

# NEWSLETTER

THE ULTIMATE **F**ORCE **M**ULTIPLIER

## IN THIS ISSUE

- 1-2 Why Apply for Civilian Development?
- 3-4 Mission Ready, Audit Ready: Introducing the Joint Transportation Management System
- 5-6 Reflections From an FM SARC
- 7-8 Decisions Without Data – Not Today!
- 9-11 Systems Corner
- 12 FM Incoming

## SPOTLIGHT: WHY APPLY FOR CIVILIAN DEVELOPMENT?

DAF FM Strategic Plan Connections  
**Goal 1 – Obj 1.1**

*by Ms. Cheryl Ray, SSC/FME*

Have you ever felt overwhelmed by the numerous emails and announcements about Civilian Development? I certainly did. It wasn't until my supervisor nudged me relentlessly that I decided to take the plunge. What followed was an eye-opening journey which not only honed my leadership skills but also transformed my professional outlook.

If you are like me, you probably perused the first email, then dismissed the rest. If your supervisor is a strong advocate, like mine, you were probably encouraged to review the course options and apply.

After reviewing the various courses and determining which might be of most interest, you checked if you had the right qualifications. Then ultimately decided it was too complicated and too competitive. We are our own worst critics. We compare our faults to others' expertise and decide it's just too daunting. We would rather stay on the path of knocking out the day-to-day job and taking the required courses to maintain our necessary certifications. The easy way...the safe way.

That was my thought process. At least, until my leadership took me under their wing,

helped me find the right courses, and guided me through the MyVector process.

Now this was a rather long process, especially for us FMers, which included several reviews and approvals. Each separate course has its own approval criteria. Packages are submitted between mid-January to mid-February, then reviewed and endorsed by the appropriate supervisory level by early March. Next, the Civilian Developmental Team Advisory Council (CDTAC) must review and approve. Depending on the type of package (boarded or non-boarded), it may also go to the Development Team (DT) for another level of approval. Are you following me? We are now into June and still haven't received any notification! By this time, I had changed positions and agencies.

Finally, I was notified of selection to attend The Defense Civilian Emerging Leader Program (DCELP) with an email notice from the Office of the Secretary of Defense! I was shocked as I did not realize the approval would come from that level!

So, let's talk about DCELP, which is a 4-week program spread over a 3-month period. I gleaned from other attendees how great the course was. However, this doesn't ➤



The Team 2 Class on their graduation day.

## Earn CET Credits!

**Newsletters:**  
0.5 CET each

**Magazines:**  
1.5 CETs each

Want to earn CET credit for reading this month's edition of the *SAF/FM Online Newsletter*? Complete a short quiz after reading the full publication. Access SAF/FM publications and their quizzes on [myFMHub](#).

## WHY APPLY FOR CIVILIAN DEVELOPMENT? (cont.)



begin to prepare you for the amazing experience you will have. Before your first in-person session, you complete a Myers-Briggs personality test. No big deal, I had done those several times in the past. Then you submit a 360-degree feedback assessment, which was new to me. For this assessment, you evaluate yourself, then your first- and second-level supervisors, peers, and other leaders also evaluate you. Mind you, I wasn't sure I wanted to know what others really thought about me, especially when the feedback would be anonymous. Fortunately, you get to invite people you know to participate; but you are challenged not to pick those who you believe will only say good things about you.

A DCELP Cohort is comprised of approximately 125 individuals across all DoD (Air Force, Space Force, Army, Navy, Fourth Estate, and Intelligence Agencies). Not only are all DoD components involved but multiple career fields are also included. Our cohort was comprised of Financial Management (FM), Human Resources (HR), and Acquisition (Contracting), who are then divided into four teams. I was surprised and excited to see several people I had known or worked with throughout the years.

We gathered in Norman, Oklahoma at the National Center of Education Development (NCED), which has walking paths, a gym, pool, tennis courts, on-site entertainment, and so much more. Everyone is encouraged to participate in activities outside of class, in and around the area.

We spent the first week getting to know one another and reviewing our Myers-Briggs results. This led to lessons and exercises around the theme of the week – *Learn Self!* We dove deep into learning about ourselves and began to build relationships with our new team members and learn the difference between coaching and mentoring.

I don't want to give away all the details as you truly need to experience this course and face the challenges and surprises that will help you develop into the person/leader you can be. So, I'll briefly tell you about the remaining seminars.

The theme for seminar two is *Express Yourself*. During this week, you are challenged to learn different ways to communicate. Expect some very challenging lessons and exercises that will stretch you, but also build you!

*Build Teams* is the theme for seminar three. You will review and share the results of your 360- assessment. You will use this tool to evaluate yourself and apply what you learn into building trust in teams you are on or those you will build.

The theme for your final week is *Lead People*. It's a bittersweet week as you prepare for graduation and say goodbye to this new family you have become.

Now on a final note, each team requires a Team Lead, and several committees also need volunteers. I highly encourage you to select a role and participate as this will only enhance your experience.

In conclusion, stepping out of your comfort zone to participate in the Civilian Development call can be daunting but incredibly rewarding. The DCELP, in particular, is more than just a leadership course; it's a transformative experience that builds confidence, fosters lasting connections, and equips you with skills that resonate throughout your career. If you get the chance, seize it – you won't regret it.

### About the Author

*Ms. Cheryl Ray is the Deputy Director for Workforce Development at Space Systems Command located at Los Angeles AFB, California.*



Ms. Ray's DCELP cohort volunteered to clean up a local park.



The Texans of DCELP Cohort 18.

# MISSION READY, AUDIT READY: Introducing the Joint Transportation Management System



DAF FM Strategic Plan Connections

## Goal 2 – Obj 2.3

*by Ms. Tiffany Gildon and Mr. Kevin Luechtefeld, USTRANSCOM*

Today's financial management community faces many challenges, but one issue is particularly pressing: the fragmented landscape of the current Department of Defense (DoD) operational and financial systems. These differing platforms come burdened with inconsistent internal controls, disjointed data interfaces, and an overreliance on manual inputs. The ramifications of this disjointed structure are far-reaching, casting doubt over the accuracy of financial statements and making auditability a challenge.

The Joint Transportation Management System (JTMS) is a solution to these challenges and will help achieve effectiveness and efficiency across the financial and transportation domains within the Joint Deployment and Distribution Enterprise (JDDE). "The JTMS will provide the JDDE one primary system to integrate end-to-end transportation operations to deliver and sustain the joint force," said General Jacqueline D. Van Ovost – Commander, United States Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM). JTMS is a DoD business reform initiative being led by the USTRANSCOM to field a commercial Enterprise Resource Planning solution that will fuse the financial and transportation domains throughout the JDDE to achieve auditability, transparency, and optimize resource allocation.

The scope of JTMS includes cargo and passenger movements across four lines of business: Continental United States

Freight, Strategic Airlift, Strategic Sealift, and Outside the Continental United States Freight. Collaborative efforts are underway with impacted stakeholders including Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy, Defense Contract Management Agency, Defense Finance and Accounting Service, and Defense Logistics Agency. Aerial refueling, patient movements, and household goods are not in scope within this initiative.

Specific to financial management, financial statement audits from various DoD services and agencies have produced many Notice of Findings and Recommendations (NFRs), which have identified material weaknesses and significant deficiencies that impact the transportation function. With numerous NFRs intimately tied to operational gaps, JTMS must provide a comprehensive solution that fortifies the financial structure for the challenges ahead.

The JTMS solution will target key areas such as timely and accurate transaction posting, Line of Accounting (LOA) validation, adherence to audit and regulatory requirements (particularly in Information Technology controls), key supporting documentation, funds control, and irrefutable proof of services rendered. ➤

“

***The JTMS will provide the JDDE one primary system to integrate end-to-end transportation operations to deliver and sustain the joint force.***

*Gen. Jacqueline D. Van Ovost  
Commander, U.S. Transportation Command*



”

# MISSION READY, AUDIT READY: Introducing the Joint Transportation Management System (cont.)



In the implementation of JTMS, the Joint Program Office (JPO) is using a five-step phased approach designed to ensure a successful transition to the future state. This includes:

## DEFINE

The JTMS JPO will kick things off by dissecting current processes, personnel, data infrastructure, and technical capabilities. This deep dive will provide a comprehensive understanding of where the JDDE is today and where pain points and opportunities exist.

## REFORM

Armed with insights from documented “as-is” JDDE processes, the JTMS JPO team is analyzing findings, while probing the root causes behind them. With the focus on Doctrine, Organization, Training, materiel, Leadership, Personnel, Facilities – Policy (DOTmLPP-P) changes, JTMS will not only address technical shortcomings but also institute fundamental reform to enhance effectiveness.

## DESIGN

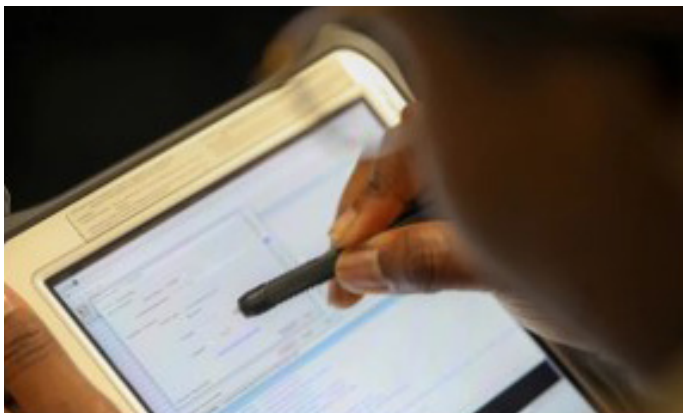
Next, the JTMS JPO and JDDE stakeholders will standardize processes based on commercial best practices, crafting “to-be” models that align with mission objectives.

## FIELD

Now, it’s game time! With many impacts to consider, the JTMS JPO and JDDE stakeholders will chart a course and configure the JTMS materiel solution for a smooth transition to the JDDE future state. Rigorous testing and validation will ensure that systems are battle-ready before deployment across the JDDE. Comprehensive stakeholder training will ensure that everyone is ready to hit the ground running.

## SUSTAIN

Work for the JTMS JPO and JDDE stakeholders doesn’t end with deployment. Monitoring of process and system performance and assessing Key Performance Indicators will be ongoing. And continuous refinement, guided by lessons learned, will ensure that JTMS remains agile and adaptable in the face of evolving challenges.



With JTMS’s phased implementation approach, each step lays the groundwork for fiscal resilience. The ultimate vision includes transactions being posted accurately and in a timely manner, swift and absolute Line of Accounting validation, and meeting audit and regulatory requirements with precision.

Throughout all phases, the JTMS JPO will embrace Organizational Change Management, a type of change management framework, to keep stakeholder communities apprised of JTMS progress, understand their concerns and/or struggles, and support stakeholder preparation for the adoption of new business processes and technology.

As the JDDE moves forward on the path to transportation and financial management transformation, the schedule for fielding the JTMS solution is taking shape.

## High-level timeline for JTMS implementation includes the following milestones:

- The JTMS Implementation Contract Request for Proposal is scheduled for Quarter (Q) 3 Fiscal Year (FY) 2024
- The Organizational Change Management Contract Award is scheduled for Q4 FY 2024
- The Prime Implementation Contract Award is scheduled for Q2 FY 2025, with design and configuration scheduled to begin during that same timeframe
- Final Deployment of the JTMS is scheduled for Q4 FY 2030

Stakeholder collaboration is key to JTMS success, especially as work continues with ongoing “as-is” process mapping and business process reform analysis. Contact [transcom.scott.tcaq.mbx.jtms-pm@mail.mil](mailto:transcom.scott.tcaq.mbx.jtms-pm@mail.mil) for more information or questions about the initiative.

### About the Author

*Ms. Tiffany Gildon (Chief, Program Control) and Mr. Kevin Luechtefeld (Financial Systems Analyst) both support the Joint Transportation Management System, Joint Program Office, United States Transportation Command, located at Scott AFB, Illinois.*

Left: “As-Is” process mapping is being used to develop “To-Be” processes, leading to optimized financial and operational processes. Financial processes included in the JTMS effort thus far include funds availability, rates management, third party payment system, and commercial payments.



# REFLECTIONS FROM AN FM SARC



by Capt Zachary Rausch, ACC/FMAOS

“Oh, I could never do that!” This is the most common response I received after telling someone I was a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC). However, I challenge you to consider how this role could be one of the best things you do in your military career. When those who have been in the Department of Defense think about a SARC, the first things that probably come to mind are the victims a SARC helps and someone who lectures them annually on consent and safe sex. However, the reality is so much more complex than that. Most of us serve because we have a deep desire to help those around us and to fulfill the “Service Before Self” calling of our organization’s core values. I can think of few more powerful or needed ways to fulfill this calling than by serving as a SARC. **This position develops your crisis management skills, improves your interpersonal and emotional intelligence skills, and broadens your perspective, all of which allow you to be a better leader.**



Capt Rausch at Prince Sultan Air Base.

## Developing Crisis Management Skills:

It is the moments of crisis that show those around us what kind of leader we are or are not. How will you respond when someone comes to you for help in the worst moments of their life? What will you say? What will you do? My time as a SARC stretched my crisis management skills beyond what was comfortable many times, and I am thankful for the opportunities for growth these experiences provided.

As a SARC you would become familiar with:

- working with individuals who have experienced significant trauma,
- discussing uncomfortable topics, keeping your composure, and remaining present while listening to clients recount their stories, and
- running a small office (possibly consisting of just you) that has high visibility and scrutiny by leadership and Congress.

Additionally, SARCs report directly to the wing commander or vice commander. The ability to speak confidently and respectfully with colonels and general officers (GO), particularly when explaining why I could not answer questions to the detail they requested, was an area of growth for me.

If you are wondering how these skills translate to FM, let me explain. If you can be comfortable and make your fellow conversationalist comfortable during what is probably the single most uncomfortable discussion one can possibly have, then you can use those skills to master the uncomfortable conversations that are required with subordinates and peers. **If you can master remaining respectful, calm, and collected when well-intentioned GOs are pressing you for information you are not allowed to share, it will provide great training for remaining calm while fielding a Wing CC’s budgetary questions.**

## Improving Interpersonal and Emotional Intelligence Skills:

Successful leadership depends on an individual’s ability to effectively work with people, clearly communicate an idea or vision, and motivate others to act on that idea or vision. An essential tool for any leader’s toolbelt is trauma-informed knowledge, as it allows an individual to understand the perspectives and possible states of mind of those who are hurting and struggling and then use that knowledge to empower and motivate them to heal and grow. This skill pays dividends not only when working with individuals who have suffered sexual trauma, but also when working with others who think about and view the world differently than we do. As we work to understand different viewpoints and thought processes, we are able to communicate and motivate others more effectively. ➤



All too often, SARCs see individuals separate from the military after an assault due to leadership lacking a trauma-informed viewpoint; this unnecessary loss affects our overall readiness more than we realize. On the less severe scale, I have seen well-intentioned leaders become aware of sexual harassment behaviors and want to address it immediately in a Commander's Call but fail to consider that addressing it in that format also singles out the individuals who have already suffered. **Applying trauma-informed principles to FM allows you to work effectively with stakeholders outside of FM who may be unfamiliar with our processes and find them stressful.**

### Broaden Perspectives:

Most will agree that a broader perspective makes a better leader. As a SARC, you encounter so many different people and career fields, especially when deployed, which opens your eyes to the many different methods and thought processes that make our Air Force so effective. **One of the reasons I found being a SARC so beneficial to my professional growth was that it helped me realize how the many small agencies within Wing Staff Agencies (WSA)/Special Staff work and the challenges they face.** This is a side we in FM rarely see until we are placed as a Comptroller or Senior Enlisted Leader, and then, due to our position, we may still fail to appreciate the unique challenges that these small but vital organizations experience. Even a basic understanding of the other agencies within WSA can be extremely beneficial, as it enables you to better understand the responsibilities and challenges of our partners. By taking every opportunity to learn about the responsibilities and tools of our fellow Airmen, we position ourselves to be better stewards and advocates for funding in the ever-constrained budgetary environment in which we operate.

### I encourage you to consider the following:

1. If you have a passion to help others, talk with your leadership about the opportunities that may be available to you in the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) field, for both enlisted and officer personnel. I am also happy to speak with those who are interested.
2. Speak with your local SARC on how you can receive trauma-informed training to hone your leadership skills.
3. Take every opportunity to broaden your knowledge on roles and responsibilities of those outside of your organization that you work with.

#### About the Author

*Capt Zachary Rausch is the Special Staff Budget Analyst for ACC/FM located at Langley AFB, Hampton, Virginia.*

## SAF/FMC'S STELLAR SUMMIT

The Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Cost and Economics (SAF/FMC), Mr. C. Grant McVicker, hosted more than 100 military and civilian personnel at the second bi-annual Cost Estimating Summit at Joint Base Andrews from 5-7 June 2024. The Summit focused on evaluating, enhancing, and improving awareness of independent cost, schedule, and economic analytical support to the Department of the Air Force's most challenging resourcing decisions. A special emphasis was placed on the Department's Great Power Competition (GPC) paradigm shift. Senior leaders from Air Force and Space Force Acquisitions, Plans & Programs, Force Design, and several organizations directly supporting the GPC evolution provided valuable insights to how their business had changed, and the support needed from the Air Force Cost Analysis Agency (AFCAA), a Field Operating Agency aligned to SAF/FMC, to ensure success going forward.

The team also took the opportunity to build cohesion by attending a Washington Nationals baseball game and a unit barbecue. The Summit was book-ended with a keynote from Mr. Carlos Rodgers and a capstone address from Honorable Kristyn Jones. Overall, the event was an outstanding success, aligning SAF/FMC & AFCAA with the Secretary of the Air Force and senior staff's vision for GPC.



FMC & AFCAA pose for a group photo outside the Smart Center at Joint Base Andrews, MD.

# DECISIONS WITHOUT DATA – NOT TODAY!



DAF FM Strategic Plan Connections

## Goal 2 – Obj 2.3

*by Mr. William Boldizar III, AFMC AEDC/FMAT*

No one makes a decision in today's world without looking at a minimum of at least two variables. In fact, many seem to prefer looking at two hundred before making the "final call." Data is everywhere and in everything, so it's easy to understand how leaders can get bogged down in analysis paralysis.

The true art of the analyst is to transform data into relevant information. This can be a tricky proposition given the multiplicity of sources and significant lack of data input validation. In layman's terms: information is everywhere and none of it is in the same language! But we must get it right. The future of our nation depends on quality decisions, and those decisions depend on quality information.

Financial analysts at the Arnold Engineering and Development Complex (AEDC) are doing their part to ensure commanders are armed with timely and relevant information...anytime, anywhere.

At AEDC, we test stuff. The better we are at testing stuff, the faster we deliver new capabilities to the warfighter. Commanders need immediate and accurate information to pivot testing windows to maximize efficiency and effectiveness. But AEDC is unique in the Air Force. Test operations are performed by a primary contractor, with strategy and oversight provided by Air Force Commanders. This was General Henry "Hap" Arnold's original vision upon AEDC's inception – limit government bureaucracy and maximize commercial ingenuity to accelerate new capabilities.

Financially speaking, this is an exceptionally difficult challenge. Information is housed separately in the Air Force Accounting Systems, including the General Accounting and Finance System (GAFS), Defense Enterprise and Accounting Management System (DEAMS), and Job Order Cost Accounting System (JOCAS), and a Test Operations Support contractor's accounting system (PeopleSoft Financials). If the right hand doesn't talk to the left hand, everybody stops working! And as one can imagine, these systems were not designed to play nicely with one another. Over the past six months an analyst, Mr. Elvy Rorie, has taken the task of innovating a suite of data integration platforms across the broad spectrum of financial information at AEDC. To say he is "killing it" is an understatement.



"Knowledge...AEDC's only product" has been the motto at Arnold AFB since 1951. Elvy Rorie is redefining how AEDC's pursuit of knowledge is communicated throughout the complex.

Mr. Rorie has leveraged Microsoft's Power BI application to integrate data from PeopleSoft Financials, GAFS/BQ, and JOCAS. His innovative tool provides detailed, project-level status information in a single source. The reports have been customized to meet local commander intent, and they are easily modified to meet new demands and requests from incoming decision makers. Not only that, but he has automated the process. His tool refreshes its data from the requisite systems daily and updates all reports. The refresh is set up on a schedule, so we don't even have to click a button anymore!

One significant detail that should not be overlooked: the software required to build these tools is free! The Power BI desktop application and online publishing service is available to all AF users which means that anyone with some initiative could create a similar product for their organization. The A6 community has purchased the software and licensing to make it so.

Did I mention that Mr. Rorie is self-taught? Yep, that's right. A year ago, Mr. Rorie hadn't even heard of Power BI. But he was motivated, and there are enough resources on Google and YouTube to become an expert user in a very short period of time. Wings and squadrons can stop paying outside entities like Oracle and TekSouth to build ➤





dashboards that can be built by a motivated employee. We can save hundreds of thousands of dollars every year on over-priced software that costs us even more money when we need to make a change. To do so would just require commanders to recognize talent, give those folks a vector, and give them the autonomy to be great.

The power of this integration cannot be overstated. No longer do we need to login to three different systems to generate a complete picture. No longer do we have to wait for obsolete analytics platforms to update their software (yep...I'm looking right at you, Oracle). No longer do we have to wait for programmers, who don't know our operational business, to build reports that "might" tell us what we need to know. And no longer do we have to pay for those services that oftentimes leave us feeling significantly underwhelmed with our return on investment.

This transition marks a new dawn in the era of financial analytics at AEDC. Our financial analysts are now free to do the job they are actually being paid to do. It's a novel concept (pun intended). Government employees that perform the work they were hired for... who would have ever thought of that?

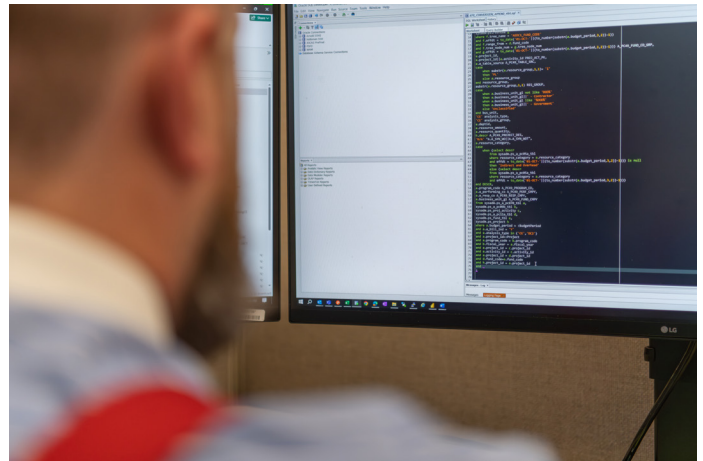
AEDC analysts don't spend their time building reports for decision makers anymore. AEDC analysts spend their time looking for solutions to problems presented by the information on hand. We provide alternatives and commanders decide which direction to travel. If you're reading this article, I'm thinking that concept may sound familiar.

AEDC is already reaping financial rewards. The new tool saves a single analyst about 90 minutes every day in report generation time. Doing the math, that estimates to approximately \$29K per year in freed up time. Did I mention we have 25 current users? That's three quarters of a million dollars in saved time annually. Boom!

Mr. Rorie continues to innovate across platforms and generate value at AEDC. Word spreads fast when talent is unleashed. His work represents a turn in the way we do business in financial management. It's a turn that visionary leaders have been trying to cultivate for years within the community. That vision is finally becoming reality. Not just at AEDC, but across the operational Air Force as well. Blazing a trail into the future. That's what we do.



Visualizing data takes vision – integrating data across platforms is an exceptionally challenging task in an organization that houses three different accounting systems.



Mr. Rorie, affectionately known by his FM peers as "The Wizard," spends hours manipulating data queries to update Power BI visualizations for Command Staff.

## About the Author

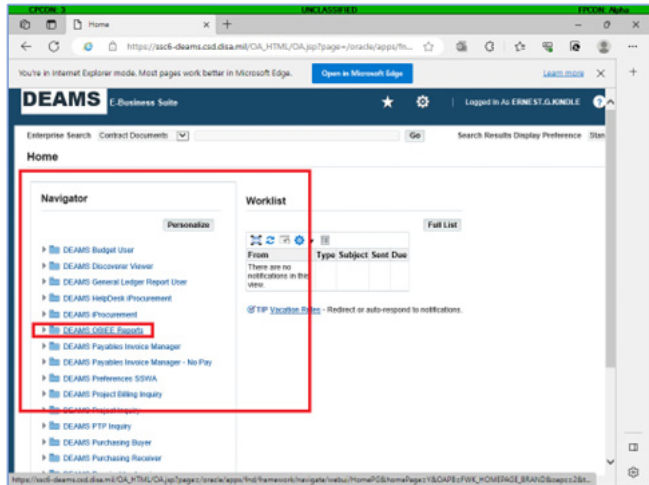
*Mr. William Boldizar III is the Chief of Financial Management Analysis-Test for the Arnold Engineering & Development Complex located at Arnold AFB, Tennessee.*





## DEAMS RELEASES NEW REPORTING TOOL IN JULY 2024

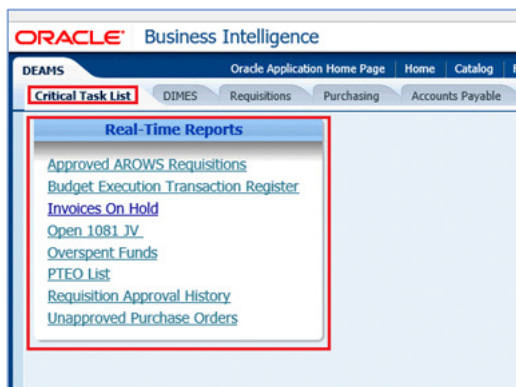
by Mr. Todd Baker, Senior FM Operations and Business Transformation Advisor



The Navigator list on the DEAMS homepage hosts OBIEE.

On 1 July 2024, the Defense Enterprise Accounting and Management System (DEAMS) Functional Management Office released the new **DEAMS Oracle Business Intelligence Enterprise Edition (OBIEE) Reports** application. OBIEE is a reporting tool offering more capability and dexterity to base users than the current DEAMS Discoverer Viewer reports application. OBIEE is accessed from the Navigator list on the DEAMS homepage, like all other DEAMS responsibilities.

On the OBIEE Dashboard, users will find a series of tabs across the top of the dashboard providing access to standard, frequently used reports which are further broken down by a list of Real-Time Reports that are most used in that category.



The OBIEE Dashboard has a series of tabs which provide access to standard, frequently used reports.

Each report opens to a series of prompts (similar to the Discoverer Viewer parameters) to help drill down to the specific data set or function that needs to be reviewed. Entering prompt values is a big key in how reports are completed. OBIEE has multiple ways to select the prompt value, from direct entry to using a list of values to either find or select the value(s). As with all report capabilities, the more “prompt” values entered, the quicker a query will return results.

Once a query’s results are displayed, there are customizations that can be applied within the tool. These include the capability to sort the data within the query, move columns, sort columns, and the ability to save the query and/or set the query as the default for future use. As an additional benefit, these customizations can be saved for repeated use in the future.

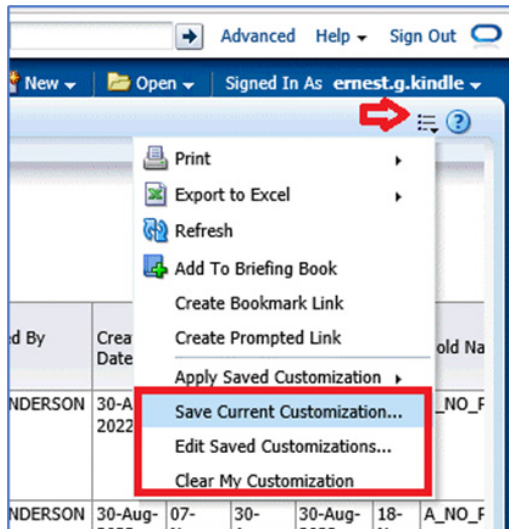


Each report opens to a series of prompts.

The following job aids are available on the [DEAMS Outreach Portal](#) to provide step-by-step instructions for completing the tasks described in this narrative:

- **DEAMS OBIEE Reports** gives an overview of the reports application and how to use it
- **DEAMS OBIEE Reports Customize Report** provides instructions on customizing reports in OBIEE

To prepare DEAMS users to successfully navigate OBIEE, multiple one-hour training sessions were offered 24 June – 12 July 2024. A [recording](#) of an OBIEE training session is available on the OBIEE News Page on the DEAMS Outreach Portal.



Customizations can be saved for repeated use in the future.

There are currently 88 reports available on the OBIEE DEAMS dashboard. The DEAMS Functional Management Office anticipates General Ledger data warehouse capability and the Selective Transaction History report to be available later this year, and work continues on the Status of Funds, expected to be released FY25Q1. More than 125 reports are expected to be available once OBIEE is fully deployed. Over 360 reports out of the original 873 Discoverer reports have been removed or “unshared” based on low execution or being no longer needed. The remaining Discoverer reports will be available through Fiscal Year End (FYE) closeout and will phaseout in FY25.

OBIEE and Discoverer Viewer will both be available during this upcoming FYE. For more information, please contact Mr. Ernest Kindle, Kearney & Company, DEAMS Development/Training Team, at [ernest.kindle.1.ctr@us.af.mil](mailto:ernest.kindle.1.ctr@us.af.mil).

## The Latest from AFAOC

by Ms. Jenny Beer, Director, AFAOC

### Funds Control Changes in DEAMS

The Continuing Resolution has been replaced with an actual appropriation, which means funds control in Defense Enterprise Accounting and Management System (DEAMS) will change from the Fund and Operating Entity (OE) levels. As of 1 July 2024, Funds Control levels in DEAMS have been adjusted to the standard levels. For a summary of the Funds Control Levels, please refer to the [FY24 Funds Control](#) slide located on the DEAMS Outreach Portal.



To avoid funds check errors and overspent conditions, ensure you load sufficient Available Obligation Authority to cover the Gross Commitments and Available Reimbursement Authority to cover the Realized Reimbursements summarized at the funds control levels. Remember to also balance to your latest Operating Budget Authority Document (OBAD) or Funding Authority Document (FAD).

### Reversing All Subsequently Available Authority

The Air Force Accounting Operations Center (AFAOC) Command Subject Matter Expert (CSME) video [The SA on SA](#) highlights the importance of managing Subsequently Available (SA) authority balances in DEAMS, especially in the fiscal fourth quarter where there should no longer be SA target balances. In preparing for Fiscal Year End (FYE), Defense Finance Accounting Service (DFAS) cannot report SA Authority for expiring Funds and must process a mass allocation to remove the balances from the General Ledger (GL). However, this process is not without its consequences as it causes imbalances between the subledger and GL, resulting in financial statement audit findings and **is no easy fix**.

What is an easy fix is to get those targets reversed! Everyone should make this a priority and reverse target loads at the Accounting Flexfield Line of Accounting (LOA) level by adding new lines to your existing documents. For Subsequently Available Reimbursement Authority, don't forget the Descriptive Flexfield (DFF) for the Sales Code.

Our CSMEs stand ready to assist you with getting these transactions reversed before DEAMS closes for FY24. To find the consultant who directly supports your organization, take a look at the complete list of DEAMS CSMEs in the [Command DEAMS SMEs](#) post in the DEAMS Users Group on milBook.

## FYE Reimbursement Processing

Managing a reimbursement program can be challenging, but balancing throughout the Fiscal Year will alleviate some needless stress at FYE. Now is the time to ensure your Earned Reimbursements to Accrued Expenditures are in balance. This is where Filled Customer Orders/Collections (FCO/COL; Earned Reimbursements) are compared to R-Fund Accrued Expenditures Unpaid and Accrued Expenditures Paid (AEU/AEP; Accrued Expenditures) balances, by Sales Code.

To see what actions are required before we reach the end of the fiscal year, review the reimbursement instruction and guidance posted to the [DEAMS Users Group](#) on milBook, such as [Intro to DEAMS Reimbursements](#), [EOY Reimbursement Balancing](#), and [Fiscal Year End \(FYE\) Reimbursement Balancing](#).



## AFAOC Monthly Users Forum Content

The AFAOC and their Accounting Partners have another great lineup of carefully curated topics for the June forum, clocking in at 90 minutes of content! Links to each of these informative and instructional topics can be found in the [DEAMS Users Group](#) on milBook, or connect to each presentation directly using the links below.

- Data Analytics: [Introduction to Building a Power BI Report](#)
- AFAOC Field Support: [Syncada 101](#)
- AFAOC Help-Desk – AFFSO Systems: [LeaveWeb- Common Issues and How to Address](#)

If you have questions on any of these topics after reviewing the presentations, ask our SMEs for more information by clicking the **Ask Question** button at the bottom of the topic posts. Our SMEs are standing by and will respond quickly. Remember, you must review **all** the content listed above before filling out the [CET Request Form](#).

Make sure to look for Users Forum content in July and August, as well as review past materials using the [Find Information page in the DEAMS Users Group](#) prior to closeout. Thank you for your continued support of the AFAOC Monthly Users Forums!







## Innovation that Excites: RTC Hosts Successful Power Apps Course

The Resource Training Center (RTC) hosted a four-day Power Apps course in May that received resounding positive feedback. MSgt Robert Santamaria, MSgt Samuel Spaethe, and TSgt Thomas Morris coordinated the effort, which had over 140 registrants that were narrowed down to approximately 80 students for quality control.

The four-day course provided a deep-dive into how to use the Power Apps platform for sustainable automation to solve Comptroller issues. In addition, about 60 students took part in the 'Build an App' day. These students built their own apps to address current gaps around topics like in-processing and appointment letters. Other apps provided new resources, like a daily calculator for Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA) and a search tool for Additional Duties.

Ultimately, the significant student interest and positive feedback signaled a demand for this type of training and innovation, and the RTC team harnessed the power of community to increase knowledge across the board. The RTC plans to incorporate some of the student-created apps on the Financial Information Collaborate Space (FICS) 2.0, making them available to scale and increase standardization efforts across the bases.

Want to experience the training for yourself? Each session was recorded to provide the field with a comprehensive [On-Demand Course](#) located on FICS 2.0. Follow the link to watch videos and complete activities on your own schedule!



## Get to the Data FASTR: Introducing Budget Applications in Advana

We are excited to announce SAF/FMB's recent launch of the Financial Air and Space Team Resources (FASTR) Budget Applications in Advana! FASTR's mission is to build an enterprise data analytics environment that empowers Air Force financial stakeholders to query their organization's data, develop custom reports, and publish dashboards that support critical decision-making. FASTR's Budget Applications offer standardized visualizations with extensive filters and drilldown capabilities to support users at SAF, MAJCOMs, Wings, and lower echelons. Additional use cases and data sources are in-flight giving you more access to create new insights. FASTR Budget Applications stand out from other analytics tools, providing users with:

- Direct access to 5 data sources and the ability to connect to 26+ data sources across FASTR use cases and 400+ data sources across all business domains in Advana
- Current and legacy systems of record aligned in a centralized location
- Automatic and consistent data refreshes

### Access Information

Prospective FASTR users who do not have access to Advana should complete a [DD2875 SAAR](#). Once the SAAR is routed to the appropriate individuals, the prospective users should request access to FASTR at the [Advana Service Desk](#), where they can submit their SAAR.

### Training Offerings

FMBP-S delivers biweekly introductory trainings on FASTR Budget Applications. The next training will take place on 18 July 2024. Training invites are distributed via Outlook 24-48 hours before the course date. Join the [SAF/FMBS Microsoft team](#) to access training resources!

### How can you get involved?

Reach out to SAF/FMBP-S team; let us know what additional sources and visualizations would be meaningful for decision making. There are opportunities for you to learn new skillsets and to improve your SAF/FM digital footprint.

Please reach out to [saf.fmbs.workflow@us.af.mil](mailto:saf.fmbs.workflow@us.af.mil) with any questions and/or feedback!



Stay up-to-date with the latest in DAF FM on LinkedIn and Facebook!

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/daffm/> | <https://www.facebook.com/USAFComptroller>