

DEAMS

Current Account

Financial Management at Your Fingertips

Vol. 7 No. 5 May 2012

FMO preps for move to Wright-Patt

*By Cathy Segal
DEAMS Strategic Communications*

The Defense Enterprise Accounting and Management System Functional Management Office is proceeding with plans to move from Fairview Heights, Ill., to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, by Sept. 30. Air Force and Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials announced the move in January. The move had been planned for several years but was unable to be completed due to program delays in the roll out to Scott Air Force Base, Ill. It is largely viewed as a catalyst to position the program for efficient roll out across the Air Force and U.S. Transportation Command.

As of May 18, the Transition Work Plan showed the overall effort on track to support the next phase of the program, which includes a series of fielding activities. The plan covers the Air Force and DFAS positions moving to Wright-Patterson, USTRANSCOM's positions moving back to Scott Air Force Base, and relocating the help desk. The base civil engineer squadron at Wright-Patterson is developing short- and long-term office space solutions.

The DEAMS Help Desk will be the first to move, although it will be local. Emtec sources five help desk contractor positions and its

facilities in O'Fallon, Ill., will be their new duty location by June 1. Help desk phone numbers and email addresses will not change.

The move to Wright-Patterson will collocate the FMO with the Air Force Financial Systems Office and improve communication and coordination between the DEAMS functional and program offices, and AFFSO as DEAMS begins to deploy throughout the Air Force. The DEAMS PMO is also located on base.

Officials said that bringing DEAMS and existing financial management information technology system resources together at one location will enable smooth coordination of planning and execution of highly dependent system changes and support.

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.

All affected Air Force and DFAS civilians have been officially notified. Preliminary modifications to contracts have also been made and should be finalized by June 15.

Air Force and DFAS FMO support functions will relocate to a temporary facility at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base by Sept. 30. Permanent on-base facilities should be ready to complete the transition by June 30, 2013.

Accounting IPT tackles account balance issues

T-codes contain the accounting debits and credits for a specific business event such as recording a commitment or obligation. DEAMS records these transactions in its general ledger and interfaces them to DFAS for inclusion in the Air Force's financial reports.

*By Cathy Segal
DEAMS Strategic Communications*

Defense Enterprise Accounting and Management System engineers and Accenture system integrators have built, tested and installed dozens of patches over the past several months, including three that resolved erroneous transaction code mappings affecting account balances.

DEAMS is the Air Force's Enterprise Resource Planning solution to the Department of Defense's statutory requirement to have auditable consolidated financial statements across the Defense Department by 2017. Already in use at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., DEAMS is scheduled to deploy throughout the rest of the Air Force between fiscal years 2013 and 2017.

Unlike the Air Force's legacy financial systems, DEAMS uses a double-entry general ledger accounting system of debits and credits consistent with government and commercial accounting standards. It is designed to comply with DOD's Standard Financial Information Structure. Transaction codes contain the accounting debits and credits for a specific business event such as recording a commitment or obligation. DEAMS records these transactions in its general ledger and interfaces them to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service for

inclusion in the Air Force's financial reports. Any discrepancies in the accuracy of these transaction codes or associated general ledger postings may cause out-of-balance conditions between the DFAS reporting system (General Accounting and Finance Service-Rehost), and the DEAMS general ledger.

According to Jeff Friedman, team lead for general accounting at the DEAMS Functional Management Office in Fairview Heights, Ill., investigation into the transaction code discrepancies began before the end of fiscal year 2011. He explained that the Air Force is using GAFS-R as the financial reporting system of record until DEAMS deploys to a majority of Air Force bases. Reconciliations between DEAMS and GAFS-R revealed differences in funding and budget execution amounts; in other words, DEAMS general ledger balances did not match the financial reporting system of record.

Through extensive research, many of these differences were tied to DEAMS' initial conversion balances, DEAMS transaction code mappings to the general ledger, or the translation logic used to interface daily transactions from DEAMS to GAFS-R. Air Force Financial Management and DFAS leaders established multiple integrated process teams to produce accurate DEAMS financial data and provide accurate balances for their customers.

Account balance issues were due to DEAMS' initial conversion balances, DEAMS transaction code mappings to the general ledger, or the translation logic used to interface daily transactions from DEAMS to GAFS-R.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

The DEAMS Accounting IPT was formed in September and consists of employees from DFAS centers in Limestone, Maine, and Columbus, Ohio; the Secretary of the Air Force's Financial Management directorate (SAF/FMP); and the DEAMS Functional Management Office.

The integrated process team reviewed and analyzed the DEAMS transaction codes and more than 2,500 related general ledger pairings. When the analysis was complete, the IPT identified the transaction code mappings that either caused unwanted conditions or were noncompliant with the Standard Financial Information Structure.

The team categorized its findings into groupings and created 11 Remedy tickets to resolve the erroneous T-code mappings. The tickets identified several T-codes that needed to be end dated, which means they cannot be used for future transactions, and other T-codes that needed their general ledger mappings revised. The team conducted meetings to review the functional and technical requirements with Accenture, develop test scripts and coordinate future actions.

In January, the 11 Remedy tickets were covered in three patches delivered by Accenture for functional testing. Joint testing of the patches by DFAS-LI and the DEAMS FMO included processing purchase orders, invoices, receipts, disbursements and collections. Applicable attributes in the sub-ledgers were also tested to validate that the correct T-codes and general ledger effects were applied in the general accounting module. Patches related to T-code fixes were installed in DEAMS in February.

Despite the patches, Friedman said that the project still was far from complete. He explained that the DEAMS FMO generated Structured Query Language prompts in Oracle against the erroneous T-codes to determine historical transactions that were generated against the codes. The SQL statements and the large volume of detailed transactions associated with them were analyzed by DFAS. Based on this analysis, DFAS identified the journal vouchers necessary

to correct the transactions from the erroneous T-codes to the corrected T-code values. With the coordination of SAF/FMP, journal vouchers with the correcting general ledger entries went into DEAMS on April 7 and May 6. Additional journal vouchers are planned for May 20 and 25, and will continue until the project is complete.

According to Todd Baker, SAF/FMPA, the volume of transactions and complexity of the adjustments necessitated processing these journal vouchers by fund and accounting period, not at the document level. Users will see these journal vouchers in both DEAMS and CRIS. They can be identified by a document number beginning with "Manual" along with the transaction code the journal voucher is correcting.

Baker explained that the vast majority of these transactions will be transparent to most users and will not affect their status of funds. However, he said that several transaction code issues incorrectly posted budget authority before a refund was received or they erroneously reduced reimbursable collections on the DEAMS general ledger. The DFAS journal vouchers will correct these conditions and may appear to some users as unmatched transactions. The DEAMS FMO and DFAS-LI can provide users with specific transaction document numbers to match and reconcile these transactions.

As a result of the IPT's efforts, DEAMS and the Air Force are closer to full Standard Financial Information Structure compliance and producing auditable financial statements.

Friedman said that although much has been accomplished, there is still more work to be completed by the T-code IPT. Future agenda items include the analysis of funding and budgeting T-codes, new Transportation Working Capital Fund reimbursable authority T-codes, and procedures for processing international tariff rate transactions, to name a few. *(Jeff Friedman and Todd Baker contributed to this article.)*

DEAMS training gets update in time for McConnell

By Cathy Segal

DEAMS Strategic Communications

The training team at the Defense Enterprise Accounting and Management System's Functional Management Office in Fairview Heights, Ill., is revamping training in time to use at McConnell Air Force Base, Kan. User training there will begin with prerequisite online courses in June, followed by Web-based and instructor-led training tentatively scheduled for August. DEAMS is scheduled to deploy at McConnell in October.

The prerequisite courses cover Oracle® basic user navigation and the Standard Financial Information Structure course. SFIS (commonly pronounced "ess-fis"), is a common business language that standardizes financial reporting across the Department of Defense.

Users at McConnell registered for DEAMS accounts from April 26 to May 11, during which they identified responsibilities they will need to access in the system. The DEAMS Training team will match requested responsibilities with training courses that users will be required to complete before gaining access to DEAMS once it goes live.

The training team will notify users via email of their required training and where to go online to self-register for courses. Users must complete both prerequisite courses prior to functional training; all required courses must be completed before access to DEAMS will be granted. Those with Read Only permissions will be guided to a training website to review the same materials used in instructor-led classes.

Another improvement being made in the training area includes forming a focus group to review the three-day revised requisition course that uses the Oracle User Productivity Kit. The focus group will consist of seven to 10 users from Scott Air Force Base, Ill., who will evaluate delivery of the course using Oracle's content development platform.

Lastly, the training team will consolidate its online courses and training materials onto the Financial Management Learning and Distribution site for easier access.

Details will be sent to users as more information becomes available.

AMC survey response delayed until June

It was reported in last month's "Current Account" that results from Air Mobility Command's survey of Defense Enterprise Accounting and Management System users would be summarized in this month's newsletter. While preliminary results are available, DEAMS and AMC leadership are still in the process of writing responses to the ratings and comments.

In February, AMC headquarters conducted an anonymous survey of 271 staff and 375th Air Mobility Wing DEAMS users at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., to measure attitudes and opinions about DEAMS, and to assess its perceived performance and impact to the mission and

organization. Sixty-three people responded for a 23 percent return rate (64 percent from AMC, 36 percent from the 375th AMW).

To put those numbers into perspective, DEAMS had almost 1,200 users in early March; AMC surveyed 271 of them, or roughly 23 percent. The 63 who responded represent roughly 5 percent of all DEAMS users.

AMC and DEAMS officials will address specific areas of concern as they analyze the survey results. All DEAMS users will receive their joint response. A summary of findings will run in next month's "Current Account."

Army, Navy also implement financial ERPs

By Tiffany Anzalone
DEAMS Strategic Communications

The Army and Navy have implemented financial management Enterprise Resource Planning programs similar to the Air Force's Defense Enterprise Accounting and Management System.

The Army's program is called the General Fund Enterprise Business System and the Navy's program is simply called Navy ERP. Like DEAMS, both are in response to the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990 and Government Management Reform Act of 1994, which mandate federal agencies to centralize their finance systems to better account for their spending.

On April 18, the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, Committee on Armed Services, held a hearing on Department of Defense financial management and business transformation. The transcript states that the Army and Navy plan to field their core financial ERPs in 2012 and 2013 but other critical systems, including integrated pay and personnel systems, and Global Combat Support Systems, are not scheduled to be fully deployed until 2017 or do not have deployment dates established.

The Army's GFEBS began implementation in October 2008 and has deployed in waves, completing deployment in all 50 states and four territories. It will engage more than 55,000 users at over 200 locations worldwide when it achieves full deployment this summer and will impact almost every Army function and organization. According to prepared testimony about the current state of GFEBS by the undersecretary of the Army, Joseph W. Westphal, the Army has a "sound, resourced plan and the appropriate leadership engagement to achieve Secretary Panetta's directive to assert auditable Statement of Budgetary Resources by the end of fiscal year

2014 and assert full financial statement audit readiness by the end of fiscal year 2017."

The Navy ERP includes deployment to more than 68,000 users throughout its major systems commands. Begun in 2007, the financial, acquisition and workforce management capability is fully deployed at Naval Air Systems Command, Naval Supply Systems Command, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command, and in the Working Capital Fund operations at Naval Sea Systems Command. Navy ERP should reach full deployment by fiscal year 2013.

In a joint statement by the undersecretary and assistant secretary of the Navy, that service branch has achieved other notable audit readiness accomplishments. Navy ERP, which accounts for more than half of the Navy's obligation authority, is an essential component of auditability. Another effort is to standardize the execution of business processes, which includes reducing process variations and establishing standard operating procedures. By simplifying the process and paring down the number of steps to complete Navy ERP transactions, the system will be more user friendly and efficient, they said.

The Army has a robust training program for end users, allowing for seamless transition and providing managers with financial transparency and total asset visibility. The GFEBS training program includes four delivery methods: train the trainer, instructor led, virtual instructor led, and Web-based. Training information for the Navy ERP was not available.

Much like DEAMS, the Army's GFEBS and the Navy ERP are transforming how the military manages its people, money, programs, equipment, and supplies. Reliable financial data, and effective business processes and systems will help determine necessary budget cuts that will not damage military readiness or harm U.S. troops.



McConnell liaisons

DEAMS Organization Liaisons from McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., met with the DEAMS Site Activation Task Force on base April 25. The DOLs are the liaison between the DEAMS Functional Management Office and units at the deployment site. Pictured left to right in the back row are: Kimberly Smith, 22nd Comptroller Squadron; Tech. Sgt. Chhorvy Willis, 184th Intelligence Wing; Stefani Kelly, 22nd Civil Engineer Squadron; Nova St. Syr, 22nd CES; Kerry Rowden, 22nd Operations Group; Airman Roger Marchese, 22nd CPTS; Staff Sgt. Chad Smith, 22nd CPTS; Matthew Mohon, 22nd Contracting Squadron; Airman 1st Class Lindsey Allen, 22nd CPTS. Front row: Master Sgt. Jim Pence, 184th IW; Tech. Sgt. John Baxter, 184th IW; Traci Teachout, 931st Air Refueling Group; Beth Holman, 22nd CONS; Master Sgt. Nesia McGown, 184th IW; Master Sgt. Eric Smith, 184th IW; Diedra Sanders, 22nd CPTS; Staff Sgt. Karey Garrison, 22nd Air Refueling Wing; and Tech. Sgt. Reico Henley, 22nd CPTS.

Status Update

McConnell deployment prep continues

The DEAMS Site Activation Task Force visited McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., April 23-26 to conduct town hall meetings, update base points of contact, and meet with the base Change Management Advocacy Board, DEAMS Organization Liaisons, and key resource advisors. The team also trained designated people on the process to submit system access requests. User registration was April 25-May 11.

The DEAMS Training team is reviewing user registration forms and will notify individuals of their required training based on the DEAMS roles and responsibilities they requested. Users will self-register for training online. Training is tentatively scheduled to begin in August.

DEAMS is scheduled to go live at McConnell in October.

Hagin takes over as functional manager for DFAS

Patricia J. Hagin, a GS-15 with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, is the DFAS functional manager for the Defense Enterprise Accounting and Management System, Fairview Heights, Ill. She oversees the Sustainment and Operations Integrated Product Team and all DFAS issues related to DEAMS. She assumed her current position in April 2012, succeeding Nancy-Jeanne Rosenberg, who acted as the functional manager for DFAS since July 2011.

Hagin enlisted in the Air Force in 1977. She served on active duty until 1983 at Moody Air Force Base, Ga.; Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.; and Bergstrom Air Force Base, Texas. She began her civil service career in 1989 as an Air Force civilian, serving as an administrative specialist at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey; and Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., until 1995.

Her DFAS career began in Charleston, S.C., where she served as an accounting technician from 1995-1998, an accountant intern from 1998-1999, and staff accountant to the Director of Vendor Pay from 1999-2000. She also served as the Chief of Vendor Pay from 2000-2003, managing vendor pay operations in support of DFAS Navy customers.

Hagin transferred to the DFAS office in Columbus, Ohio, in 2003, where she stayed until 2012. She held several positions there, including Director, Accounts Maintenance and Control; and project lead for Base Closure and Realignment, where she was responsible for transferring the Air Force workload from DFAS Dayton, Ohio, to DFAS Columbus. She also was the project advisor to transfer the Navy workloads to DFAS Columbus from DFAS Charleston, S.C.; Pensacola, Fla.; Norfolk, Va.; and San Diego. Also in Columbus, Hagin worked on various projects to transform DFAS to a High Performing Organization. She was project lead



Pat Hagin

DEAMS photo

on the Contract Pay HPO, served as Accounts Payable Advisor to the Accounting HPO, and performed as Navy vendor pay subject matter expert to the Vendor Pay HPO. In 2008 she was appointed as Director for the DFAS Enterprise Readiness Office, where she was responsible for site workforce readiness in support of transitioning the workload of Air Force, Army, Navy and other Department of Defense agencies from legacy accounting and finance services to an Enterprise Resource Planning system.

Hagin earned a master's degree in public administration from Troy State University, a bachelor's degree in business management from the State University of New York, and an Associate of Arts degree from University of Tampa.

DEAMS Transitions

Arriving

Pat Hagin

Government
DFAS Functional Manager

Tom Whalen

Kearney & Co.
Training

Departing

Karen Haselhorst

Government
Deployment

Maj. Homero Martinez

Government
DEAMS Transition Team

Eric Ray

Kearney & Co.
Procure to Pay

Pablo Rodriguez

DFAS
Program Support

Chris Schmuke

Kearney & Co.
Compliance

Gail Tirado

DFAS
Change Management

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? 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@ustranscom.mil.

DEAMS will be on display at the American Society of Military Comptrollers' Professional Development Institute, May 30-31, in Anaheim, Calif. Randy Newcome, Air Force Functional Manager for DEAMS; and Lt. Col. Tracy Watkins, 375th Comptroller Squadron Commander at Scott AFB, Ill., will present, "Making Your DEAMS Come True: A System Update," during Service Day activities May 30.

Visit the DEAMS public website at www.deams.af.mil

Questions about Web content may be addressed by email to:
ustc-deams@ustranscom.mil



DEAMS

Current Account

Defense Enterprise Accounting and Management System
16 Executive Drive, Suite 200
Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208-1366
(618) 622-5700 Fax: (618) 622-5777

Functional Managers:

Russ Mielke, U.S. Transportation Command
Randy Newcome, U.S. Air Force
Pat Hagin, Defense Finance and Accounting Service
Editor, Cathy Segal, 618-622-5762. All photos by the
Current Account staff unless otherwise noted.



Useful Links

[U.S. Air Force](#)

[USAF Financial Management and Comptroller](#)

[U.S. Transportation Command](#)

[Defense Finance and Accounting Service](#)

Subscribe to [Current Account](#)

DEAMS Help Desk
1-877-332-6753
(1-877-DEAMS-LE)

