

DEAMS billing supports humanitarian, war missions

By Cathy Segal

DEAMS Strategic Communications

Odyssey Dawn. Tomodachi. Pacific Passage. New Dawn. Enduring Freedom.

Those are just some of the current operations supported by the U.S. military around the world today. And although it isn't as obvious as a C-17 transporting support cargo or humanitarian supplies, an aerial tanker refueling aircraft in a combat or no-fly zone, or a unit deployment, the Defense Enterprise Accounting and Management System is supporting these missions, too.

DEAMS is the Air Force's new financial management system, in use since May 2010 at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., home to Air Mobility Command and U.S. Transportation Command headquarters. It is tracking the money and paying the bills with funds managed

at the base, and helping decision makers choose the most efficient and effective methods to accomplish the mission.

According to an April 2 news release from AMC's Tanker Airlift Control Center, since the March 11 earthquake and tsunami in Japan command Airmen had flown 42 C-17 sorties delivering 184 passengers and 272 tons of cargo in support of the humanitarian relief effort dubbed Operation Tomodachi. Stateside, Seattle-Tacoma International Airport near Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., and Travis Air Force Base, Calif., – both AMC bases – were among three U.S. arrival points for evacuees voluntarily airlifted out of Japan. U.S. Transportation Command charter flights carried them in support of Operation Pacific Passage. Team McChord supported its local joint reception center; Travis was one.

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In addition, the news release stated, AMC-controlled C-17s, C-5s, C-130s and the Civil Reserve Aircraft Fleet have flown nearly 150 sorties with 1,000 passengers and 2,500 tons of cargo in support of Operation Odyssey Dawn to enforce the no-fly zone over Libya.

Stateside, Seattle-Tacoma International Airport near Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., and Travis Air Force Base, Calif., — both AMC bases — were among three U.S. arrival points for evacuees voluntarily airlifted out of Japan. U.S. Transportation Command charter flights carried them in support of Operation Pacific Passage. Team McChord supported its local joint reception center; Travis was one.

“With the Department of Defense in a continuing resolution for the first half of the fiscal year, the cost of transporting goods and troops can really strain a budget,” said Russ Mielke, DEAMS Functional Manager for TRANSCOM. “However, DEAMS can tell decision makers if one method of transport is more effective than another, saving precious dollars for another mission,” he added.

For example, TRANSCOM needed to move more than 300 armored vehicles, almost 100 trucks and more than 550 containers from Joint Base Lewis-McChord to Kandahar, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Would McChord’s C-17s be economical? Or, since they’re close to the coast, would sealift be more cost effective?

Due to the amount of cargo, airlift alone would take eight aircraft 118 travel days. On the other hand, sealift to Diego Garcia and Kandahar would take 23 days; airlifting part of the cargo from Diego Garcia to Kandahar would take 57 days for a total transit time of 80 days. The cost difference: airlift alone would total \$170 million; sealift combined with airlift would total \$67.5 million, completing the transport in about two-thirds of the time and saving enough money to duplicate the mission and still have \$35,000 left over.

DEAMS will play a key role in that type of decision making as the system matures and data is operationalized.

Reports also show that in the first half of Fiscal Year 2011 DEAMS processed 11,299 lines of accounting for AMC airlift billing activity in the categories of foreign aircraft, cargo, passengers, special air missions, contingencies, training and exercises. The bills totaled nearly \$4 billion, which DEAMS processed through an interfaced billing system.

“DEAMS really is supporting the war fighter,” Mielke said. “That’s billions of dollars that are funding real-world operations.”

DEAMS will roll out to the TRANSCOM components and the rest of the Air Force over the next few years, reaching full operational capability by 2017.

Conference explores DEAMS rollout to ANG units

By Dave Thurston
DEAMS Change Management

O’FALLON, Ill. – A Defense Enterprise Accounting and Management System conference March 16 and 17 achieved major progress toward planning DEAMS deployment to Air National Guard units throughout the Air Force. The two-day event, led by the DEAMS Change Management and Deployment teams, included attendees from the National Guard Bureau, Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Air Force Accounting and Finance Office, U.S. Fiscal and Property Officers from Illinois and Georgia, the 183rd Fighter Wing (ANG), Springfield, Ill., and the Air Force Reserve’s 932nd Airlift Wing, Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

The conference began with a “DEAMS 101” briefing to remind everyone of the mission and current status of the program. Major Shawn Green, 183rd FW Comptroller, summarized what his unit experienced as part of the DEAMS technology demonstration phase. While there were many challenges with both the deployment process and system functionality, Green praised the training staff as being “very knowledgeable” and thanked the DEAMS Functional Management Office staff for their support.

Green singled out J.R. Horne of the procure to pay team for the help he provided in resolving issues with

the Air Force Reserve Orders Writing System. “We would not have made it through (deployment) without J.R.’s help,” Green said.

Tracye Donovan of the change management team led a discussion of information gleaned from ANG unit responses to the DEAMS Spiral 2 Post-Deployment Survey. The survey highlighted shortcomings in the deployment process and provided a wide range of valuable lessons learned to improve future deployment planning.

The remainder of day one included discussions of ANG unit alignment with the DFAS centers and a variety of options for deploying DEAMS to the guard units, including a geographic approach that has proven successful for other system implementations. Another discussion focused on potential challenges resulting from simultaneous deployment to a base by DEAMS and the Expeditionary Combat Support System. An effort will be made to resolve schedule conflicts before issues arise.

Donovan wrapped up the first day with a description of the different assessments and surveys that will occur prior to, during and after deployment of DEAMS to each base. They include pre-deployment environmental assessments to learn as much as possible about the

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base, its units and the people who will be impacted by DEAMS; a change readiness survey to gauge stakeholder attitudes and knowledge of DEAMS to help shape communication efforts; and ongoing interviews and focus groups during the deployment process to guide team efforts. After go live, a post-deployment survey will measure the effectiveness of implementation activities. Lessons learned will be gathered throughout the process and fed to the formal joint lessons learned database to help improve all enterprise resource planning system implementation efforts.

The second day of the conference began with a review by the DEAMS Change Management team of events and actions needed to complete the year-long implementation process at any base or unit. Although a thorough list and sequence of events has been

developed, it is not yet complete or coordinated with all stakeholders and is therefore subject to change. With DEAMS deployment to additional Air Mobility Command bases beginning in 2012, long-range activities to support that schedule will have to get under way in the near future. The FMO teams will be working closely with AMC and NGB representatives over the next few weeks to finalize deployment plans.

The conference ended with a review of action items and agreement by all concerned that it was time well spent. Valuable working relationships were established or renewed and strengthened. Challenges were reviewed and in many cases, the discussions pointed toward viable solutions. Attendees left with a sense of accomplishment and increased confidence that the road ahead leads to the successful deployment of DEAMS.



The DEAMS Change Management and Deployment teams met with select representatives from the user community March 16-17 in O'Fallon, Ill., to discuss proposed deployment strategy processes for the Air National Guard. They also discussed potential base pairing criteria for deployment, and identified Defense Finance and Accounting Service concerns with a base pairing concept.

DEAMS Continuity of Operations Plan aces test

*By Ashley Hall
AFPEO EIS*

The Defense Enterprise and Accounting Management System is the first and only application to successfully use the Global Combat Support System infrastructure failover capability – a \$4.125 million effort between hardware, software, service and support.

The GCSS infrastructure capability enables DEAMS to meet the Department of Defense Information Assurance requirement of having a Continuity of Operations Plan in place. If a natural disaster, flood, fire or virus occurs, DEAMS has the proper functionality to survive a catastrophe and get the system back up and running on near-to-real-time information.

“As we can see from recent world events, natural disasters can strike at any moment. Although we cannot eliminate all repercussions, having a trusted, reliable COOP capability is of utmost priority for mission critical business applications such as DEAMS,” says Jackie Murray, DEAMS Chief Engineer.

The COOP failover consists of shutting down the primary DEAMS servers. Within six hours of shut down, the program is required to be up and running on alternate servers at another location. After failover is complete, the alternate servers are then tested to

ensure the data is no more than two hours old and the program is accessible to users.

The DEAMS Program Management Office, DEAMS Functional Management Office, Responsible Test Organization, GCSS, Defense Information Systems Agency, and the DISA Communications Control Center completed a successful joint failover within two and a half hours on March 4-5. The actual testing was concluded 24 hours ahead of schedule.

“The COOP success was a significant accomplishment which required the use of technologies new to the Air Force business systems, integration across multiple programs and collaboration across numerous geographically dispersed organizations,” Murray said. “The FMO and the RTO executed 32 test scripts and we passed all of them.”

Although real-world conditions may prove more challenging, DEAMS officials are confident that DEAMS capability can be restored in a timely and effective manner if the need arises.

Thanks to this accomplishment, DEAMS has paved a path for other DOD applications to effectively use the GCSS infrastructure failover capability to efficiently meet information assurance requirements.

DOD IG team audits DEAMS performance

The Department of Defense Inspector General sent a team of auditors to the Defense Enterprise Accounting and Management System Functional Management Office and Scott Air Force Base, Ill., March 21-April 1. The audit was to determine whether DEAMS fulfilled selected functional capabilities needed to generate timely, accurate and reliable financial management information from October through December 2010.



Bob Arbogast (center), Air Mobility Command Financial Management, demonstrates the DEAMS funds loading process to DOD IG team members Gloria Tang (front left), Althea Williams (second from left) and Loretta Jordan (taking notes). Kelly Reed (far right), AMC Logistics, watches as she waits to demonstrate how to load purchase requirements. Chris Schmuke, DEAMS Compliance, and Karen Haselhorst, AMC's DEAMS liaison, observe in the background. These demonstrations took place in the DEAMS Functional Management Office March 24 and enabled the IG to experience the DEAMS life cycle.



Mike Mason (left), government team lead for DEAMS Compliance, chats with DOD IG team members Shawn Sparks and Javon Johnson at the functional management office March 22, prior to the start of the audit.



Advocacy council update

The DEAMS Change Management Advocacy Council met at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., March 16 to receive a system status report. Items discussed were trouble ticket resolution, workshops formed to recommend solutions to 10 DEAMS problems areas, Oracle Time and Labor timekeeping for civilians, and updates on training and the post-deployment user survey. Oracle Time and Labor is being reconfigured to allow for individual time entry for Scott Air Force Base and its associated units beginning in fiscal year 2012. Pictured left to right are Pete Gavornik, DEAMS Functional Management Office; Col. Vito Dimicco, Air National Guard; Deborah Lawrence, U.S. Transportation Command; Col. Robert Poppell, ANG; Julie Lyons, Lt. Col. Chris Abate and Col. Jay Helming, Air Mobility Command; Russ Mielke and Nancy-Jeanne Rosenberg, DEAMS Functional Management Office; Rhonda Fehrmann, 932nd Airlift Wing; and Melanie Lazor, DEAMS FMO.



Composite photo by Cathy Segal

Total Force DEAMS

Several officers representing the Air National Guard and Illinois and Missouri state National Guard offices traveled to Scott Air Force Base, Ill., March 16 to participate in the DEAMS Change Management Advocacy Council meeting and then meet separately with senior leaders from the DEAMS Functional Management Office and Air Mobility Command. Pictured above center, Army Col. Christopher Hall, the U.S. Fiscal and Property officer for the Illinois National Guard, expresses his interest in becoming more involved as DEAMS prepares to deploy to the Total Air Force over the next several years. Pictured are (left to right): Russ Mielke and Nancy-Jeanne Rosenberg, DEAMS FMO; Lt Col. Debra Linnane and Col. Vito Dimicco, National Guard Bureau; Maj. Shawn Green, Illinois Air National Guard; Hall; and Karen Haselhorst and Julie Lyons, AMC.

Jerry Duke assumes role as project manager

Jerry E. Duke is the program manager for the Defense Enterprise Accounting and Management System.

Duke was born to an Air Force family at Keesler AFB, Miss., and was raised in a variety of locations including New Mexico, England, Oklahoma, Ohio and Germany. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in German from the University of Texas at Arlington.

Following graduation, Duke entered government service at the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center where he was involved with the Air Force, NATO and Saudi Arabian E-3A Airborne Warning and Control System programs.

In 1985 he was transferred to Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, into the International Logistics Center working on the Saudi E-3A program. He subsequently transferred to the Logistics Management Systems Center and worked various programs including the Enhanced Transportation Data Systems, Stock Control and Distribution and Program Management Support System while working to obtain level III certification in Program Management and Communication, Computer Systems.

Duke led the source selection and contract award for the Financial Information Resource System when

he was selected to attend the Advanced Program Managers Course at the Defense Acquisition University.

Upon his return he transferred to the Aeronautical Systems Center and was named program manager for the Joint Modeling and Simulation System. After closing the JMSS program he was asked to assume duties as the deputy director for the Aging Aircraft Squadron. He was subsequently assigned as director of 663rd Aeronautical systems Squadron where he presided over the T-38 development workload, the avionics and escape system upgrade programs, and the T-1 Combat Systems Officer program. He also led the powered flight and glider replacement programs for the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Duke is a graduate of the Air War College and has completed both the Defense Acquisition University's Program Manager's Course and the Advanced Program Management Course. He holds an Masters of Business Administration with emphasis in Project Management from Wright State University.



U.S. Air Force photo

Jerry E. Duke

DEAMS Transitions

Arriving

Jessica Arnett
CACI
Program Control

Andy Chow
Ernst & Young
General Accounting

Departing

Jesse Cortes
Kearney
FMO in Dayton

Zahra Fraga
Government
Deployment & Change Management

Terry Milner
Kearney
FMO in Dayton

Dee Mix
Secure Data
Sustainment

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.

DEAMS
Defense Enterprise Accounting and Management System

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Financial Management - At Your Fingertips

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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All photos by the *Current Account* staff unless otherwise noted.