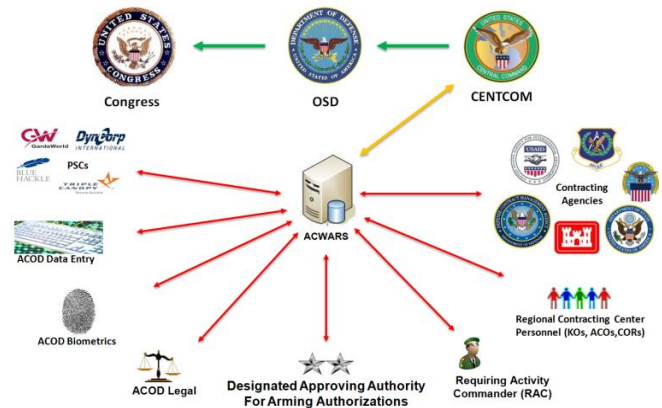


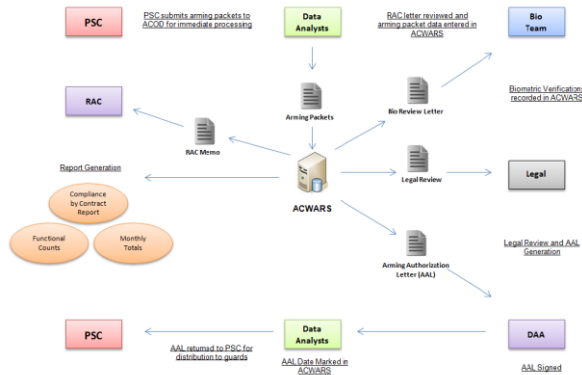
The Armed Contractor Oversight Directorate (ACOD) in Kabul, Afghanistan processes between 1,500 and 3,000 requests per month to authorize arming of contractor employees and DoD Civilians in Afghanistan. The ACOD mission is to improve accountability and performance for Private Security Companies (PSC) and for the approximately 20,000+ armed civilians and contractors operating in the Combined Joint Operations Area – Afghanistan. The approval process for arming civilians and contractors is set out in detail in U.S. law, the Code of Federal Regulations, and in USCENTCOM and USFOR-A orders. ACOD released the Armed Civilian Web-enabled Accountability & Reporting System © (ACWARS) in September 2012 which will be used throughout the CJOA-A to help in ACOD’s Title X mission of armed civilian oversight.

ACWARS is important for DoD because of the applicability of a new federal law, part 159 to Chapter 32 of the Federal Code of Regulations, to all government agencies using public funds for contractor-provided security functions. This new law led to the publication of DoDI 3020.50, PSCs Operating in Contingency Operations, Humanitarian or Peace Operations, or Other Military Operations or Exercises, which states that all geographic COCOMs must have procedures for “registering, processing, accounting for, and keeping appropriate records of PSCs and PSC personnel”. ACWARS greatly helps facilitate this requirement via a web-based platform.

## ACWARS Operational View



## The Arming Authorization Process

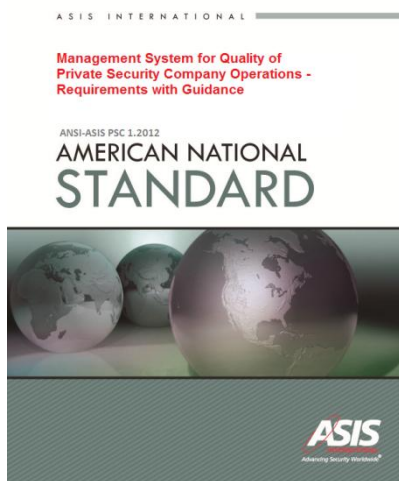


The need for ACWARS came about due to the complex nature of the arming authorization process. PSCs and Agencies had to compile voluminous amounts of paperwork from several sources and physically deliver or mail these binders of paperwork every month to ACOD for processing. Arming letters were created and stored in various online folders with no way of simply accounting for who was authorized and for what weapon. ACOD recognized that this process would make it extremely difficult to meet the Congressional mandate of maintaining records for 3 years as the paperwork could not be stored and cataloged easily. With ACWARS online and fully functional, arming packet paperwork and its relevant data can be stored electronically by ACOD allowing for a searchable data store of arming packets and arming packet information.

Prior to the deployment of ACWARS, ACOD struggled with the process for tracking the arming of contractors and civilians and were unable to accurately account for and report compliance to CENTCOM and OSD. The process was a de-centralized one by which ACOD had to track unsorted paperwork from PSCs and government agencies for their civilians to be authorized. ACOD lacked a solid database system that could accurately be used to track all armed personnel and reconcile any errors in data entry. Furthermore, agencies were unable to collaborate with ACOD as there was no way for them to access ACOD’s essential arming data. This prior system of scattered spreadsheets of data and unsorted arming paperwork was insufficient to support this high visibility mission. The mission for DoD to maintain oversight of PSCs will gain further complexity as the focus will increase on PSCs per new standards and regulations. The ACWARS capability currently provides DoD a true starting point for this oversight.

In 2012, the American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS) released ANSI/ASIS PSC.1-2012: Management System for Quality of Private Security Company Operations. ASIS describes this important standard as follows:

*“This Standard builds on the Montreux Document and the International Code of Conduct (ICoC) for Private Security Service Providers to provide requirements and guidance for a management system with auditable criteria for Quality of Private Security Company Operations, consistent with respect for human rights, legal obligations and good practices related to operations of private security service provider companies in conditions where governance and the rule of law have been undermined by conflict or disaster. It provides auditable requirements based on the Plan-Do-Check-Act model for third-party certification of private security service providers working for any client.”*



Requirements with guidance conformance to the ANSI PSC 1.2012 standard is now required in all U.S. Department of Defense contracts for private security functions, as well as those contracted through the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office. DoDI 3020.50 will incorporate new changes to require conformance to this new standard and changes to the DFARS will follow that will then lead to the incorporation of the standard into all DoD contracts for private security functions. Standards for independent audit and certification to these standards are expected to follow. ACWARS provides a sound base for which the provisions of this new standard can be built upon. As new requirements are put together in DoDI 3020.50 the ACWARS operational view will change dramatically requiring more capability for managing data about PSCs and their personnel. Through continued research and development and incremental change, ACWARS will track all data required by the DoD per this new standard, ensuring that this system for quality of PSCs is documented and measured.

The hiring of armed civilians is not likely to end in the foreseeable future. Proper oversight of armed civilians will further be enforced through DoD policy and contractual obligations. ACWARS will be the key to managing oversight compliance as it allows for each party involved in the processing of the arming authorization to quickly and easily to perform their duties. Through its simple web-based interface, external government agencies will also be able to use and update arming compliance data. With the help of ACWARS and Tkacz Engineering LLC, ACOD has moved into the digital age where PSC information is now submitted to ACOD using secure DoD file transfer methods and then organized properly in ACWARS. ACWARS also provides metrics on all work performed in this process, making it easy for decision makers to measure progress at ACOD.

Tkacz Engineering LLC is a small business incorporated and headquartered in Columbia, MD that provides specialized software development services to the Department of Defense with a consolidated focus on the warfighter. We provide a different type of implementation for solving the problems of the warfighter. When looking at the battlefield, we see the bigger picture. Tkacz Engineering LLC works with the people on the ground to get a better perception of the needs of the warfighter without a myopic view of the situation. We provide services for software engineering, database engineering, information assurance (DoD Certification and Accreditation), knowledge and information management, training, and software program management. For more information on us please visit our website at <http://www.tkaczengineering.com>.