

URSUS



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Overview

URSUS: is a responsive web application designed to return time back to Commanders and Airmen that is lost during the Deployment Process. This Airmen driven initiative utilizes agile software development to deliver a transformational solution focused on how we manage Individual Protective Equipment (IPE). URSUS is currently being developed as a Tesseract, AF/A4L pathfinder project through partnerships with Air Force Research Lab (AFRL).

History

- July 2019 - JBER Innovation Initiative
- Briefed at LOA 2019; A4 Log Think Tank
- Adopted by HAF/A4L Logistics Innovation | Tesseract: Jan 2020
- July 2020 - AF/A4L invested \$300K to develop MVP Investment
 - Agile DevSecOps approach, user-centric design emphasis
- MVP tested during JBER's EX POLAR FORCE 21-5; 29 Mar - 2 Apr (Check out the article [here](#))

- Demonstrated MVP delivery 2+ months early!
- April 2021 - Second place in COMPACAF's Innovation Competition; awarded \$417K
- May 2021 - ARCWERX invested \$150K
- July 2021 - AFRL invested \$799K in FY22/23

Current State

- URSUS v1.5/1.6 Kickoff occurred on 6 Aug 2021
 - Multi-Tenant and Feature Refinement
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Roadmap

Phase 1

- Multi-tenancy application structure; P1 approved Sep 2021
- MVP Refinement and Enhancements
- CAC Authentication & Digital Signatures
- Delivery & Return Functionality

Phase 2

- Additional Beta Locations
- Expanded Readiness Data Collection & Analysis
- Service-wide Readiness Indicators

Phase 3

- Authority to Operate (ATO); Access on NIPR
 - Ability to link to Current Legacy Systems
 - Secures DoD Enterprise Compliance
 - Transition to ILSS for future development and sustainment
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URSUS FAQs

▼ Q: So ... what is URSUS?

URSUS will deliver a digital storefront for ordering, replacing, and returning Individual Protective Equipment during peacetime and contingency ops. The initiative focuses heavily on user centered

design to create an intuitive and smooth experience for all customers.

▼ **Q: Does the field want this?**

Yes! We have many MAJCOMs and installations requesting URSUS today! We're even on the joint radar as the Army is interested in how this could translate for the Central Issue Facility.

▼ MAJCOM's: PACAF, AFSOC, AFGSC, NGB | Numbered AF: 11 AF

▼ Installations: JBER, Charleston, Hurlburt, Spangdahlem, Hill, Andrews, Kadena, Eglin, Scott, Tennessee ANG, Ohio ANG, XVIII Airborne Corps (Fort Bragg)

▼ **Q: Is URSUS replacing ILSS?**

No, ILSS is the system of record. URSUS is designed to enhance the ILSS IPE management module.

▼ **Q: Does URSUS eliminate the need to be seen in-person?**

No, but with a caveat. Airmen will still need to have an initial sizing accomplished to ensure Airmen Profiles are built with accurate sizing data. For new Airmen, this could be accomplished at first base in-processing or part of their unit in-processing checklist. All other Airmen would need to be sized prior to their data being uploaded as their installation/units are established within URSUS. Data would need to be validated periodically ... this would be policy driven.

▼ **Q: Will my profile transfer when I PCS?**

Yes! Users will be removed from host organizations and placed into transit status. The new organization will then have the ability gain them. Profiles will automatically update.

▼ **Q: Does URSUS work on AF Network?**

Not at the moment, but we're working on it! AFRL has funded \$799K for version 2.0 which will deliver the Certificate to Field/Authority to Operate (ATO).

▼ **Q: Can I experiment with the MVP at my base?**

Not at this time. The MVP is undergoing significant enhancements with versions 1.5/1.6.

▼ **Q: Does URSUS have designated experiment locations?**

Yes. The current experiment locations are Charleston, Hurlburt, and JBER. Additionally locations will be onboarded as scaling allows. If interested, please submit a request through our information portal [here](#)

▼ **Q: When will URSUS be available AF-wide?**

Great question, challenging to answer. The development team is working diligently to deliver a field ready product as quickly as possible. We're building the software out, working on our ATO, and

defining how we're going to scale. One known fact is that we will not put out a minimally functional product that doesn't deliver on our promise to return time. Stay tuned!

▼ **Q: Can I receive a demo or briefing on URSUS?**

The demo database is currently under construction with v1.5/1.6 in development. In the interim, we can share a short video that demonstrates URSUS. Please submit your request [here](#).

▼ **Q: How do I provide input?**

Please submit a feature suggestion or feedback [here](#). We love hearing ideas and recommendations on how we can make URSUS even better!

▼ **Q: How is URSUS funded?**

This Airmen led initiative has multiple investors: AF/A4L, PACAF, ARCWERX, and AFRL. To date, \$1.66M has been invested.

▼ **Q: What policy changes are you making?**

We expect URSUS to drive some policy changes. These are currently under review with Tesseract and the applicable/impacted CFMs.

▼ **Q: How are you developing URSUS?**

Industry standard DevSecOps! User centered design approach through agile development and deployment.

▼ **Q: I have an idea, how to I create something like URSUS?**

First, thanks for thinking through how we currently do business and finding an opportunity to better our Air Force. Second, reach out to your local leadership and get them onboard. Utilize your installation Spark Cell if you have one. Third, engage a Tesseract LNO or Core Cadre to further discuss your idea. Fourth, if you're really passionate about your idea, don't give up on it. It won't be easy and no one is going to do the hard work for you. Always remember it's difficult being a disruptive for good.

- ▼ Recommend: watch Brene Brown "man in the arena" speech on YouTube.
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[URSUS One-Pager_Sep21.pdf](#)