

DEAMS

Current Account

DOD authorizes DEAMS to proceed

*By Cathy Segal
DEAMS Strategic Communications*

The Defense Enterprise Accounting and Management System took another step toward incremental fielding to the Air Force when the Department of Defense's Milestone Decision Authority approved the program's business case and acquisition program baseline. It also released the acquisition decision memorandum approving entrance into the next program phase.

Elizabeth A. McGrath, DOD's Deputy Chief Management Officer, signed the DEAMS Increment 1 Milestone B Acquisition Decision Memorandum on Feb. 3. The document finalizes the approval to enter the Engineering Development Phase of the acquisition lifecycle, authorizes funding to the amount certified by the Defense Business System Management Committee, and specifies the level of approval on requests for proposals and DEAMS deployments. A list of requirements for a Milestone C decision was also attached.

"This is the approval we have been waiting for," said Randy Newcome, Air Force functional manager for DEAMS. "Once we meet a few more prerequisites we will be ready to begin our rollout. The entire DEAMS team is really excited about implementing the system that will help the Air Force meet congressional and DOD goals to be audit ready by 2017."

DEAMS is being deployed across the Air Force in a series of releases under two increments through 2016. It is already operational at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., which began using the system in 2010 as a technology demonstration.

Part of the Milestone B decision calls for a successful operational assessment before DEAMS deploys beyond Scott. The assessment will begin in April; the next rollout, at McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., is scheduled for October. The remaining bases under Air Mobility Command will follow McConnell beginning in 2013. Deployments will continue by major command in future releases.

U.S. Transportation Command, headquartered at Scott Air Force Base, which partnered with the Air Force and Defense Finance and Accounting Service to implement DEAMS, also uses DEAMS. Its Army component is on the schedule for a future release.

Scott E. Olgeaty, Deputy Director of Enterprise Financial Systems, Business and Enterprise Systems at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, said, "These are great times for the DEAMS program, as we are the first Air Force Enterprise Resource Planning program to achieve a successful Milestone B decision. Now that we have the well-earned credibility with the Office of the Secretary of Defense and authority to proceed, I look forward to working as a team to maintain OSD confidence levels and begin our transition to the next phase of the program."

Tracy Tynan, also from the DCMO office, acknowledged the program's potential. "This is a huge step forward for the program and places USTRANSCOM and the Air Force well on the road to greater financial management capability and 2017 DOD auditability goals," he said.

McConnell to use legacy with DEAMS

Dual processing is temporary until transactional data is converted

By Cathy Segal

DEAMS Strategic Communications

Financial managers at McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., may be at the second Air Force installation to use the Defense Enterprise Accounting and Management System, but they will also perform a first. When DEAMS is implemented there in October, they will be the first users to conduct dual processing — using legacy systems and DEAMS to process financial transactions until all of their legacy data can be converted to DEAMS.

The decision to use a dual processing approach at McConnell was based largely on the lessons learned from deploying at Scott Air Force Base, Ill. In addition, to meet Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta's goal of achieving partial audit readiness across the Department of Defense by 2014 and Congress' mandate to be auditable by 2017, a more aggressive approach is necessary.

Traditionally, data conversion takes place before DEAMS goes live to users at each site.

"This is a complex, multi-step process to translate legacy data into the DEAMS format," said Randy Newcome, Air Force Functional Manager for DEAMS. "Scott Air Force Base was the first base to use DEAMS, so no one else was using the system when we converted their data, which required more than 1,000 individual steps. We will have a live database at McConnell, so we have to revise and test a new process. We really can't wait for that to happen before we proceed to McConnell. We don't really need to convert data to get DEAMS out to the users, so we should proceed with a less risky strategy in line with the secretary's goals. Processing financial transactions in both legacy and modernized systems at the same base is a temporary measure until we can convert the rest of the data," he added.

For full implementation of DEAMS' capabilities, master data and transactional data is converted from the legacy systems into the format used by DEAMS. For dual processing, only master data will be converted. Master data elements include projects and tasks, organizations, employees, approval groups, and the Standard Financial Information Structure. Generally, transactional data affects a unit's fund status while master data does not.

"With few exceptions, under dual processing, the McConnell contracts and transactions that exist in the legacy systems when they start using DEAMS will remain in the legacy environment for now," Newcome said. "Transactions entered after go-live will be processed in DEAMS. Once the data conversion process is ready, we will go back and convert McConnell's remaining transactional data and their access to the legacy systems will be curtailed."

Newcome pointed out that there may be some exceptions where new transactions remain in legacy, such as supply, while some old transactions, such as purchase card transactions, may be converted to DEAMS.

"Admittedly, this is going to be a bit of a challenge for users since they will have to monitor projects in legacy systems and DEAMS until the data conversion is complete," Newcome said. "We will address this in a desktop guide and training aids for the users."

DEAMS is being deployed across the Air Force in a series of releases under two increments through 2016. The rest of the AMC bases will follow McConnell in 2013. Deployments will occur by major command in future releases.

Serial processing entails using legacy systems to process open records and using DEAMS to process new financial transactions until all legacy data can be converted to DEAMS.

Mielke, Eckert nab local ASMC awards

Russ Mielke (top left) and Stephanie Eckert (bottom left) earned achievement awards from the Land of Lincoln Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers. Mielke earned the 2011 Financial Systems Achievement Award while Eckert claimed the 2011 Contractor Support Achievement Award, Major Command Level or Higher. Mielke is U.S. Transportation Command's Functional Manager for DEAMS; Eckert, who works for CACI, is a functional analyst on the DEAMS Program Control team. Nancy-Jeanne Rosenberg, DEAMS Functional Manager for the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, presented them both with congratulatory letters signed by the ASMC chapter president, during an all-hands meeting on Feb. 13. The awards will be formally presented during the local ASMC luncheon in March. Their nominations will be forwarded to compete for the national-level ASMC award in their respective categories.



DEAMS Transitions

Arriving

David Spencer
Emtec, Inc.
Sustainment

Departing

Scott Till
Emtec, Inc.
Sustainment

DEAMS performance team earns award

The DEAMS Performance Team from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, earned Engineering Team honors in the 2011 Business and Enterprise Systems Engineering & Management Awards.

The team consists of Robert Appelbaum, James Barker, Capt. Blake Bradford, Jeanette Byorick, Tyler Chronaberry, Michael Feitshans, Lisa Fitzgerald, Brad Gates, Thomas Green, Joel Guggenheimer, Edward Horan, Gregory Jergens, Raj Jesudhasan, Kevin Kotas, Kevin Lance, Robert Leach, John Lewis, Richard Maas, Thomas Mittelkamp, Jacqueline Murray, Marcia

Quotable

"Auditability is a goal that every commander, every manager, and every functional specialist must understand and embrace to improve efficiency and accountability at the DOD."



DOD photo

Leon Panetta
Secretary of Defense

"We need to transition to a modern financial system that is audit compliant, and getting DEAMS fully functional and deployed is our solution."



USAF photo

Dr. Jamie Morin
Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management and Comptroller

Norflee, David Parker, Harry Polk, Tami Rice, Lesley Rose, Mario Sagaria, Timothy Schroeder, Gary Scheer, Lorena Skinner, Russ Temple, Edward Tompkins, Germaine Valentine, and Marvin Walker.

DEAMS Outreach

Do you have an upcoming event?
Regional conference? Mini-PDI?

DEAMS speakers are available to update your group on the status of DEAMS.

*DEAMS will be on display at the American Society of Military Comptrollers' Professional Development Institute, May 30-31, in Anaheim, Calif.

Contact the DEAMS Functional Management Office at (618) 622-5700 or via email at ustc-deams@ustranscom.mil.

Visit the DEAMS public website at <http://www.transcom.mil/deams>

Questions about Web content may be addressed by email to:
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