

The Aircrew Life Support Management System (ALSMS)

Thanks for the opportunity to set the record straight as to who is the "Author of ALSMS". Many will lay claim to my program, but it is my baby. I am the one who introduced the Life Support Career Field to "Automation".

I created this program back in 1984. It was during this time that the Air Force was being introduced into the computer age. I started designing my program using the then fabulous database "Condor" (smile.) At this time I was a member of the 136th Airlift Wing, Texas Air National Guard. CMSgt Bill Brown from Martinsburg, VA. was my Command Chief at the bureau? In April 1985 I was attending the Small Computer Course at McGhee Tyson in TN. where I solicited the aid of the instructor, then Capt. Michael Gross from the Delaware ANG, to come to Texas and help me write the tutorial for my program. Once we had finished that I submitted the program to the Guard Bureau for consideration.

From there my program was given to Active Duty Computer specialist for enhancements. I was never asked to be a part of this endeavor!

Nonetheless, I placed the benefit of my program to the career field over my own personal feelings. Now since this time all of the "ole heads" have retired and moved on, and now many of the new guys are laying claim to my program.

The first Concept design utilizing Condor Software was in the 1984 - 1985 time frame. Next, the program was converted to DB II. It was then

upgraded to BD III with a FoxBASE Compiler and eventually evolved into what we have today.

I am extremely grateful to you for allowing me this chance to set the record straight.

Thanks,

Robert Reeves, Jr.

*Please read the e-mails below for further details
on the origin of ALSMS*

From: GMauel@aol.com
To: tombob@shawneelink.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2005 10:44 AM
Subject: Life Support ALSMS program

Tommy,
I saw your request for information on the ALSMS program and Dave Cramer on the ALS web site and I would like to provide the following insight.

As you certainly know, Dave Cramer was the Life Support Chief for the Air National Guard in the mid 80's stationed at the ANG Readiness Center at Andrews AFB, MD. During his tenure he pushed through the funding that gave each of the ANG life support shops their first computers and issued a request to each of the ANG Life Support shops for any ideas on automated programs they might be tinkering with. During a Life Support conference, Dave organized the presentation of a couple of those prototype programs for the community to review. Several "sections" or ideas for components came from EACH of the offerings that were presented at that conference and were used as the foundation for what became the ALSMS program for the Guard. Truly a group effort. During that time I was the Life Support Superintendent for the 170th AREFG, at McGuire AFB, NJ (ANG) and made frequent trips to Andrews and Scott AFB to work on the project while the Air Guard tried to come up with a viable program. Version 1.1 of the ALSMS program was written in March 1985. Subsequent versions continued to be refined until the rollout to Guard units in 1988. At the Guard Bureau the program did indeed start out

written in DB2, was compiled with a program called "Clipper" and passed through DBase III, DBase IIIPlus and DBase IV before ending up as a FoxBase Pro program. During the workup phase of the project, we did indeed use active duty programmer support from Scott AFB. A SrA Rick ??? came to Andrews and McGuire several times while working on the project. We also had help from a Sgt ??? Booher? who was working Life Support for the ANG unit in Souix City, Iowa. The last versions I remember having anything to do with was v4.0 or maybe v5.0 which consisted of some minor refinements on the Supply module made while I was working the Life Support cell for Chief Cramer at the ANG Readiness Center during Desert Shield/Storm. After my Desert Storm activation, I returned to my unit in July 1991 and left the Guard in August of 1991. I've always been curious as to how that program turned out and wondered if it was ever adopted for use Air Force wide. Thank you for allowing me to shed some more light on the past.

Sincerely,
Gregg Mauel

Bob,

I kept copies of all the source code we used throughout the entire project cycle so it shouldn't be too hard to figure who did what. Since last week I've looked back over a lot of it and all of what I have goes to the ALSMS version as put together under the guidance of Dave Cramer at NGB. While I did some of the programming, most of my involvement centered around putting together the pieces and coordinating the work that was being done in-house at the Guard Bureau and at HQ MAC by the active duty programmer, SrA Rick Hansen. I spent a LOT of time TDY to Andrews working on various phases of the project and was TDY to Scott AFB twice while we ironed out some of the kinks. I don't want nor do I deserve the credit for inventing the program, I was merely the project manager that helped get things rolled out to the Guard units. I do however feel that a fair share of the credit should go to Dave Cramer. He pushed through the funding that got the Guard Life Support shops their own computers and got a bunch of guys with great ideas together in one room so we could put together the working concept. After Dave, credit should indeed go to the Guard Life Support shops that did their fair share from providing initial ideas and concepts to working with the "beta" versions of a work in progress. Truly, a GROUP effort.

Thanks for taking the time to hear my version of the events.

Sincerely,

Gregg Mauel

(I was the Superintendent at the 170th AREFG/NJANG at McGuire AFB, NJ)

You might also know me as the gatekeeper of the early versions of NYTELINE email/message program that we used for Life Support Shops.

-----Original Message-----

From: GMauel@aol.com [<mailto:GMauel@aol.com>]

Sent: Monday, March 14, 2005 1:33 PM

To: robert.reevesjr@l-3com.com

Subject: Life Support ALSMS project

Robert,

Bob Mcelwain from the ALS web site asked me to drop you a line regarding the old ALSMS program that was developed by the Guard. He's trying to figure out who developed the first version of the program that is used today. I read your comments on the Life Support web site and agree with most of what you said. I too attended that conference where Dave Cramer brought together each of the various programs that were in the works...including yours. I've emailed Bob Mcelwain the following info to offer what I remember, hoping to clarify the matter. If it's any consolation, the Guard was never happy with much of the work that the Active duty programmer did. It always came back to refinements made by Guard guys. BTW I have copies of all that old DBII and DBIII stuff if you'd be interested in seeing it again. It's actually kind of amusing to see what we thought was "State of the Art".

Gregg,

Hello, I remember you very well as a matter of fact you and I conversed extensively concerning my program. I took my program to Cramer and he took it and started getting you guys together to refine the program and add some touches to it that at my level I was unable to do since I was not a computer "GEEK". I remember all of the personnel who

worked on it as well. I agree it has been a tedious process even up to now. My "First Version "was written in "Condor" utilizing the then famous Z-100 computer. Then it was brought to the table for Active Duty personnel to enhance. The only problem was that by the time the active duty was making head-way, they would rotate out and another person would take over and start all over again.

Anyway, if you have the DB2 and DB3 versions you will see that the fields are almost identical to the fields used in my old Condor version. MSG lighter has done a remarkable job keeping the program vital.

Thanks for your input...

NOTE: Both parties agreed that several computer programs or database files were used to manage life support equipment maintenance and that Dave Cramer brought everyone together to create one program. They also agreed that the program used today is a derivative of Robert Reed's efforts?

Bob McElwain