

# AUDS: A New Era in Military Data Integration

## *Army Global Domain*

**Article, photo and graphic by Candy C. Knight**  
*2nd Theater Signal Brigade*

The 2nd Theater Signal Brigade (TSB) is making significant strides in enhancing its data management capabilities by adopting the Army Unified Directory Services (AUDS). This groundbreaking initiative aims to streamline information sharing, improve operational efficiency and bolster cybersecurity across military installations.

“We have taken on the early adoption to demonstrate our commitment to U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command’s Continuous Improvement Activities Board initiatives,” said Ray Chase, director, Communication and IT Support, 2nd TSB. “Our initiative demonstrates the ability to lead the European Theatre toward the Army’s cloud-driven future.”

### **What is AUDS?**

“AUDS is the Army Global Domain that allows the ability to move throughout the globe without communications disruption seamlessly and having to re-establish domain accounts,” Chase said. “This environment will foster zero-trust/cloud security, allowing for a more secure environment.”

AUDS is a central repository designed to unify various directory services previously scattered across different Army branches and systems. AUDS seamlessly integrates with existing Army applications and systems, ensuring smooth communication and data exchange across platforms. This interoperability facilitates a more cohesive operational environment, enhancing overall effectiveness of the Army.

Furthermore, the brigade’s Communication and IT Support Directorate is working with the Regional Cyber Center-Europe and battalions to collect emerging problems and lessons learned for the AUDS project manager.

“By encouraging our brigade and battalions to migrate, their experiences help the AUDS team identify problems and provide a way forward to help create a seamless transition to the rest of the users across the European Theatre,” Chase said. “Also, we

are sharing our lessons learned with the brigade’s Operations Directorate, who are engaging our theatre partners to help set them up for migration success with a dedicated FAQ site.”

### **Key Features and Benefits**

By creating a unified directory, the Army is able to ensure that all personnel will have access to accurate and up-to-date information, enabling them to make informed decisions and collaborate more effectively.

“AUDS is an improvement to the current system because it gives users flexibility, allowing them to deploy anywhere in the world and remain connected to their devices without any problems,” said Staff Sgt. Ricardo Cabrera Murphy, NCOIC, Communication and IT Support, 2nd TSB.

Furthermore, integrating cybersecurity protocols within AUDS helps protect sensitive personnel data. The system employs advanced encryption and access control measures to safeguard against unauthorized access.

### **User Experience**

One key feature of AUDS is its user-friendly interface. This ensures that users can quickly locate the information they need.

“The AUDS system has proven to be notably faster and more efficient, and the upgrade to Windows 11 has been a major improvement, with far fewer bugs



*Ray Chase, lead communications and information technology specialist, discusses AUDS migration progress with Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Watts, systems operations NCO, March 25, at USAG Wiesbaden, Germany. Both gentlemen are with 2nd TSB. (Photo by Candy C. Knight)*

and issues than we experienced previously,” said William Houser, program manager, Geographic Combatant Commander Communication Team-Europe. “Along with the new features, I’ve noticed that AUDS has reduced the risk of compatibility issues, improved network performance, and reduced the downtime for upgrades.”

Nevertheless, some users experienced growing pains during their initial AUDS migration.

“My AUDS migration took about one and a half workdays,” said Christine Straus, International Relations advisor, 2nd TSB. “There was a glitch with downloading an application. I called our S6 team, and a team member immediately came to my office and fixed the issue.”

In some instances, certain software and applications are not immediately accessible once a user migrates to AUDS. Users are encouraged to submit their issues to the Global Cyber Center.

“If the GCC doesn’t know about these one-off situations, they can’t provide a solution,” Chase said.

The GCC reviews and approves all allowed software. Once approved, the software and application are made available on demand. The Army Enterprise Service Desk-Europe also supports users experiencing issues during their initial migration, ensuring a smooth transition to AUDS.

### **Operational Impact**

Implementing AUDS is expected to have far-reaching effects on organizational efficiency and on mission execution. Commanders and personnel will benefit from real-time access to pertinent information, reducing the time spent searching for essential data. Moreover, AUDS supports the Army’s broader digital transformation strategy, aligning with initiatives to leverage technology to enhance military readiness and effectiveness.

As the Army increasingly relies on data-driven decision-making, reliable and accessible information becomes paramount.



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### **Challenges and Future Outlook**

Although the launch of AUDS promises numerous benefits, the Army must navigate challenges such as ensuring data accuracy and managing the integration of various legacy systems. Ongoing training will equip personnel with the know-how to effectively utilize the new system. As the Army continues to enhance its technology infrastructure, the AUDS stands as a testament to its commitment to modernizing military operations. With its potential to revolutionize data management and operational efficiency, AUDS’ role is critical in the Army’s future mission success.

“AUDS represents a significant step forward in the Army’s data integration and cybersecurity approach,” Chase said. “As it becomes fully operational, its impact on the effectiveness and efficiency of Army operations will likely be profound, reinforcing the Army’s readiness to meet current and future challenges.”

