude, longitude, MGRS, and UTM, which are shown and hidden as appropriate when the user changes between position display formats using the drop-down list. Buttons allow the user to delete the currently selected sensor, save changes, or discard all changes since the last save.

5.2 ARLCoordinates.NET Library

Conversion between coordinate systems is handled using the ARLCoordinates.NET library. This library has its origins in a 1994-vintage C library obtained from the Army Corps of Engineers Topographic Engineering Center (TEC), now known as the Army Geospatial Center. For previous projects, ARL ported the TEC code to C# and wrapped it in a set of C# classes. During

testing of the EUGSLocationEditor application, a number of issues were identified in these wrapper classes. No issues were identified in the ported TEC code itself.

The most prominent issue involved handling of UTM coordinates in the southern hemisphere. UTM (9) coordinates are expressed as a zone number, hemisphere, easting, and northing. The zone number corresponds to a 6° longitude band. Easting is expressed in meters, with the central meridian of the zone assigned an arbitrary value of 500,000. For example, a position 5 m west of the central meridian of a zone has an easting of 499,995. Northing is also expressed in meters, but is defined differently for the northern and southern hemispheres. For coordinates in the northern hemisphere, the northing is simply the distance north of the equator in meters. For coordinates in the southern hemisphere, the equator is assigned an arbitrary value of 10,000,000 m (this avoids negative northings.) For example, a location 5 m south of the equator has a northing of 9,999,995.

The UTM processing functions in the TEC code use negative numbers for northing to indicate that a coordinate is in the southern hemisphere. For example, the library represents a position 5 m south of the equator using a northing of -9,999,995. The wrapper classes did not check and correct for this, which resulted in nonsensical UTM coordinates being displayed for southern hemisphere locations. ARL refactored the wrapper classes to use positive numbers for both northern and southern hemisphere northings and to indicate hemisphere using a separate flag. The appropriate conversions to/from negative numbers are made when passing values to/from the TEC code.

An additional issue was discovered involving MGRS coordinates in the polar regions. MGRS is based on UTM for locations between 84° N and 80° S, but uses Universal Polar Stereographic (UPS) for the polar regions. As a result, the TEC code has separate routines for handling coordinates in the polar regions, and the wrapper classes contained a special case for calling these routines when necessary. However, the TEC code returned values in radians, which were not being properly converted to degrees by the wrapper classes, resulting in incorrect results. The wrapper code was fixed to add these conversions where necessary.

These issues illustrate the importance of testing software using a wide range of inputs that ensure that all possible code paths are exercised. In the case of the coordinate library, this means testing with coordinates in all four quadrants of the globe (northwest, northeast, southwest, and southeast), the northern and southern polar regions, as well as extremes such as (0,0) and (90,180). We believe that the ARLCoordinates.NET library, being primarily used for prototypes and demonstrations until this point, had never been tested with locations outside the continental United States. The lack of testing allowed these issues to persist in the library for several years before being identified.

5.3 Display Conventions

There are two commonly used conventions for indicating the hemisphere when writing UTM coordinates. The first is to write the letter “N” (indicating north) or “S” (indicating south) after the zone number, while the second is to write the MGRS latitude band designator after the zone number. Since “N” and “S” are both valid MGRS latitude band designators located in the northern hemisphere, interpretation of coordinates is ambiguous if the convention used when writing the coordinates is not known. For example, 18S 322591 4310831 is in the southern hemisphere with the N/S convention and in the northern hemisphere with the latitude-band convention. The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) (9) states that guidance on selection of a convention is forthcoming, but has not yet been issued. TerraSight uses the N/S convention, while the Garmin GPSMap 60Cx included with the EUGS kit uses the latitude-band convention. The EUGSLocationEditor allows the user to select either convention. To avoid any possibility of ambiguity, we recommend using either MGRS or lat/lon instead of UTM.

There are also two differing conventions for writing MGRS coordinates, although the differences are cosmetic and do not involve any ambiguities in coordinate interpretation. Some NGA publications (8) along with TerraSight place spaces between the square identifier, easting, and northing, displaying coordinates in the format 18SUJ 22591 10831. Field Manual 3-25.26 (7) and ArcGIS omit the spaces, displaying coordinates in the format 18SUJ2259110831. For consistency with the field manual (which represents official Army doctrine), EUGSLocationEditor uses the latter convention for display purposes. However, the application accepts either convention for data entry.

6. Terra Harvest Cursor on Target Converter

The Terra Harvest CoT converter plugin retrieves Terra Harvest observations from the observation store service as they are posted, converts the observations to CoT messages, and sends the CoT messages to a CoT server. The plugin consists of two components: Java code that interfaces with the observation store and CoT server and an XSLT stylesheet that does the actual message format conversion.

The Java portion of the CoT converter uses the OSGi event admin service to receive notifications from the Terra Harvest controller when new observations have been posted to the store. The plugin then retrieves the observations, uses Java Architecture for XML Binding (JAXB) serialization to convert the observation to XML, and performs some initial cleanup on the resulting XML. The XML data are then passed to the standard Java Extensible Stylesheet Language Transformations (XSLT) processor for conversion to CoT. The output of the XSLT processor is then sent to the CoT server using a TCP or UDP socket connection.

The XSLT portion of the CoT converter performs the actual format translation, converting the Terra Harvest common lexicon XML observation to a CoT message. The XSLT stylesheet handles the mapping between common lexicon observation fields and the corresponding CoT message fields. The stylesheet also contains lookup tables for mapping common lexicon observation types to CoT event types. It also contains constant definitions used by the message conversion, such as the time offset used to set the CoT stale time. The CoT converter plugin loads this stylesheet at runtime and automatically reloads it when the file is changed on disk. This allows type mappings, constant definitions, and other aspects of the conversion to be tweaked at runtime without needing to recompile and redeploy code. This facilitated rapid integration with the various CoT consumers used within the ISI system.

The CoT converter was preexisting software developed for other projects and later incorporated into ISI. The use of XSLT for the conversion was initially experimental, intended to evaluate the tradeoffs of an XSLT approach compared to the hard-coded message translators written by ARL for previous projects. We have found the XSLT approach is “good enough” for most applications and have successfully employed it for previous demonstrations as well as this effort, but it does have a few limitations and rough edges. The most significant limitation is that the XSLT processor and stylesheet can only operate on data contained in the input observation XML and cannot interact with other parts of the system to obtain information. (This can be partially worked around by passing additional data as parameters to the XSLT processor, but this requires modifications to Java code and cannot be added to or changed at runtime.) Additionally, the processor and stylesheet cannot maintain persistent state between messages and can produce one and only one output CoT message for each input observation. While this is not an issue for EUGS due to the relatively simple observations it generates, it could potentially be an issue for more complicated observations that do not map cleanly to CoT messages.

Additionally, XSLT 1.0 does not provide built-in functions for manipulating dates and times.[§] As a result, a significant portion of the XSLT stylesheet consists of code for doing basic date manipulation. This code was originally obtained from reference 12 and heavily modified by ARL to fix issues and add additional features.

7. Cursor on Target Integration Issues

CoT is a very flexible and extensible data format. This flexibility facilitates rapid integration, but it can also create issues with differing interpretations of messages, partial or incomplete

[§] XSLT 2.0 contains date manipulation support; however, it is not supported by the built-in Java XSLT processor and requires third-party libraries. For multiple reasons, including portability, licensing, and ease of deployment, we did not want to introduce dependencies on these third-party libraries and are therefore limited to XSLT 1.0.

implementations, and nonstandard extensions.** In effect, no two systems implement CoT in exactly the same way. This section describes some of the CoT integration issues we encountered during the ISI project and the solutions or workarounds we identified for these issues.

7.1 Type Codes

The biggest issue that we encountered during integration was with systems that did not support the bits hierarchy of the CoT type tree. CoT *bits* represent raw data items such as sensor detections, in contrast with CoT *atoms*, which describe actual “things” on the battlefield or elsewhere (11). The original CoT converter code used atom types for sensor status messages and bit types for detections. The TerraSight system displays the status atoms correctly, but the system does not recognize the bit types and displays a MIL-STD-2525C (3) “unknown” symbol instead. This does not provide sufficient detail to the user. To work around this, the XSLT stylesheet was modified to send atoms types for all events, essentially overloading the CoT affiliation field to indicate the type of message being sent. The old and new type mappings are shown in table 1.

Table 1. CoT type mappings.

EUGS Message	Original CoT Type	Modified CoT Type
Status	a-f-G-E-S-E (Emplaced sensor, friendly affiliation)	unchanged
Low Battery	not implemented	a-u-G-E-S-E (Emplaced sensor, unknown affiliation)
Detection	b-d-s (Seismic Detection)	a-h-G-E-S-E (Emplaced sensor, hostile affiliation)
Tamper	b-l-o-tam (Tamper Alarm)	a-s-G-E-S-E (Emplaced sensor, suspect affiliation)

These type codes result in tripped sensors temporarily changing from blue to red on the TerraSight map display, visually indicating trip status. However, this overloading of the CoT affiliation is incorrect, as the type code now describes *a sensor that belongs to the enemy*, as opposed to the correct description of *an activity report from a sensor that belongs to us*. The same issue is present with the red sensor symbol on the map—according to MIL-STD-2525C, this symbol indicates an enemy sensor, not a detection. Ideally, the map display should be modified to accept the correct type codes and display them appropriately, preventing the need for this incorrect use of the affiliation field.

** We are guilty of most of these offenses ourselves and make no claims regarding the correctness of our CoT implementation.

7.2 Time Handling

Every CoT message contains three timestamps—*time*, *start*, and *stale*. The CoT specification (4) defines *time* as “a timestamp indicating when an event was generated,” *start* as “the starting time of the event's validity interval,” and *stale* as “the ending time of the event's validity interval.” Most display systems use the *stale* time to indicate when an event symbol should be removed from the display.

The CoT converter sets *time* to the current system time at the gateway when the CoT message is generated, *start* to the time at which the original sensor event occurred, and *stale* to the current system time plus a configurable interval (longer for status messages, shorter for detection messages.)^{††} If a Terra Harvest observation is passed through several processing or exfiltration stages between generation and CoT conversion, the values of *start* and *time* may differ significantly. In previous projects, we have encountered issues with systems that reject messages or throw warnings on messages of this nature. This was not an issue for Terra Harvest in the ISI configuration, as there are no additional processing stages between observation generation and CoT conversion. However, during testing of other ISI data-producing systems, the testers noted that TerraSight fails to display an event when the values of *start* and *time* differ by more than a minute. Some modifications to these other producers were necessary to work around this.

7.3 Height Above Ellipsoid vs. Mean Sea Level

CoT messages specify altitude as height above ellipsoid (HAE), specifically, the height in meters above the WGS84 reference ellipsoid (4). This is the altitude value calculated and used internally within GPS. However, many systems (including some GPS devices) display altitudes referenced to mean sea level (MSL).^{‡‡} A detailed discussion of the differences between the two is beyond the scope of this report; however, the two values can differ by up to 100 m depending on location. When handling altitude data in CoT it is important to ensure that HAE values are being used. Applications that display and use MSL altitude data need to convert these values to HAE when including them in CoT messages. This is further complicated by systems and devices that do not make clear which type of value is being displayed, and in the case of MSL, the specific datum being used (WGS84, EGM96, EGM2008, various local datums, etc.)

The EUGSLocationEditor, EUGS plugin, and Terra Harvest all use HAE for altitude. It is the responsibility of the user to convert values to HAE before entry into EUGSLocationEditor.

^{††} This behavior is arguably incorrect, as the time of event generation could be considered to be the time at which the sensor tripped, as opposed to the time when the message arrived at the gateway and was converted to CoT. Some of the core CoT developers have stated that “start” should not be earlier than “time.” We have had further discussions with the CoT developers regarding this, but no definitive conclusions have been reached.

^{‡‡} The serial interface on NMEA-0183 compliant GPS receivers provides altitude as MSL, but also provides the geoidal separation at the current location, which can be used to convert the MSL altitude to HAE. However, the display screen on the GPS receiver generally does not show the geoidal separation and may not specify whether the displayed altitude is HAE or MSL. For example, the user manual for the Garmin 60Cx states that altitude (or elevation) is displayed as MSL. However, a support article on the Garmin Web site implies the altitude is displayed as HAE. We did not attempt to determine which is correct.

8. Conclusions and Next Steps

While Terra Harvest has been incorporated into the overall ISI architecture, currently it is only being used to incorporate EUGS sensors. Other sensors are integrated either directly with CoT or using preexisting proprietary integration strategies. Terra Harvest provides an ideal entry point for sensor integration in future iterations of ISI and should be used for new development when appropriate. Additionally, existing proprietary integration methods should be replaced with direct Terra Harvest or CoT integration, where possible.

The ISI effort revealed a number of weaknesses related to sensor location setting in Terra Harvest and THOSE. There are existing functions in THOSE that allow a user to set a single position for an instance of an asset plugin. However, a single instance of the EUGS plugin manages a single *receiver* connected to multiple sensors and needs to set a different position for each sensor. (Other UGS systems employ similar architectures and will have this need as well.) Terra Harvest does not provide a practical built-in method for doing this, necessitating the use of an external application. This function should be added to future versions of Terra Harvest and THOSE.

Additionally, future versions of sensor location entry tools, whether external or integrated into Terra Harvest, should provide the ability to enter altitudes as MSL in addition to HAE. As this conversion is quite complicated, a third-party library such as GeographicLib (6) will likely be required.

9. References

1. Applied Research Associates. E-UGS Expendable Unattended Ground Sensors. <http://www.ara.com/products/documents/EUGSBroch.pdf> (accessed Aug 22, 2013).
2. Butler, Mike. *The Developer's Guide to Cursor on Target*. The MITRE Corporation: Bedford, MA, August 2005.
3. *Department of Defense Interface Standard: Common Warfighting Symbolology*; MIL-STD-2525C; Department of Defense: Washington, DC, November 2008.
4. event.xsd, v2.0 (part of the CoT distribution.) The MITRE Corporation, 2003.
5. Humeniuk, D.; Klawon, K. Terra Harvest Software Architecture. *Proc. SPIE 8389, Ground/Air Multisensor Interoperability, Integration, and Networking for Persistent ISR III*, Baltimore, MD, April 23, 2012; Pham, T., ed.; SPIE: Bellingham, WA, 2012; 83890M.
6. Karney, C. GeographicLib. <http://geographiclib.sourceforge.net/> (accessed Aug 22, 2013).
7. *Map Reading and Land Navigation*; Field Manual 3-25.26; Headquarters, Department of the Army: Washington, DC, 2005.
8. NGA. Military Map Reading 201. <http://earth-info.nga.mil/GandG/coordsys/mmr201.pdf> (accessed Aug 23, 2013).
9. NGA Coordinate Systems Analysis Team. Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM), the Military Grid Reference System (MGRS), and the Universal Polar Stereographic (UPS). http://earth-info.nga.mil/GandG/coordsys/grids/universal_grid_system.html (accessed Aug 22, 2013).
10. SRI International Sarnoff. TerraSight Product Guide. http://www.sri.com/sites/default/files/brochures/sri_terrasight-product-guide_0.pdf (accessed Aug 27, 2013).
11. types.txt, v1.57 (part of the CoT distribution.) The MITRE Corporation, 2010.
12. XSLT 1.0 dateTime manipulation. <http://soajagat.blogspot.com/2009/06/xpath-10-datetime-nightmares.html> (accessed 2012).

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.

List of Symbols, Abbreviations, and Acronyms

API	Application Programming Interface
ARA	Applied Research Associates
ARL	U.S. Army Research Laboratory
CoT	Cursor on Target
COTS	commercial-off-the-shelf
DIA	Defense Intelligence Agency
EUGS	Expendable Unattended Ground Sensors (a specific product, not a generic term)
GUI	graphical user interface
GPS	global positioning system
HAE	height above ellipsoid
ISI	Improved Sensor Integration
JAXB	Java Architecture for XML Binding
MGRS	Military Grid Reference System
MSL	mean sea level
NGA	National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
OSGi	Open Services Gateway Initiative
TEC	Topographic Engineering Center
UDRI	University of Dayton Research Institute
UGS	unattended ground sensor
UPS	Universal Polar Stereographic
UTM	Universal Transverse Mercator
XML	extensible markup language
XSLT	Extensible Stylesheet Language Transformations

<u>NO. OF COPIES</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
1 (PDF)	DEFENSE TECH INFO CTR ATTN DTIC OCA (PDF)
1 (PDF)	GOVT PRINTG OFC A MALHOTRA
1 (PDF)	ARA ATTN D KIM
1 (PDF)	CERDEC NVESD ATTN B J AYCOCK
1 (PDF)	DIA ATTN R HEATHCOCK
3 (PDFS)	UNIV OF DAYTON RSRCH INST ATTN D HUMENIUK ATTN K RIGGIN ATTN N MARCUCCI
9 (PDFS)	US ARMY RSRCH LAB ATTN RDRL CII B T GREGORY
4 (HCS)	ATTN RDRL CII B BROOME ATTN RDRL CII B J KOVACH (1 PDF, 4 COPIES) ATTN RDRL CII B L SADLER ATTN RDRL SES A G STOLOVY ATTN RDRL SES A J HOUSER ATTN RDRL SES A T WALKER ATTN IMAL HRA MAIL & RECORDS MGMT ATTN RDRL CIO LL TECHL LIB