

SAMS II

Richard Woolley, APPI, Inc.

Richard Gazda, APPI, Inc.

Manuel Rangel, APPI, Inc.

Technology has made vast advances in recent years, often moving so quickly that scientists and other users are unable to acquire the equipment and tools needed to keep their meteorological monitoring efforts up-to-date and state-of-the-art. The United States Army's Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation (RDT&E) community has been faced with these same obstacles. Meteorological monitoring equipment purchased in the early 1980's are all but obsolete.

The requirements and expectations placed on Army-based meteorological teams have increased dramatically, while at the same time the number of meteorologists and support staff has been drastically reduced. The Surface Automated Meteorological System (SAMS) that was introduced in the early 1980's is no longer capable of providing dependable and timely information to today's downsized RDT&E.

SAMS II replaces the HP-1000 computer used in the original SAMS with a state-of-the-art Local Area Network (LAN) that distributes processing, quality control, database management, analysis, and interpretation activities to four or more computer workstations. Using a distributed network and off-the-shelf computer applications allows meteorological technicians more time to analyze and interpret data; time previously spent on the tedious tasks of using specialized computers to collect, transmit, and process meteorological data. SAMS II also allows the meteorological teams to stay current with the rapidly changing technologies by using upgradable computer applications and hardware.

SAMS II is a state-of-the-art computer system that is easy to use, easy to upgrade, and inexpensive to maintain. It gives the meteorological personnel greater latitude in analyzing, interpreting, and reporting meteorological data to their customers.