
Security Assistance Accounting's Role in Enterprise Resource Planning

Editor's Note: We at the Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management wish to congratulate Sam Graham, the outgoing Director of Security Assistance Accounting Operations, on his selection as the new Director of Accounting Operations, Indianapolis Center. Sam has been instrumental in the transition of security assistance from Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) Denver Center to DFAS Indianapolis over the last year. He has truly been a friend of the community, and we especially appreciate his support of the DISAM mission—"Fair winds and following seas."

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What is an Enterprise Resource Planning?

An Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) is a company-wide computer system for managing all the resources, information, and functions a business performs. An ERP normally covers all business aspects like logistics, acquisition, finance, and accounting for an organization or business area. An ERP is more than just an accounting system replacement.

Now that we know what an ERP is, how does it relate to Security Assistance Accounting?

Well, this is an exciting and challenging time for Security Assistance Accounting (SAA) systems development. SAA is involved in all aspects of the future development and transition for our business into the future ERPs within the DoD. This is our opportunity to reshape, improve, and redefine foreign military sales (FMS) business processes and modernize our systems environment. We are truly charting a new course for FMS finance and accounting.

SAA's role in assisting with the new development includes gaining an understanding of FMS finance and accounting within DFAS, identifying weaknesses within our current processes and systems, leading projects identified to improve system issues, and redefining our business processes. SAA directly coordinates and interacts with the ERP Program Management Offices (PMO) and attends ERP workshops, teleconferences, and webinars representing DFAS Security Assistance Finance and Accounting Operations.

Our scope for involvement with the ERPs covers all areas within finance and accounting for SAA/FMS in DoD. Below is a list of the major on-going ERP initiatives SAA is involved with on a regular basis and some of the systems the ERPs will be replacing:

- Security Cooperation Enterprise Solution (SCES) replaces:
 - FMS acquisition
 - Logistics
- Financial functions from:
 - Centralized Information System for International Logistics (CISIL)
 - Management Information System for International Logistics (MISIL)

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- Case Management Control System (CMCS)
 - Defense Integrated Financial System (DIFS)
 - Defense Enterprise Accounting and Management System (DEAMS) replaces finance and accounting functions of GAFS (General Accounting and Finance System)
 - General Funds Enterprise Business System (GFEB) replaces finance and accounting functions of Standard Financial System (STANFINS) and (Standard Operation and Maintenance Army Research and Development System (SOMARDS)
 - Navy Enterprise Resource Planning (NAVY ERP) replaces finance and accounting functions for STARS (Standard Accounting and Reporting System). For Navy FMS, only the FMS administrative fund accounting will be in Navy ERP. FMS case fund accounting is in MISIL
 - Defense Agency Initiative (DAI) replaces finance and accounting functions for various Defense Agencies like Washington Headquarters Services Allotment Accounting Services (WAAS)
 - Strategic Disbursing Initiative (SDI) centralizes disbursing functions from SRD1, CDS, and Data Distribution Service (DDS)
 - Air Force — Training Control Financial System (TFS) to GAFS-BQ (General Accounting and Finance System Base Level) Conversion

In preparation for converting from a manual system to the current Air Force base-level accounting system, the Air Force Accounting Branch in Security Assistance Accounting is scheduled to convert from the Training Control System (TRACS) Financial System (TFS) to the General Accounting and Finance System Base Level (GAFS-BQ) in October 2009. This will realign the Air Force Security Assistance Training (AFSAT) accounting system with the rest of the Air Force network as we are currently utilizing a stand-alone system. TFS is a manually-driven system as most processes other than the automated tuition billing must be keypunched to update the system. GAFS-BQ will automate some of these processes. As an example, 65 to 70 percent of the Transaction-By-Others (TBOs) workload will become for-self payments and automatically update the expenditure within GAFS-BQ without any manual intervention.

We are currently in phase three of testing.

The status of funds balances were compared between each system as this is the most critical process of the conversion as BID balances (C - Commitment, O - Obligation, U - Unpaid Expenditures, E - Expenditures, etc.) in TFS must match the data in GAFS-BQ for integrity of the database conversion.

The automated Performing Appropriation Reimbursable (PAR) billings for tuition processed over 3,000 records in the last testing phase. A normal PAR processes between 12,000 and 15,000 billing records in a monthly cycle.

GAFS-BQ will benefit our customers as automation will eliminate manual processes, reduce rework, speed up processing times, and align our accounting system with future system development under the Defense Enterprise Accounting and Management System (DEAMS).

Army ERP — GFEBS

GFEBS is being released in stages. Release 1.1 took place in July 2006 and consisted of a technology demonstration of a minor construction project within the system. Release 1.2 took place in October 2008 at Fort Jackson and Garrison in South Carolina. In April 2009, GFEBS deployed Release 1.3 to multiple organizations. Release 1.3 includes additional functionality to provide general fund financial management capabilities at all Army garrisons and tenant organizations currently using Standard Finance System (STANFINS). Concurrently with Releases 1.2 and 1.3, the GFEBS Project is working on 1.4. Release 1.4 will deploy GFEBS to several locations to include Indianapolis DFAS Security Assistance Accounting (SAA) Army and Security Assistance Training Field Activity (SATFA) in April 2010. GFEBS, SATFA, and DFAS Indianapolis SAA are currently working functionally for the Foreign Military Training community.

Once fully implemented, GFEBS will serve as the first-rate tool for conducting financial and asset management operations between DFAS and the Army, enabling more efficient business processes and allowing more time for business analysis.

Navy Status of STARS to MISIL Conversion

Testing of the Standard Accounting and Reporting System (STARS) to Management Information System for International Logistics (MISIL) conversion is in the sixth phase. The Mock Load # 6 database was established between June 8th and 10th, using May's end of month STARS data. This testing was completed by August 5th.

Testing of the load, reconciliation, and report creation within MISIL will take place between June 10th and 22nd.

Defense Security Assistance Development Center (DSADC) tested the application changes between June 22nd and July 2nd, 2009. The Systems Command (SYSCOM) will receive the summary reports and error messages issued by DSADC during the test period.

SYSCOM performed independent testing of the STARS to MISIL interfaces in the month of July 2009.

There are currently 1,692 cases in STARS that will be converted to MISIL. 498 of these are in an interim closed status. The project is on track for completion in October 2009 through the joint efforts of DFAS and Navy SYSCOM.