Bagram – Area 82

The Story So Far…..

Introduction

- ████████████ (GREMIO ASI PM)

- Technical delivery by IT Services with help from C&W

- This is a summary of how we got there, including:
  - 2 winters (neither really happened)
  - 5+ external partners
  - 1 minefield with added bomb and
  - 1 toilet block

Why did we build this facility?

✳ GCOs wanted access to RT-RG

✳ RT-RG was based at Bagram Airfield and effective access required:

- ◆ Single satellite hop connectivity
- ◆ Requiring A new in theatre network
- ◆ Requiring In-theatre peering with NSA

RT-RG: REAL-TIME REGIONAL GATEWAY

Bagram Airbase, Afghanistan - AF1

Where we started

* Container based solution at Souter
* Fit a peering point into 1 container (5 racks)
* Try to link this all to RT-RG at Bagram
* Winter was approaching and there was a risk of bad weather / frozen ground.
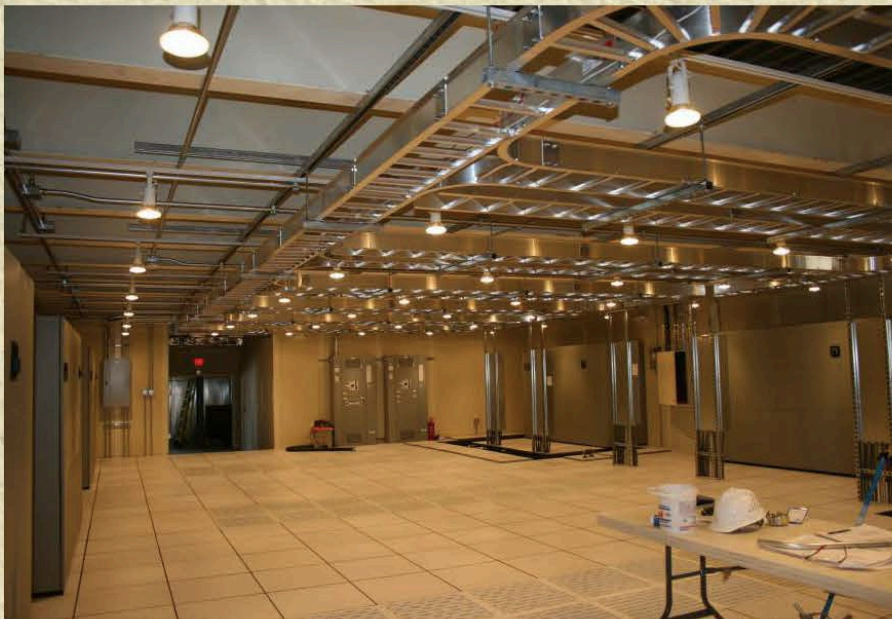
Area-82 was still just a good idea

Then came the Minefield

- Space available on Area 82 – if we don't mind it being in a minefield.
- Oh, and by the way – there is a 500lb unexploded bomb in the middle of it…..
- Souter not an option
- Area-82 becoming a building site
- Still in containers

02/23/2009

Then came the data centre move

- RT-RG moving into new data centre so our plans delayed once more

- Space available for our racks and plans to clear the minefield are drawn up

Area-82 was also changing fast

SECRET

"The Minefield is Cleared"

* All we needed was a volunteer to go check out this rumour

02/24/2008

Then the other guests turned up

- First the AROCC build started
- Then RED RIDGE appeared in the antenna field
- Then Liberty…..
- Then NRO…..
- Then NGA…..
- Then USAF….
- Let the party begin.
  - Who pays?
  - How do we design the layout?
  - Any more partners? Have we enough power?
  - Winter was approaching again – along with the risk.
  - Do we want temporary space on top of the toilets?

Another Survey is needed

02/24/2008

But the Bagram Hilton is overbooked that night…

Progress was being made

2009/11/25

We finally have our very own hole!!

Quite Quickly by this point…

2009/12/03

Which soon started to look like something we could use

23 June 2010 SECRET

Finally the Build Begins

Afghan technology is deployed to complete the ground works

No Expense is Spared

Only the best equipment is used

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Meanwhile, back with ITServices

2009/11/20

We managed to get our hands on a plane!!

SECRET

Somewhere is Sunny Afghanistan

2010/02/08

Not quite the 46° that had been promised
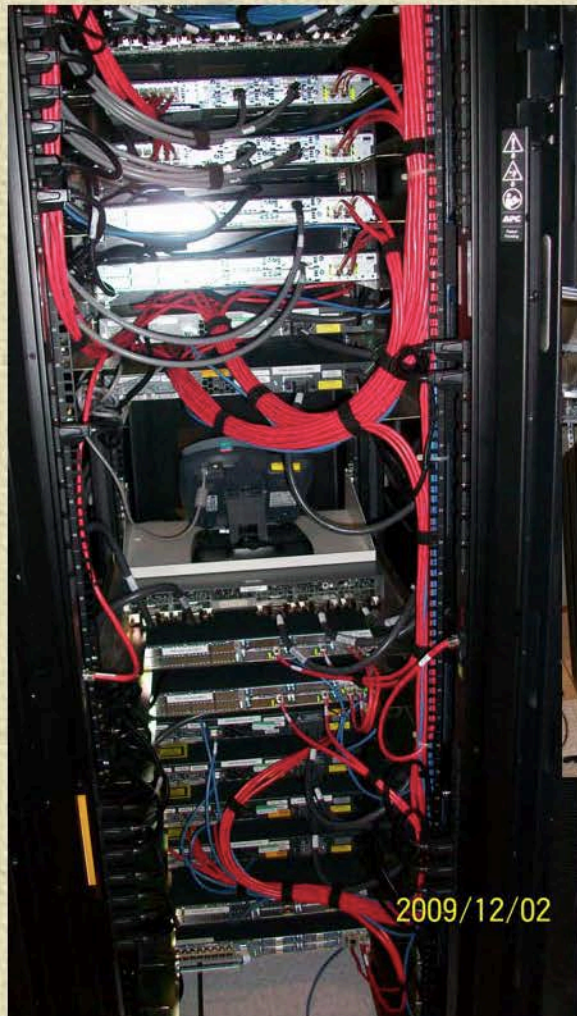
23 June 2010

C&W were building the Dishes

2010/01/28

One man and his power tools ☺

Whilst in a warm(er) data centre

All those wires needed putting back in the right place

And finally it all came together

2010/02/10

A well earned photo opportunity for the team

23 June 2010

RT-RG Deploys

* Same 5 rack solution that we started with 18 months earlier

* 3/ 4 spoke sites configured at IOC

* Final desktop issues resolved and so far the deployment has been a big success.

Area 82 today

Very different from when we started 18 months ago