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# FEATURE ARTICLES

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## **Message from the Director of Defense Finance and Accounting Service - Security Assistance Accounting**

**By  
Alfred S. Graham  
Director of Security Assistance Accounting**

Two years ago, the security assistance accounting (SAA) foreign military sales (FMS) workload began its transition due to Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). The SAA workload from Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) Denver, Colorado transitioned to Indianapolis, Indiana. Other field level SAA workload from St. Louis, Missouri, Dayton, Ohio, and other sites transitioned to Columbus, Ohio and Limestone, Maine. It was at that time I accepted the position as Director for SAA.

The move of SAA from Denver is complete, and we have successfully settled-in at Indianapolis. Our first year here contained many challenges. However, with the strong relationship with our customer, we successfully addressed these challenges.

As our partners, I would like to share some of our first year highlights with you:

- Established excellent relationship with clients/customers
  - Initiated Joint Reconciliations with Combatant Commands and Security Assistance Training Field Activity (Army)
  - Supported 25 Financial Management Reviews
  - Collaborated with Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) to develop/ implement an agreed upon process for Foreign Military Funding Apportionment of \$3.5 billion
  - Built a process to automate, code, and track Global War on Terrorism funds and accelerate emergency year-end cases
  - Implemented Customer Index (CI) metrics for Security Assistance Training Activity
- Executed a very effective BRAC workload transfer
  - Built new Indianapolis team with only 20 percent employees moving with work
  - Accelerated Defense Institute for Security Assistance Management (DISAM) training (63 employees completed the SAM-C course)
- In partnership with customers, achieved a highly successful year-end closeout
  - Coordinated and communicated continuously

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- Completed emergency implementation of \$116 million in appropriated funds (Afghanistan Security Forces Fund and Iraq Security Forces Fund) through FMS cases
  - Received positive customer feedback
  - Improved FMS quarterly billing reports and processes
    - Reduced manual paper billing process by using more efficient automated process
    - Improved the Arrearage Report by highlighting aging categories, providing more descriptive footnotes, and segregating funds
  - Re-energized Volume 15 DOD *Financial Management Regulation* (FMR) update
    - Coordinated with DSCA and Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) to schedule complete update
    - Published one updated appendix and deleted one appendix
  - Improved procedures for posting disbursements
    - Reduced Army aged intransits and unmatched disbursements from 40 percent to 2 percent
    - Implemented macro on Air Force team that potentially will reduce input time by 50 percent
    - Improved auto post rate for Security Assistance Office State Department disbursements from 80 to 85 percent
  - Formalized Defense Integrated Financial System (DIFS) management oversight
    - Staffed charter for Configuration Control Board (CCB)
    - Developed Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)
  - Established dedicated DSCA Mission Support Accountant (MSA)
    - Completed Department of State process improvement project

I would like to also share with you some statistics to show how large of an operation we are.

### **Scope of Business**

- Cases Managed — 12,266
- Cases Implemented — 1,373
- Cases Amended — 13,951
- Cases Closed — 1,073
- Field Accounting Support (134 sites) — \$2,981.3 Million
- Audited Financial Statements — \$44 Billion
- Non-FMS Accounts Receivables — \$134 Million

It is with the desire to offer world class service we established an SAA web site and initiated a quarterly news update in December 2008. We will use these tools to establish and maintain an open line of communication with our customers. Please feel free to visit our web site at: <https://dfas4dod.dfas.mil/centers/dfasin/acctgsys/AcctOperationsindex.htm>.

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As the featured organization in this quarter's *DISAM Journal*, we are also providing three articles to help you become more familiar with our organization. These articles provide a brief overview of DFAS, the history of Security Assistance Accounting, and our current organizational functions.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please feel free to call us at either (317) 510-7529 or (317) 510-1713.