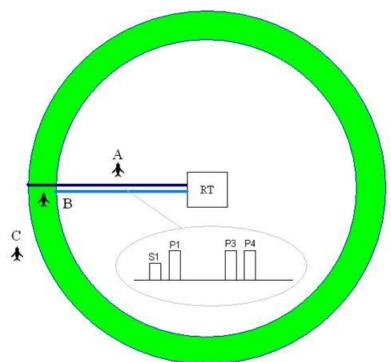
Oneida County WAM Whisper/Shout Setup

The Whisper / Shout configuration only applies to adapted RTs. Whisper / Shout refers to an interrogation technique that was initially designed for use with the Traffic Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) that is now required on all commercial aircraft. The MLAT system uses the Whisper / Shout technique to interrogation ATCRBS targets. Since ROs do not transmit interrogations, this configuration does not apply to ROs. The Whisper / Shout technique is used to limit the number of targets that respond to each transmitted ATCRBS interrogation. Each Whisper / Shout step is an ATCRBS interrogation.

The Whisper / Shout parameters consists of three things: the number of interrogation steps, the power level of the interrogation pulses (P1, P3, and P4), and the power of the suppression pulse (S1). Each step can use its own interrogation and suppression pulse power level. The complete set of steps is executed each time the RT in question is commanded to perform an ATCRBS (or W/S) interrogation.

ATCRBS interrogations use a simple encoding technique based on the amount of elapsed time between the first and second pulses detected by the target. Normally the P1 and P3 pulses are separated by 8 or 21 microseconds (to elicit Mode A and Mode C responses respectively). If a second pulse is detected with 2 microseconds of the first pulse, the target's transponder does not respond at all. This is called being "suppressed". The MLAT system, by transmitting a suppression pulse (S1) at a lower power level 2 microseconds before the first interrogation pulse (P1), can effectively limit the number of targets that respond to individual interrogations. In the figure below, a single Whisper / Shout step is depicted. In this case, the interrogation pulses (P1, P3, and P4) are strong enough to reach the outer edge of the green ring (shown by the dark blue line). The suppression pulse (S1), which uses slightly less power, is only detected as far away as the inside of the green ring (shown by the light blue line). This step results in only those targets inside the green ring responding. Target A detects the interrogation pulse, but also detects the suppression pulse. Target C is too far away, and does not detect either pulse. Only Target B detects the interrogation pulses and does not detect the suppression pulse. Only Target B responds to this interrogation step. Note the P4 pulse is only used to suppress Mode S transponders from responding to W/S interrogations. ATCRBS transponders do not process the P4 pulse.

The goal of a Whisper / Shout configuration is to shift the power levels so that sufficient responses are elicited from all of the targets of interest.



Whisper Shout Interrogation & Suppression Power Levels

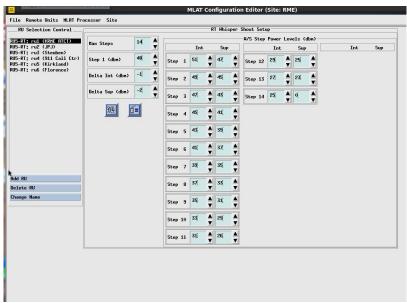


Figure 1Whisper/Shout Setup

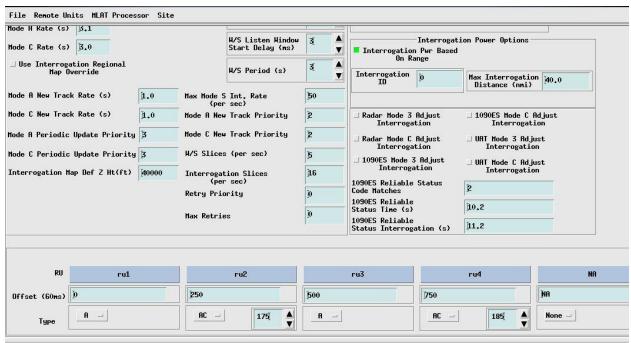


Figure 2 Schedule 1

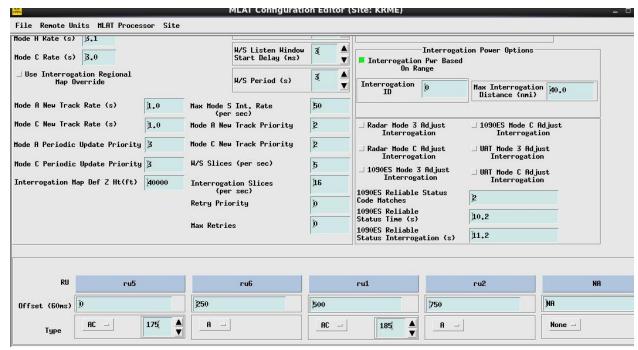


Figure 3 Schedule 2

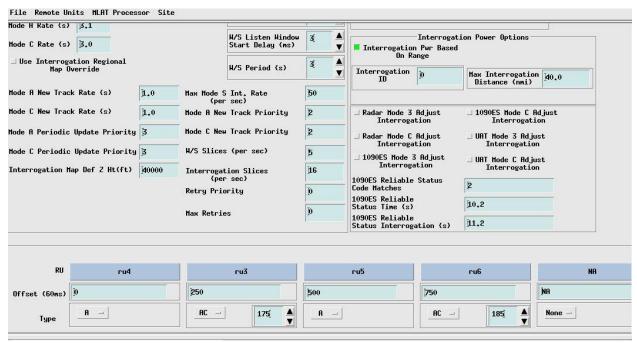


Figure 4 Schedule 3