
SECURITY ASSISTANCE PERSPECTIVES

Security Assistance Automated Resource Management System (SAARMS)

By

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PURPOSE

This article provides the reader with a brief history and systems description of the Security Assistance Automated Resource Management System (SAARMS). As the modules for this system are developed, each module will have its own software user's handbook.

BACKGROUND

In August 1991, an automated system that had been developed by Headquarters USCENTCOM for its SAOs' automated memorandum accounting and budget execution requirements, was adopted as the standard software for worldwide use by SAOs. In the process, allowance was made for other unified commands' unique requirements. This product, titled the *SAARMS Budget Execution Module*, has now been distributed to all unified command headquarters and SAOs, and most of these organizations have received training on its use.

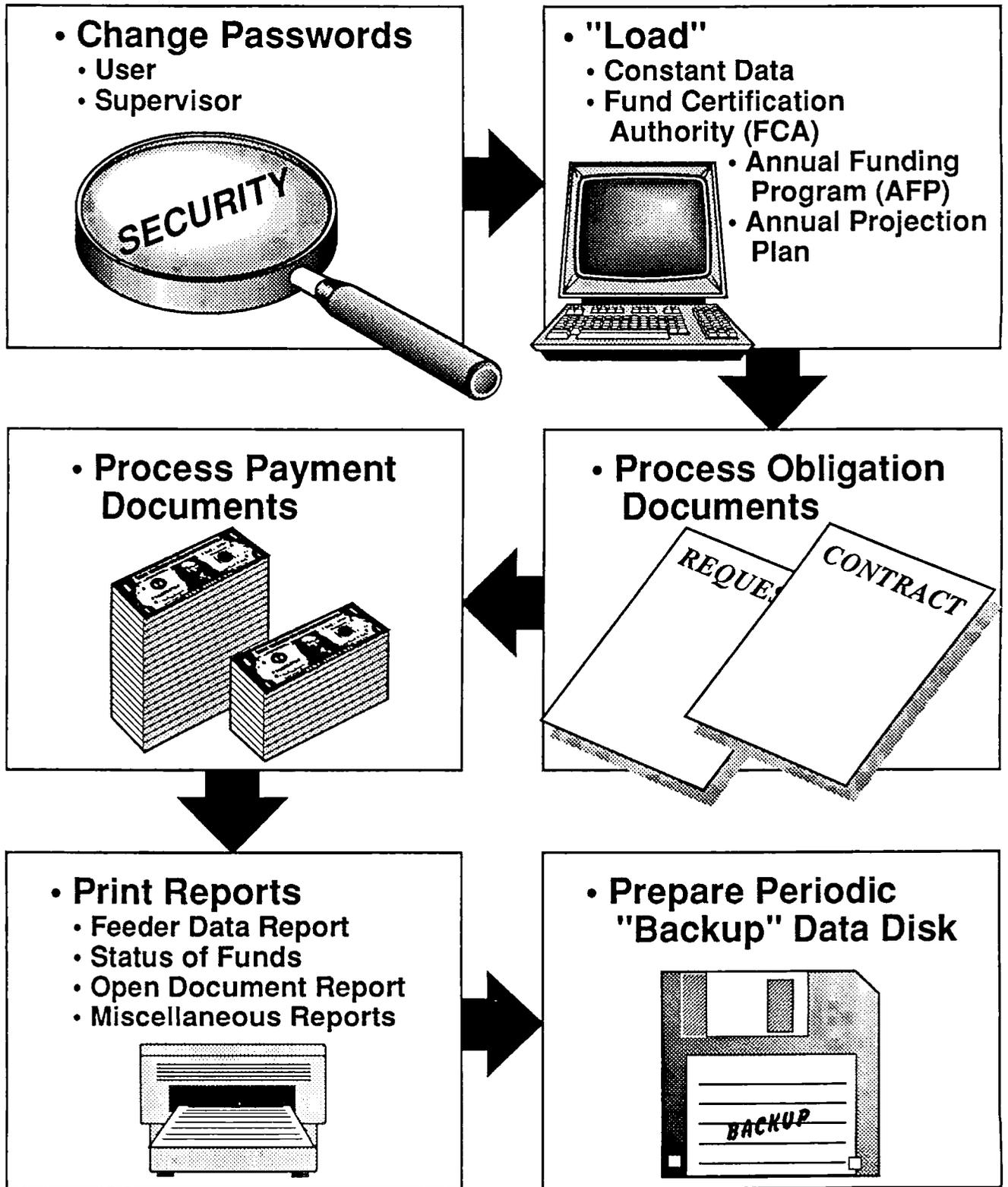
Since the adoption of the aforementioned SAARMS program, the Security Assistance Network (SAN) Policy Steering Board has approved the development of integrated modules for budget preparation, property management, personnel management, and a headquarters module. Each of these modules are discussed below.

BUDGET EXECUTION MODULE

The Budget Execution Module was developed to automate the manual record keeping of the day-to-day budget execution functions of the individual SAOs. The module includes the following features:

- one time entry of data and mathematical calculation functions to preclude human error;
- interface with the accounting systems;
- user friendly software;
- the incorporation of "generally accepted accounting principles" in the design (even though it is a local-activity "memorandum records" system);
- an audit trail of budget execution transactions;

FIGURE 1
SAARMS BUDGET EXECUTION MODULE OPERATIONAL PROCESS



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- the generation of financial reports to the servicing accounting and finance office and the unified command;
 - local-activity management reports, to include user defined and generated reports; and
 - system integrity and security through a dual password control.

The Budget Execution Module has been designed using the DOS operating system on a PC as a stand-alone system in each SAO. The transfer of documents and reports is accomplished by message or by floppy disk which then must be reentered at the destination site. An alternative is to use the SAN, and upload and download files via the Interoperability Decision Support System (IDSS).

Figure 1 depicts the operational process associated with the Budget Execution Module.

BUDGET PREPARATION MODULE

The Budget Preparation Module is designed to standardize the SAO budget submission. It generates the required forms, reduces some of the manual entry requirements, and provides automated mathematical calculations. Future enhancements may include an automated interface with the data that has been generated by the Budget Execution Module and previous budget submissions. Although the budget development process will be less labor-intensive as result of automation, the SAO Chief must still revise the proposed budget prior to submission to accommodate anticipated changes in resource requirements.

PROPERTY MODULE

The Property Module, currently in the process of development, will provide a stand-alone module for the management of equipment and other controlled property by the SAO. It will automate supply-related procedures, to include the preparation of the property book, hand receipts, and the appropriate document registers.

PERSONNEL MODULE

The Personnel Module is tentatively scheduled for development in fiscal year 1995, following an upgrade of the Budget Execution Module to FoxPro®. The Personnel Module will compile data relative to Joint Manpower Program (JMP) data, dependent education data, lease data, etc., which are essential parts of the budget preparation and execution processes.

HEADQUARTERS MANAGEMENT MODULE

The Headquarters Management Module will include those requirements specified by the unified commands and DSAA to provide for compilation and analysis of management data. In effect, the Headquarters Module will give the parent unified command the capability to consolidate data relative to all SAOs within its area of responsibility (AOR). It could also possibly accommodate those larger SAOs that have a requirement for the consolidation of Budget Execution functions from several budget clerks.

SUMMARY

The Budget Execution Module is now available for use by all unified commands and most SAOs. Following prototype testing by selected USCENCOM SAOs, the Budget Preparation

Module is now available for release to other unified commands and SAOs. The Property Management, Personnel Management, and Headquarters Management Modules are still under development. All future SAARMS developments and major enhancements will be accomplished in FoxPro®.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mr. Layton is an Associated Professor at DISAM. His primary academic areas of study are Public Administration and International Relations, and his DISAM instructional areas include SAO functions and responsibilities and Latin America Regional studies. Mr. Layton holds a Master of Arts degree in International Relations from Boston University, Master of Arts degree in Public Administration from Central Michigan University, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy from Montana State University. He is also a graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.