

FMO announces revised OTL rollout strategy

By Cathy Segal

DEAMS Strategic Communications

Functional managers for the Defense Enterprise Accounting and Management System have revised the rollout strategy for Oracle Time and Labor, a DEAMS module used to record payroll for Department of Defense civilian employees.

Rather than continuing to roll out OTL to timekeeper groups, DEAMS Functional Management Office team members will reconfigure the program to enable individual employees to input their own time. The target date for civilian employees paid with funds managed by Scott Air Force Base, Ill., to use OTL is Oct. 9 – the first pay period in October.

Timekeepers in the Air Mobility Command Financial Management Directorate and 932nd Airlift Wing will continue to use OTL during the reconfiguration and

testing period, but no new units will be added. The three primary and alternate timekeepers in AMC/FM have been using OTL for 71 employees since the first pay period in January; the 15 timekeepers in the Air Force Reserve's 932nd AW began using it for 217 employees in February.

According to Karen Toney, the DEAMS government lead for Project Accounting, OTL was originally designed for employees to enter their own time and attendance. That would have eliminated the need for timekeepers to enter data for their groups, as is the procedure with the current pay system. However, when DEAMS officials planned to deploy OTL with Spiral 2 in May 2010 they reconfigured OTL to enable timekeepers to continue inputting time to reduce the amount of change taking place at once.

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When the OTL implementation was delayed, they elected to stick with timekeeper input until all 317 timekeepers on base were comfortable enough with it to increase the level of acceptance among individual employees. Now that it has been proven to work DEAMS officials determined that it is time to revert OTL back to its original state.

The reason OTL won't deploy to additional units is so Toney's team can eliminate a backlog of personnel database files resulting from the delayed OTL rollout and so reconfiguration work can begin sooner.

Reconfiguring Oracle Time and Labor for individual time entry will accomplish two major objectives. It will take the onus off of unit timekeepers, who in some cases enter time and attendance data for dozens of people. It also prepares the system for future incremental DEAMS rollouts that will include OTL with individual input capabilities at the onset.

Although OTL is designed for individual entry, Toney explained that timekeepers will always have the ability to input time – even after individuals start entering their own. “Not every civilian employee has access to a computer, so timekeepers will have to enter their information,” she explained. “Plus, if someone does put in his or her own time but for some reason doesn't have access to the Web or physically can't do it, their timekeeper will be able to do it for them.”

Toney also explained that individuals should not be concerned about early problems with timekeeper entry or with system problems encountered by financial users. “It's a thousand times easier for an individual to put their own time in than it is for the timekeeper,” she said. “Oracle out of the box is designed for people to put in their own time. And it isn't located in the same place as the DEAMS core applications so there shouldn't be as many connectivity issues.”

According to Russ Mielke, DEAMS functional manager for U.S. Transportation Command, one of the keys to the reconfiguration process is ensuring that everyone who needs to record their time has access to the system. That will be the job of the DEAMS Change Management and Deployment teams that over the next several months will reach out to DOD civilian employees paid with Scott-managed funds to establish accounts and grant access to OTL.

Col. Jay Helming, Air Mobility Command Deputy Comptroller, agrees that it is time to make the switch. “Individual timekeeping is the right answer, no question about it. The sooner the better, whenever we're ready to go.”

Training lessons and materials will be adjusted for individual time entry. Details will be provided as they become available.

Workshops focus on top issues affecting DEAMS; users involved, have direct input to solutions

By Cathy Segal

DEAMS Strategic Communications

The Defense Enterprise Accounting and Management System leadership team has instituted a series of workshops to address the top 10 capability processes affecting DEAMS stability. Although the amounts and types of trouble tickets are ever changing, roughly 245 of 450 open tickets were mapped to 10 DEAMS areas. These areas are orders to cash; reporting; obligations and contract modifications; Transportation Working Capital Fund financial targets; projects; suppliers; travel processing; cash reconciliation and balancing; transactions for and by others, the Intra-Governmental Payment and Collection System; and procure to pay payments.

Workshops have been or will be formed to address each function, with OTC and reporting already completed. Although a final schedule has yet to be determined, the goal is to complete the other eight workshops by the end of April.

Representatives from each functional area, including DEAMS partners, will form teams to address adjustments to each area based on system requirements and trouble tickets received by the DEAMS Help Desk. DEAMS partners participating in the workshops include those from the functional and program management offices, Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Accenture and users at Scott Air Force Base, Ill. Bryan Schmehl, Accenture's lead solution architect for DEAMS, will facilitate workshops with assistance from government team leads from their respective areas.

According to Schmehl, the workshops give end users the opportunity to be involved in solutions by both expressing their needs and learning the system requirements that drive complex solutions.

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“We get to discuss alternatives and review solutions as a group,” Schmehl said. “In some cases we will have to change the user process to adapt to what is available; in other cases we can adapt the system to user requirements. Either way, the end user is involved in the solution,” he said.

The OTC workshop, held Feb. 22 and 23, reviewed help desk tickets related to OTC and recommended solutions to improve accounting capabilities and DEAMS Component Billing Systems integration, and minimize interface errors. If approved for implementation, their changes will resolve 48 help desk tickets in seven solution areas.

“The workshop was a really good collaborative discussion for solutions to OTC’s specific problems,” said OTC government lead JoAnn Netemeyer, “It was very productive and exactly the right way to go about resolving our issues by having all the interested parties there. It was the best course of action.”

Debbie LeClair, one of two DFAS subject matter experts from Limestone, Maine, who participated, agreed. “That was one of the few times we’ve had all

the concerned parties in the same room. It was a very productive way to identify solutions.”

LeClair liked the collaboration so much that she hopes it will continue. “I hope it leads to more regular discussions between the groups to check the status or see what we can do better,” she said. “We work a lot better together than we do on our own.”

“I am very encouraged by what the OTC team and our DEAMS partners were able to accomplish in our first workshop,” said Randy Newcome, DEAMS functional manager for the Air Force. “They set a high precedence for the rest of the teams. We will be well on our way to system stability if everyone else sets their minds to it the way this team did.”

Once each workshop is complete its solutions will be presented to the DEAMS Decision Group for approval to proceed.

The goal is to implement all approved solutions before the end of this fiscal year.

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than we do on our own.”***

***Debbie LeClair
DFAS-Limestone***



Courtesy photos by Amn. Albert Chang

Reaping the rewards

Maureen Childress, above left, receives a plaque from Aggie Strieker, president of the American Society of Military Comptrollers Land of Lincoln chapter, during an ASMC luncheon Feb. 22 in Belleville, Ill. Childress, U.S. Transportation Command's principal financial advisor for DEAMS, was the chapter's 2010 Individual Achievement Award winner for Business Management and Acquisition.

John Recuero receives a plaque from Strieker in recognition of his award as the local ASMC chapter's 2010 Individual Achievement Award winner for Contractor Support. Recuero, who works for Ernst & Young, is a senior test team consultant for DEAMS. Nominations for Childress and Recuero have been forwarded to ASMC headquarters for consideration at the national level.



DEAMS progress report

DEAMS leaders gathered at the Functional Management Office in Fairview Heights, Ill., Feb. 23-25 for a program management review. Pictured left to right at the table are: Scott Olgeaty and Col. Brian Parker, DEAMS System Program Management; Brig. Gen. Craig Olson, director, Air Force Program Executive Office for Enterprise Information Systems; Joan Causey and Michael Sorrento, Air Force Financial Management; and Karen Toney, DEAMS FMO. The agenda also included discussions at HQ Air Mobility Command.



Courtesy photo by Ryan Hopfinger

View from the top

Brig. Gen. Craig Olson (foreground), director of the Air Force Program Executive Office for Enterprise Information Systems at Maxwell-Gunter AFB, Ala., discusses DEAMS philosophy with financial managers in AMC headquarters during a visit Feb. 23. Others pictured left to right are 2nd Lt. Tyler Weeks, Joseph Wisdom and Bruce Greenwald, 375th Comptroller Squadron; and SSgt. Michael Duchesne, AMC Financial Management.

DEAMS Transitions

Arriving

Girish Balani
Ernst & Young
Requirements

Crystal Perez
CACI
PM Budget & Reporting

Departing

Tiffany Moaney-Wynns
CACI
PM Budget and Reporting



DEAMS Outreach

DEAMS at PDI

DEAMS will be on display May 31 - June 2 at the American Society of Military Comptrollers Professional Development Institute in Minneapolis.

The Air Force service day on June 1 will feature a DEAMS workshop, "Coming Soon: DEAMS in Development," an overview of DEAMS spiral development, systems interfaces and how DEAMS will deploy to the rest of the Air Force and U.S. Transportation Command components.



Need a speaker?

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

DEAMS speakers are available to update your group on the current status of DEAMS as well as the way ahead.

Contact the DEAMS Functional Management Office at (618) 622-5700.



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Defense Enterprise Accounting and Management System

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