

# DEAMS

## *Current Account*



## ***FMO moving to Wright-Patterson AFB***

*By Dave Thurston*  
*DEAMS Strategic Communications*

**FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS, Ill.** – Air Force and Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials announced Jan. 11 that the Functional Management Office for the Defense Enterprise Accounting and Management System, currently operating near Scott Air Force Base, Ill., will relocate to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, by Sept. 30. The move will collocate the FMO with the Air Force Financial Systems Office, which manages operational Air Force financial management systems. The DEAMS Program Management Office is also located on base.

The announcement was made here during a meeting with FMO government employees by Michael Sorrento, Chief Information Officer for the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management and Comptroller; and Pam Franceschi, from DFAS Enterprise Solutions and Standards, and the Director of Systems.

Sorrento explained that having the FMO at Wright-Patterson will improve communication and coordination between the FMO, PMO and AFFSO as DEAMS begins to deploy throughout the Air Force.

DEAMS was initiated in 2003 as a joint effort between the U.S. Transportation Command, the Air Force and DFAS. The purpose of the program is to field an accounting system that is auditable and compliant with United States Standard General Ledger standards.

Headquarters USTRANSCOM, located at Scott Air Force Base, was the initial lead agent for the program. The strategy from its inception was to field a successful technology demonstration at Scott and then transfer lead agent responsibilities to the Air Force. According to Sorrento, the time is right for the Air Force to assume responsibility for the program as the technology demonstration nears completion and the Air Force begins providing the majority of the funding.

The move affects 10 Air Force civilian positions, which will transfer to Wright-Patterson, and 10 DFAS positions. DFAS employees who currently travel as needed to the FMO will travel to the new location. Approximately 60 contractors employed by six companies supporting the FMO are also affected. Details regarding their contracts have yet to be determined.

# Acquisition board approves DEAMS for next phase

*By Cathy Segal*

*DEAMS Strategic Communications*

The Defense Acquisition Board on Jan. 10 approved the Defense Enterprise Accounting and Management System's entry into the engineering and manufacturing development phase, otherwise known in acquisition terms as Milestone B.

The DAB is the Defense Department's senior-level forum for advising the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics on critical decisions concerning acquisition programs. Chaired by the Milestone Decision Authority, the DAB is responsible for deciding whether a program meets the milestone criteria and may proceed to the next phase of the acquisition process.

Col. Brian Parker, Director of the Enterprise Financial Systems Division, Electronic Systems Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, announced the decision to dozens of members of the DEAMS functional and program management offices during a conference call shortly after the decision was announced.

"This is a great day for the DEAMS team and the Air Force," Parker said. "Now that we have approval to proceed we need to focus on executing the strategy and providing this much-needed capability to the user on time, on cost, and with the expected performance."

"This was a great team effort," Russ Mielke, DEAMS functional manager for U.S. Transportation Command, said after the call. "We, the functional management office,

program management office, our partners in the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, and our end users have worked very hard to get this far and look forward to deploying DEAMS throughout the Air Force and USTRANSCOM. This decision is the catalyst we need to move us forward."

Brig. Gen. Craig Olson, Program Executive Officer for Business and Enterprise Systems, and Director of the Enterprise Information Systems Directorate, Maxwell Air Force Base-Gunter Annex, Ala., said that the positive outcome of the board "captured well the incredible shared journey" of a multi-disciplined team of FMO, DFAS and PMO individuals.

"Central to the success of that journey were the relationships built between members of the team as they learned to trust and depend on each other's expertise," Olson said. "Yes, the team went through many trials, but their shared perseverance led to the successful execution of the program that built the confidence needed for a successful DAB. I truly applaud the skills and character of the DEAMS team and congratulate them for reaching this milestone."

The Milestone B decision enables DEAMS to execute the acquisition strategy following system stabilization at Scott AFB in April 2012. Once a successful operational assessment is accomplished, the DEAMS capability will be deployed throughout the Air Force with an ultimate goal of meeting Congressional requirements for a fully auditable system by 2017.

# SATAF, base start pre-deployment tasks

By Cathy Segal

DEAMS Strategic Communications

Several members of the Defense Enterprise Accounting and Management System's Site Activation Task Force visited McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., Jan. 9-10 to meet with the host wing commander, unit comptrollers, resource advisors and other active-duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve points of contact that will help pave the way for the new financial management system.

DEAMS is scheduled to deploy at McConnell later this year.

In addition to meeting face to face with the people that will be directly involved

with the deployment, the purpose of the visit was to explain the deployment process and begin pre-deployment activities. Preparations include forming a site-level Change Management Advocacy Board to execute and evaluate the process, and appointing DEAMS Organization Liaisons – unit points of contact that are the users' first level of assistance. These groups and individuals will help McConnell through the major activities of individual data collection and role mapping, just-in-time training and deployment.

According to Lawrence Watson, government lead for DEAMS Deployment, Change Management and Training,

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U.S Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Maurice Hodges

**Dave Speicher, right, DEAMS site lead for the McConnell deployment, discusses plans with base representatives and other SATAF members during a meeting at McConnell Jan. 10. McConnell will be the second Air Force base to implement DEAMS.**

designated base points of contact will participate in weekly teleconferences with the SATAF to plan activities and discuss progress.

“The first thing most users will see is a pre-deployment Change Readiness Survey that will measure any potential resistance to the change,” Watson said. “That will help us adapt our communications, training and other deployment activities to their levels of acceptance.”

Watson said that following the survey, which will be distributed later this month, the SATAF will return to McConnell to finalize preparations for registering users for DEAMS accounts and to conduct a Change Management workshop with unit points of contact and liaisons. The workshop will include a town hall-style meeting with users to describe what DEAMS is and does, conduct a live demonstration of DEAMS, and answer questions from the audience. Users will begin registering for DEAMS accounts after unit liaisons have been instructed in how to collect the data.

During user data collection and registration, users identify what DEAMS responsibilities they will need to perform their jobs. In addition to assigning proper permissions in DEAMS, the information also helps the training team determine individual courses each user must complete before they can access DEAMS.

According to Watson, self-paced online training will begin 90 days prior to go live,

and instructor-led training will begin 60 days prior. Users will be notified of their required courses and training schedules.

“We purposefully schedule training as close to the actual go-live date as we can so users don’t have a lot of time in between where they’ll forget what they learned,” Watson said.

McConnell will be the first site to use DEAMS since it was deployed at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., in July 2007 and May 2010 as a two-phased technical demonstration. Unlike Scott AFB, McConnell and all future sites will receive all activated DEAMS capabilities in a single phase.

DEAMS is an Air Force initiative using industry-proven Oracle® software to provide war fighters with timely, accurate and reliable financial information. It replaces decades-old technology that no longer complies with federal law and Department of Defense regulations. Capabilities consist of commitment accounting; general accounting; project accounting; revenue and billing; and property, plant and equipment. DEAMS also contains a civilian timekeeping capability that will be activated sometime in the future.

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 beginning in fiscal year 2013. Deployments will occur by major command in future releases.

# Stability, other milestones pave road to McConnell

Data conversion, change management, user registration, training also top list

**FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS, Ill.** – The road between the Defense Enterprise Accounting and Management System Functional Management Office here and McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., is mostly flat and relatively straight. Take I-64 to St. Louis, get on I-70 west to Kansas City, and then I-35 to Wichita, Kan. You will see 450 miles of America's heartland during a fairly easy seven-hour drive. That's the simple, sightseeing version of a trip to McConnell AFB.

If your mission is delivering the Air Force's new financial management system, the trip won't be quite as straight and uneventful. In fact, you will need a detailed map – one that is still being developed as part of a planning process that began months ago at the FMO. The DEAMS team is on the road toward McConnell, but there are curves, hills, valleys and perhaps a pothole or two between here and the successful implementation of DEAMS later this year.

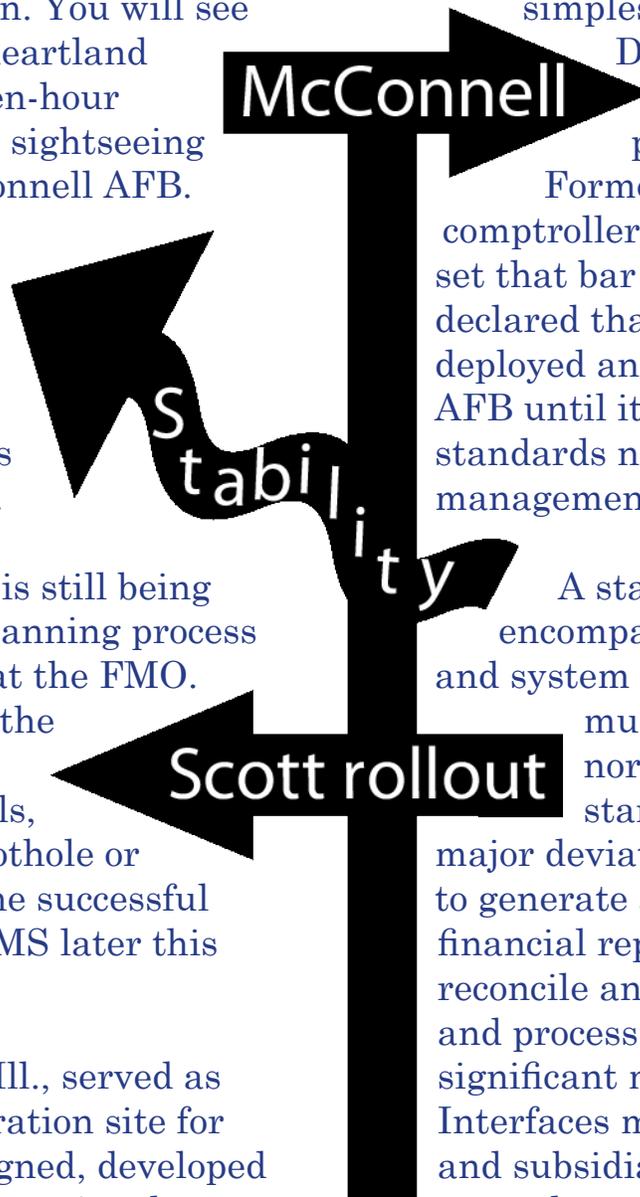
Scott Air Force Base, Ill., served as the technology demonstration site for which DEAMS was designed, developed and tested in the first operational deployment. McConnell AFB will perform a similar role as the proof-of-concept

base for the deployment process itself. Getting there and completing a successful implementation means passing many milestones on the map.

The first and most important milestone is a stable DEAMS program. In the simplest terms, stable means DEAMS is working as intended with as few problems as possible.

Former Air Mobility Command comptroller Brig. Gen. Mark Brown set that bar in September when he declared that DEAMS would not be deployed anywhere beyond Scott AFB until it is stable and meets the standards needed by the financial management community.

A stable environment encompasses both functionality and system performance. End users must be able to conduct normal business using standard checklists without major deviation. They should be able to generate and distribute complete financial reports, obtain balances, reconcile and balance daily business, and process transactions without significant manual intervention. Interfaces must work and general and subsidiary ledgers must balance properly to demonstrate that adequate controls are in place.



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A stable system also means that DEAMS is available to users during normal business hours (6 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST) 99 percent of the time and that scheduled system processes are completed as outlined in service-level agreements.

The DEAMS team is collectively focused on achieving stabilization by April, and that goal is well in sight. Users at Scott AFB see steady improvement in virtually all aspects of DEAMS. New patches are applied each month to improve functionality and fix problems. The general consensus is that DEAMS has turned the corner and will be ready for full-throttle deployment in 2012.

Another challenging milestone concerns data conversion. DEAMS conforms to the Defense Department's Standard Financial Information Structure, a financial language different than that used by the legacy systems DEAMS replaces. Bringing legacy data into DEAMS requires it be converted to the SFIS format, but that requires more research and testing before conversion is ready for future deployments.

In order to meet deployment timelines and auditability goals set by the Secretary of Defense, DEAMS must deploy to McConnell before questions surrounding data conversion have been fully answered. That means McConnell will experience multiple processing; i.e., maintaining existing transactions and data in the legacy systems while using DEAMS for all new transactions after DEAMS goes live.

The DEAMS Deployment team and Site Activation Task Force are working hard to determine all of the other milestones that mark the path to McConnell. Among them is the establishment of the change management structure that will help guide new users into and through DEAMS. That structure includes leaders or "change champions" at major command, base and unit levels – DEAMS Organization Liaisons, or DOLs, who serve as "super users" to lead and mentor their peers; and a base-level Change Management Advocacy Board made up of representatives from all of the affected organizations.

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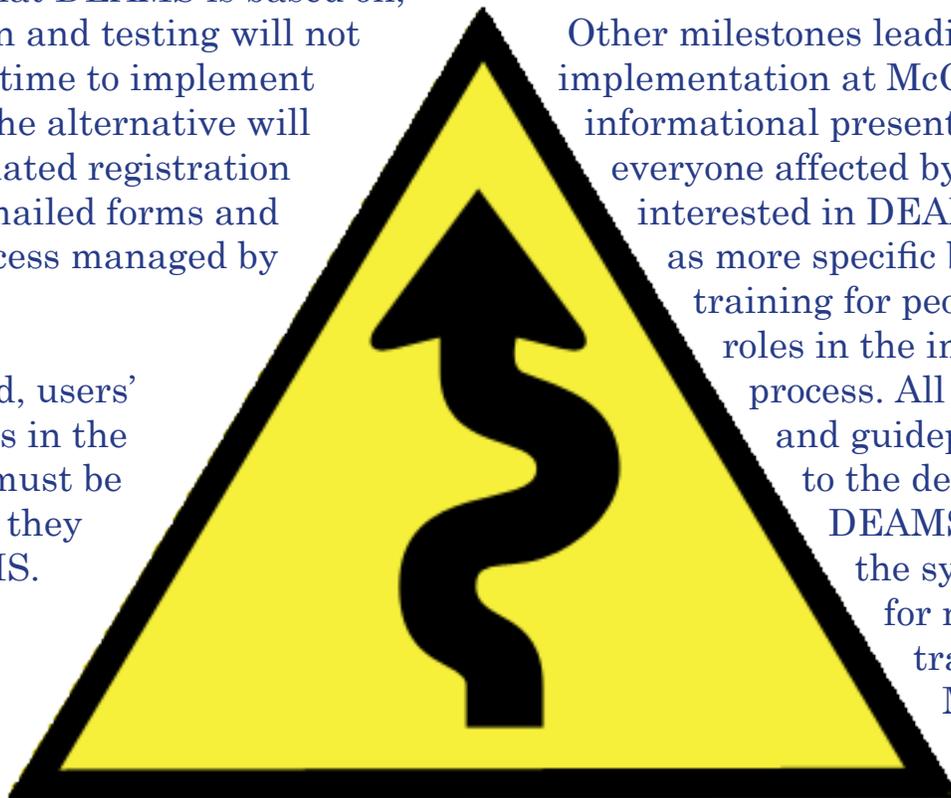
Another milestone yet to be finalized is the process by which users are identified and registered in DEAMS. An automated, integrated module exists in the Oracle software suite that DEAMS is based on, but configuration and testing will not be completed in time to implement at McConnell. The alternative will be a semi-automated registration process using emailed forms and an approval process managed by the SATAF.

Once identified, users' roles or functions in the legacy systems must be mapped to what they will do in DEAMS. That mapping process will, in turn, determine the training they will need to do their jobs in the new system.

Training itself is a huge milestone that is still being developed as the system evolves toward stabilization. DEAMS training consists of self-paced computer-based training, instructor-led formal classroom training, and over-the-shoulder coaching by DEAMS subject matter experts and DOLs. DEAMS training will be provided "just in time" to ensure retention of the material when it is needed after go live.

Although training for most DEAMS functionality has been developed, process improvement means some training must be adjusted as the system matures.

Other milestones leading to DEAMS implementation at McConnell include informational presentations for everyone affected by or even interested in DEAMS, as well as more specific briefings and training for people with specific roles in the implementation process. All of the milestones and guideposts lead to the destination of DEAMS becoming the system of record for new financial transactions at McConnell AFB.



In some ways it's a long road, but in reality, months will be gone before we know it. Building on a long tradition of hard work and determination, the DEAMS team and the user community will follow the milestones to a great achievement – deployment of the first new financial management system for the Air Force in 40 years. It's been a long time coming but well worth the wait.

More information about DEAMS can be found at [www.ustranscom.mil/deams](http://www.ustranscom.mil/deams).

# DEAMS Transitions

## Arriving

**Tye Brown**  
Ernst & Young  
Compliance

## Departing

**Leon Hunton**  
Government  
Functional Test Team

**Bob Moreau**  
Government  
Sustainment

## New senior DFAS exec joins DEAMS

*Pam Franceschi replaces Steve Bonta on DDG*

Pamela M. Franceschi is the director of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service's Enterprise Solutions and Standards, and Director of Systems. She represents DFAS on the Defense Enterprise Accounting and Management System Decision Group. Prior to her current position, Franceschi was the deputy director of DFAS Columbus (Ohio). Steve Bonta, her predecessor on the DDG, retired.



**Pam Franceschi**

## 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

## 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.**

**Contact the DEAMS Functional  
Management Office at (618)  
622-5700 or via email at [ustc-  
deams-stratcomm@ustranscom.  
mil](mailto:ustc-deams-stratcomm@ustranscom.mil).**



**Presidents Day will be  
observed on Feb. 20.**



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## DEAMS

### *Current Account*

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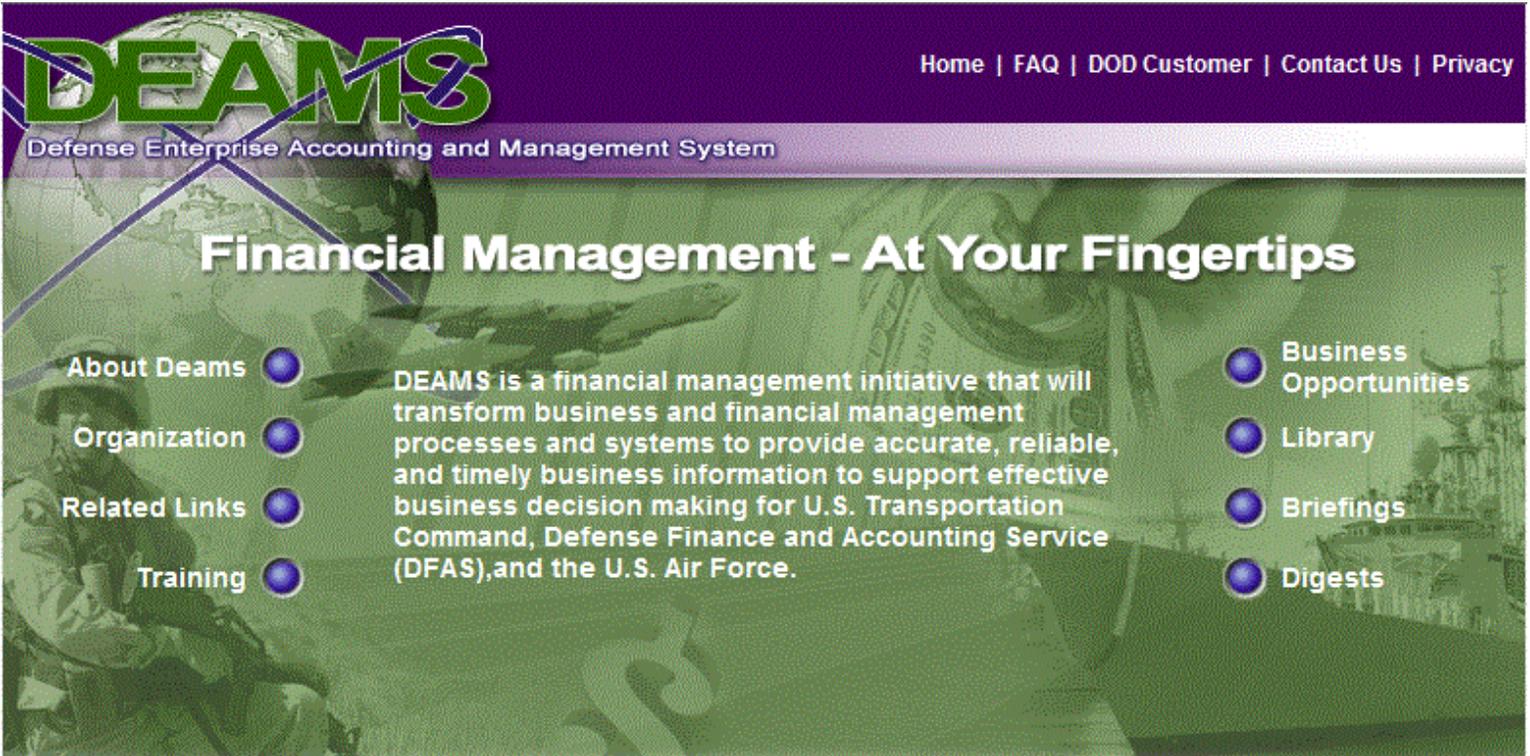
#### Functional Managers:

Russ Mielke, U.S. Transportation Command

Randy Newcome, U.S. Air Force

Nancy-Jeanne Rosenberg, Defense Finance and  
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**DEAMS**  
Defense Enterprise Accounting and Management System

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DEAMS is a financial management initiative that will transform business and financial management processes and systems to provide accurate, reliable, and timely business information to support effective business decision making for U.S. Transportation Command, Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), and the U.S. Air Force.

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