**Case Study Exploration: U.S. Army Software System Safety Process, Case Study and Success Stories**

Baby Vennela Kothakonda (101178783)

Software Engineering Management (CSC-770)

Dakota State University

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# **US Army software system safety process, Case study, and Success stories**

# **Introduction:** The following case report is a comprehensive study of the US Army software system's safety processes. The case study digs into the software safety techniques the US Army employs the standards being followed and so forth. With a special focus on the AMD systems, the safety compliance of the organization and the objectives of the follow-up are some of the key issues that are focussed upon in the current case report. Discussion extended, for incorporation of the software safety techniques, along with the challenges raised in the patriot AMD system development. The significance of Level of Rigor(LOR) tasks, the regulation and standardization aspects discussion along with the role of the joint services- Software Safety Authorities(JS-SSA) is discussed. Also, there is a discussion on future improvements as well as the success stories and the high lights of the same are discussed.

**Incorporation of the software safety Techniques:** The US Army at the outset, recognizes the software as a critical and crucial component of the military units of the contemporary era**.** The need for a more enhanced software system and safety processes is the key driver in making this decision to recognize the criticality and the crucially of the military unit here. MIL-STD-882E emphasized the importance of the safety protocol follow-up in ensuring the software aligns with the safety practices. The ultimate objective of these measures rests in enhancing the reliance and the security of the systems used in military applications. The case of Patriot Air and Missile Defence(AMD) systems does work for exemplification of the application of the software safety guidance as well as the techniques for the current requirements. More importantly, the demonstration of the effectiveness of the safety systems is discussed here in this context and provisions are identified to enhance the safety levels for risk reduction or elimination for the soldiers in combat and in support activities.

**Challenges perceived in Patriot AMD system Development:** The most important challenge that the AMD system development process has faced is the challenge of software safety. The more important concern here is the failure to demonstrate integrity in maintaining the complexity interweaving of the subsystems as well as the components in the set-up. Most important examples include the potential hazard during the maintenance operations, possible unexpected/unintentional launcher movement, and soldier safety breaching unexpected software challenges.

**Significance of the Level of Rigor(LOR) Tasks:** The most important Level of Rigor(LOR) of the tasks is outlined in the NIL-STD-882E, which is a pivotal aspect that can work for mitigating the software-related risk in the safety assurance in the control and hazard severity maintenance. Tailoring each of the safety criteria of the software by the system requirements would be possible to contribute to the system safety by the software control operations. LOR tasks will ensure that the hazards are addressed adequately, and so overall dependence on the system will be intact(Fernard,2020).

**Regulation and standardization:** By the Army regulations(AR) as well as MIL-STD=-882 RE regulations, the software safety practices in the US Army are well regulated and a diversity of guidelines and standards are indicated to protect the integrity of the operations in assessing as well as in managing the risks that are related to the software applications. The JS-SSA, the joint services - software safety authorities. Provided a set of instructions for implementation guidance, which is necessary for fostering compliance with the safety protocols as well as to ensure consistency in all the defense initiatives along with comprehensive compliance.

**The role of the joint services – Software Safety Authorities(JS-SSA)**: The alignment of the safety programs and their compliance with the MIL-STD-882E provisions will be taken care of by the JS-SSA. It will also ensure knowledge sharing as well as collaboration among the concerned parties in this context. Efficient implementation of the safety programs across all the defense systems will be taken care of by the JS-SSA.

**Patriot System's Software Safety Process and the evolution:** The patriot system's software safety has evolved with the collective efforts through the recommendations made by the Software Safety Technical Review panela and by accepting the funding from LTPO. Each of these efforts collectively worked to contribute towards improving the safety mechanism operations and minimizing the possible hazards of safety. The transition of PDB-8 to PDB-8.1 has emphasized and endorsed this change(Fernard,2020).

**Prioritization strategies and the lessons learned:** There are numerous lessons learned in the context of experiences such as the urgent material release(UMR) process. This process will emphasize the importance and prioritization of software safety measures. They are mainly targeted to meet the operational needs and will work on managing the risk effectively. Further, the safety strategies here include expediting the critical hazard risks and also will aim to ensure timely fielding of the capabilities, the risk level will be monitored and will be maintained at an acceptable level through these prioritization strategies, it is part of the lessons learned in this context.

**Success stories and the highlights:** One of the key success stories from the patriot case study is the study and involvement of the redesign of the components for reducing safety hazards. More significantly, the explication of the best practice as outlined in the MIL-STD-882 E is discussed comprehensively and is followed here. War Fighter Machine Interface (WMI) in PDB-8.1 illustrated how good the software improvement can be made and how it can enhance the operator efficiency, without actually compromising the safety critical systems These are landmark success stories in this context.

**Scope for future improvements:** With the insights gained here in this context, the patriot case study, provides the direction for future growth. More importantly, the integration of the firmware safety considerations is made here in the discussion. A comprehensive consideration of the hazard analysis discussion over the new functionalities, and continuous refinement of the safety protocols are some of the issues of concern and details the adaptation and how moving ahead in these aspects in the future makes up some of the key considerations to the evolving threats and operational requirements as well.

# **Conclusion:**

As a whole, the entire case study of the patriot system is underscoring the importance of the robust safety in place in the context of the software safety compliance requirements. Further, the degree of dependence and the security reliance of the software systems is said to have integrated with the safety regulations follow-up and using every safety protocol identified and addressed in this context. Collaboration, leveraging the possible collective competency advantage taking, and improving the safety practices are some of the key practices that the US Army is employing while committing to enhance the safety and reliability of the software-intensive defense systems in general.

# **References**

Fernald, D. G. (2020, January). US Army Software System Safety Process, Case-Study, and Success Stories. In *2020 Annual Reliability and Maintainability Symposium (RAMS)* (pp. 1-6). IEEE. <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/abstract/document/9153623/>