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SPOTLIGHT: ACCOUNTING FOR THE LARGEST NEO IN HISTORY: OPERATION ALLIES REFUGE

by Mr. Tony Hinojosa, USTRANSCOM

Ever present during the execution of Operation ALLIES REFUGE (OAR), the United States Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM) Accounting Team may have supported from the sidelines but they provided extremely valuable daily updates to the command leadership, House Appropriations Committee, Financial Management (FM) Budget Operations Revolving, and the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense

Comptroller (OUSDC). While the operational forces focused on evacuating thousands of people from Afghanistan, the accounting team provided cash balances and burndown projections on a daily basis keeping the commander well informed of all financial activities and concerns, and ensuring the Transportation Working Capital Fund remained solvent.

Long after the media coverage ended, the work for the USTRANSCOM Accounting Team continued as they supported the backend accounting activities associated with the largest non-combatant evacuation operation (NEO) in history, which saw more than 2,600 airlift sorties flown to evacuate over 124,000 civilians from Kabul. Made up primarily of the USTRANSCOM Program Analysis and FM Directorate and the Air Mobility Command accounting teams, the OAR Accounting Team was tasked with ensuring fiduciary responsibility on behalf of the four-star commander. Some of the more significant lessons learned along the way include:

1. RELATIONSHIPS: It is important to be able to rely on a professional relationship on any given day, but it is increasingly important when your back is against the wall. Throughout the course of daily OAR activities and meetings, required communications both upward and downward led to the development of new relationships, and the strengthening of existing relationships. These old and new relationships allowed the team to quickly obtain guidance from Defense Finance Accounting Service (DFAS) Indianapolis on accounting for foreign gifts, work with DFAS Columbus on cash infusion activities, get help from DFAS Limestone on expediting accounts receivable collections, and coordinating reporting across the USTRANSCOM directorate, and in coordinating funding reimbursements with OUSDC.



As part of Operation ALLIES REFUGE, Afghan citizens evacuated Hamid Karzai International Airport, Kabul, onboard military aircraft (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Kylie Barrow)

SPOTLIGHT: ACCOUNTING FOR THE LARGEST NEO IN HISTORY: OPERATION ALLIES REFUGE *(cont.)*



2. ACCOUNTING FOR FOREIGN GIFTS: Ensuring accuracy of all accounting activities to withstand internal and external audits is always at the forefront of financial managers' efforts. But the generosity of numerous foreign countries created a previously unexperienced accounting concern—the need to account for approximately \$24 million in donated airlift. Not treated the same as traditional foreign gifts, the team researched Department of Defense (DoD) policies and conferred with experts to ensure understanding and seek guidance on how to accurately account for these gifts. As a result, the USTRANSCOM team developed internal procedures for tracking, accounting, and reporting for the foreign gifted airlift.


3. THE PENTAGON NEVER SLEEPS: Those familiar with working with Pentagon entities understand the regular stream of requests for information needed to support internal and external decision-making. Now imagine the entire world focused on your daily operational activities. As could be expected, requests for the financial impacts of the operations increased and were received and provided at a steady pace through scheduled and unscheduled intervals to support well informed decision making at all organizational levels. Cash and accounting updates were provided daily throughout the course of operations and continued to be provided long after the daily operations concluded. The team quickly adapted to anticipate requests and adjusted their schedules to support these requests accordingly.

4. CAPTURE/DOCUMENT EVERYTHING: The United States (U.S.) military is renowned for its ability to accomplish their mission, and this was clearly evident in the herculean effort accomplished by the Joint Force. What the U.S. military is not renowned for is its ability to keep detailed accounting records while completing the mission. As a result, it was increasingly necessary to ensure that USTRANSCOM and supporting organizations documented methodologies as well as decisions that were made to withstand future scrutiny of records. Through J8 injection in all OAR related meetings, financial or not, the team captured existing and potential fiscal concerns that were addressed well ahead of time. Additionally, the team captured and documented streamlined processes to support similar potential future requirements.

5. PAYING THE BILLS: Leading and sustaining the largest airlift evacuation in history comes with a price tag. Of the 26 carriers and 451 commercial aircraft enrolled in the Civil Reserve Air Fleet, only 18 aircraft were activated and used to augment military aircraft in support of OAR evacuation operations. In response to operations, the J8 planned for nearly ten times that amount of commercial aircraft and the associated costs. While USTRANSCOM's mission as a combatant command is to “conduct global integrated mobility operations, lead the broader joint deployment and distribution enterprise, and provide enabling capabilities to project and sustain the Joint Force,” the operational and financial requirements levied on it from OAR were greater than could be expected.

Adding to the already challenging task of funding this monumental event was the need to coordinate the allocation of costs between several U.S. federal departments and agencies, stretch existing internal funding, and coordinate the reimbursement of costs as the fiscal year came to a close. As could be expected, consistent and accurate communications were required to keep all activities on track and to address any potential concerns as they emerged.

Because all eyes were on USTRANSCOM and daily cash balances were already being reported, it was easier than it normally might have been to gain allies in helping the organization request the funding needed to keep us solvent. As a reminder, making requests and obtaining a commitment to reimburse the fund are not the same. Through numerous meetings and conversations with senior DoD and Department of State leadership, the team eventually obtained the needed commitments to reimburse OAR activities. Funding is additionally a slow process, but fortunately was expedited in the form of a cash infusion about 30 days after operations ceased.

Numerous lessons and insights were gained from supporting OAR and it was reassuring to be reminded of the care and concern that went into every OAR activity—operational or administrative. It is also important to recognize the truly joint efforts of the U.S. in planning, executing, and accounting for such a historic evacuation and the numerous foreign countries who rallied together to ensure its success. 

About the Author

Mr. Tony Hinojosa is the Division Chief for the Joint Finance Center at U.S. Transportation Command at Scott AFB, IL.

LATINA Style Recognizes One of Our Own



by Ms. Chantele Dow, AFPC, and Ms. Johanna Ogden, SAF/FME

Since 2004, LATINA Style has recognized and celebrated the accomplishments of women in the military and Department of Defense (DoD) civilian workforce through the LATINA Style Distinguished Military Service Awards.

This award, presented annually at the National Latina Symposium conference, highlights the outstanding achievement of Latinas in their respective services. Latinas are recognized for their leadership, accomplishments, and commitment to building a strong community. Civilian Latinas are selected based on the following criteria.


- Embodying qualities at the core of the Component's mission
- Helping to create opportunities and careers that support and contribute to the advancement of Hispanic Americans toward senior level positions
- Displaying exceptional character and representing the Hispanic community with dignity and pride

This year, Ms. Hope Barber was honored with this recognition for her role in enhancing Latinas in her organization and the DoD writ large.

Ms. Barber is a Supervisory Career Field Administrator on the Financial Management (FM) Career Field Team (CFT), Talent Management Division, Headquarters Air Force (AF) Personnel Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. Ms. Barber is currently the Force Renewal team lead, serving the Air Force FM enterprise by implementing innovative recruitment and retention strategies to achieve human capital and mission critical occupation objectives. Ms. Barber works closely with FM senior leadership to support AF corporate force renewal processes and compliance with law and AF policy objectives.

In her previous assignment, Ms. Barber led the FM CFT Force Sustainment team and oversaw administrative efforts in support of over 8K civilians, supervisors, and leaders in the FM career field. Ms. Barber began her federal career in 2013 at Ramstein Air Base, Germany as a Budget Analyst for the 603d Air Operations Center (AOC). She held positions of increased responsibility with both the Department of the Air Force and Department of the Army.

Prior to her current position, she served as a Management Analyst in the Plans, Analysis, and Integration Office, U.S. Army Garrison, Installation Management Command, Fort Riley, Kansas. There she played a critical role during COVID-19 operations by developing a matrix that informed soldiers, families, and civilians of service impacts during COVID-19 mitigation.

Ms. Barber is a second generation Mexican American and the first in her family to serve as a civilian in the federal service. For more information on the National Latina Style program, visit nls.latinastyle.com. 



Ms. Chantele Dow awards Ms. Barber with her LATINA Style Distinguished Military Service Award

About the Authors

Ms. Chantele Dow is the Chief of the Financial Management Career Field Team at Joint Base San Antonio, TX, and

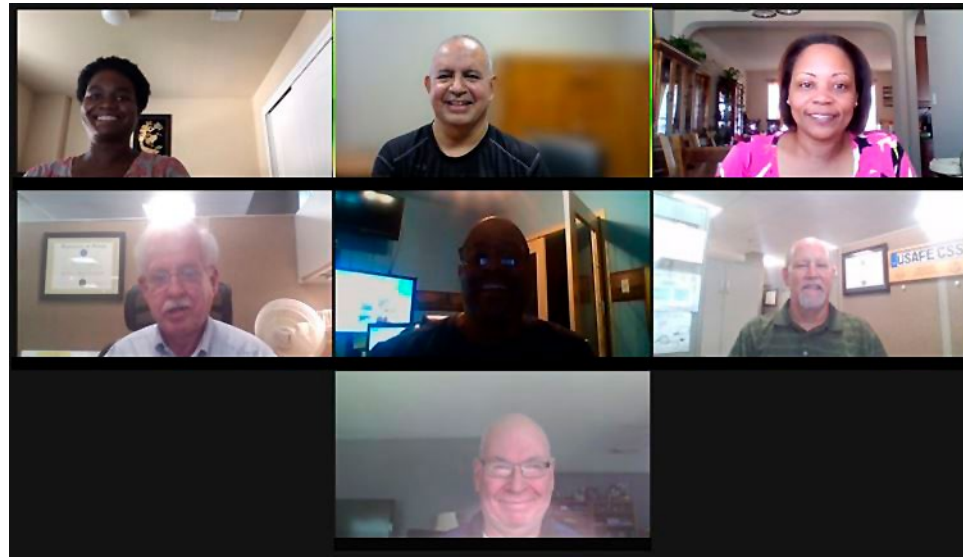
Ms. Johanna Ogden is a Booz Allen Hamilton contractor supporting the Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management and Comptroller at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

The Team Behind Your TDY-to-School Authorization



by MSgt Rashelle Dunn, SSC

Deep in the heart of Texas there lies a small, hard-working team of Financial Managers whose work reaches every corner of the Air Force. Very few Airmen may be aware of their existence; however, it is likely most Airmen have received support from this team at least once in their career. As part of the Air Education and Training Command (AETC)—Financial Management Directorate, Temporary Duty-to-School (TTS) Section, a small team of Airmen works closely with Headquarters Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) and 77 Military Personnel Flights and Base Education Offices daily. They are responsible for the overall



The FM Temporary Duty-to-School team poses for a photo from their remote workstations

execution of a \$150M budget and process over 51,000 travel requests annually for all AETC TTS-funded travel. TTS covers courses less than 20 weeks, including: Mission Readiness Training, Field Training Detachments, Professional Military Education, Professional Continuing Education, Flying Training, Air Force Institute of Technology, and Medical Professional and Training Management courses.


The TTS program has a long history within AETC. The program began in the mid-1990's when AETC conducted a command Process Action Team (PAT) to determine the most cost effective and efficient process for the command's TTS. At the time, TTS encompassed over \$110 million and 66,000 student quotas annually. The action team reviewed five potential options for TTS program management and recommended it change from a centrally managed allotment to a modified specific allotment. This enabled the command to save millions of dollars annually by accurately costing and accounting for every TTS dollar. The transition, implemented at the start of FY97, was performed by a team formed under the 12th Comptroller Squadron (CPTS). The TTS team tracked quotas, created travel orders, and obligated funds as a modified specific allotment using a single Operating Budget Account Number. In 2010, the 12 CPTS was absorbed under the 502 CPTS with the stand-up of Joint Base San Antonio. The next significant modernization effort for the TTS program occurred in 2012 when paper orders were transitioned to the Defense Travel System (DTS). The automation improved processes and efficiencies within the TTS office, reduced the amount of travel orders processed by the Air Force Financial Services Center at Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota, led to the creation of TTS business rules within DTS, and improved control of travel entitlements, debt management, and overall audit readiness.

Over the past 25 years, the team's capabilities have developed from manually processing travel requests via hard copy travel orders and obligating funds in legacy systems to a fully digital cradle-to-grave process, beginning with accurate and timely training quota processing. A training quota originates from the Training Requestor Quota Identifier managers, then flows down to the Base Training Managers, who then input the training quota information into the TTS website, where our technicians receive it for processing. The quota is reviewed for completeness, then analyzed to determine the method of processing. DTS is used for 95% of TTS travel while the remaining 5% a mixture of Orders Processing Application used for training in conjunction with a Permanent Change of Station, and manual processing used for local national training or

The Team Behind Your TDY-to-School Authorization *(cont.)*



when data must be masked. For all DTS orders, the technician emails the student with course information, policies unique to TTS, and the line of accounting that will be available to them through the Cross-Organization feature in DTS. In addition to processing the travel request, the technicians manage their open document listing for the TTS line of accounting which requires continuous follow-up with each of their customers until their final voucher is completed. The TTS team relies on DTS administrators across the Air Force to ensure orders are processed and reconciled in a timely manner.

The TTS team is comprised of 12 civilian Airmen who are solely responsible for the cradle-to-grave process for all AETC-funded travel for courses under 20 weeks long. While most of their operations are conducted behind the scenes, their impacts across the Air Force are larger than the size of Texas! Over the years, the team has grown and their operations have evolved; however, their support across the Air Force and their 51,000 annual customers has remained constant. The TTS team is essential to the AETC mission to recruit, train, and educate our exceptional Airmen. 

About the Author

MSgt Rashelle Dunn is the Flight Chief, Financial Operations within the 30th Comptroller Squadron at Vandenberg Space Force Base, CA. She was recently on loan to Air Education and Training Command—Financial Management Directorate, as interim supervisor of the Temporary Duty-to-School Section.

In Memoriam "Gone but not Forgotten"



COL JAMES "ROB" CULPEPPER

27 January 1972 - 17 December 2020

It seems hard to believe a year has passed since we lost one of our beloved Financial Management leaders. He was a Faithful Servant and Airman, a Loving Husband and Father, and a Friend to many. One year later, his wife, Angela and, their daughter, Caitlin, continue to be thankful for all the support they received from their Air Force family.

In honor of Col Culpepper and his service to our community, you are encouraged to host/participate in a 2nd Annual Col Culpepper Remembrance 5K run/walk on 27 January 2022 (what would have been his 50th birthday). There is no cost to participate; however, the family will be supporting the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS). We will provide a donation link in January's newsletter.

A Reflection of a Joint Deployment... While Still Deployed



by Lt Col Tammy Breiner, Maj Frank Rodela, MSgt Luis De Vazquez, and TSgt Kayla Ciriello, CJTF-OIR CJ8


In our Air Force career, we are given opportunities to truly understand teamwork and the importance of what we do for the Department of Defense in support of our national security. **We all bring something to the fight: experiences, perspectives, cultures, beliefs, the list goes on.** We all come together to defend our country and the way of life so many do not think twice about.

Deploying as a Joint Expeditionary Tasked/Individual Augmentee (JET/IA) and working in the Combined Joint Task Force—Operation INHERENT RESOLVE (CJTF-OIR) can, at first, seem like a daunting task. You are placed in an unfamiliar environment, often far outside your comfort zone. We come from different backgrounds, different countries, different services, and range in age. But alas, all have one goal in mind...mission success in a joint environment. Joint operations enable all nations and services to come together, combine resources to reach a common goal of preserving the world's premier democracy and protecting our forefathers' vision of freedom and liberty for all.

It was evident from day one at Camp Arifjan we will undergo a transformational experience by the end of our deployment. Every single person on our team plays a unique role in contributing to successful operations. It was important to quickly determine how we each fit into the overall mission. As a joint team, we have Airmen, Marines, Soldiers, Sailors, Guardians, Civilians, and Partner Nations teammates—some who have made Camp Arifjan more of a permanent home. It is evident the values of trust, partnerships, and friendships are a strong foundation here. We learn these are critical to achieve an effective community focused on the same objective. We witness daily how agility, flexibility, and adaptability are key in mission success—especially in joint operation.

Now, these adjustments have definitely not been easy and come with their own limiting factors. However, as a team, we break barriers and overcome obstacles in our drive to mission success.

It has been humbling to learn and understand how a marine thinks, how a soldier operates, how partner nations function... all these gears come together to form an axis creating a chain solidifying partnership across CJTF-OIR. Building trust and understanding each other is not something that was perfected overnight. Today, we share with you all the friendships we have built in our roles in the Resource Management Directorate of CJTF-OIR. From a marine in charge of executing the dollars, to a sailor liable for all funding accountability, and a soldier leading from the front as our financial systems subject matter expert, our team's synergy is at the front of our righteous mission.

In the end, we depend on each other as we work towards furthering the capabilities of our partner forces, maintaining regional stability across the operational area, and securing the defeat of Da'esh. Airmen, Marines, Soldiers, Sailors, Guardians, Civilians, and Partner Nations, come together to defend our way of life. The success of the Combined Joint Task Force—Operation INHERENT RESOLVE depends on all of us becoming one. **Many Nations, One Mission.** 

About the Authors

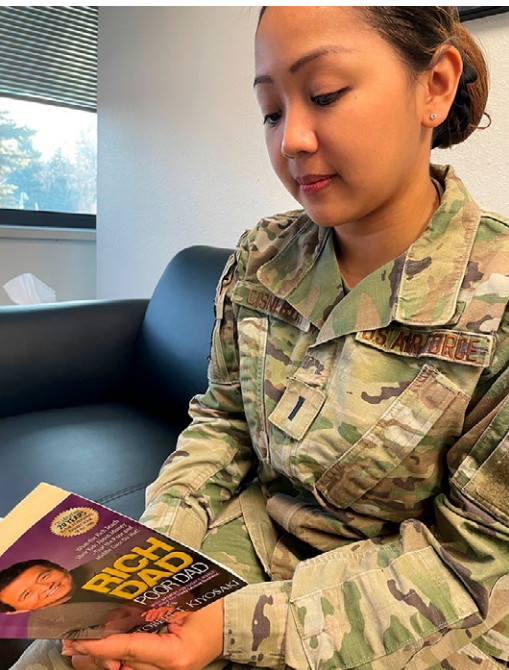
Lt Col Tammy Breiner, Maj Frank Rodela, MSgt Luis De Vazquez, and TSgt Kayla Ciriello are all Air Force finance personnel currently deployed to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. They lead the Resourcing Division (CJTF-OIR CJ8) which includes personnel from other services. Their experiences cross an array of focus areas to include Air Staff, MAJCOM, Group, Center, and Squadron-level positions.



Pictured here are members of the Resource Management Directorate for the Combined Joint Task Force—Operation INHERENT RESOLVE hailing from across the Department of Defense

Rich Lieutenant, Smart Lieutenant

by 1st Lt C. Jessica Cisneros, ACC



The author reads *Rich Dad, Poor Dad* by Robert Kiyosaki

In the book, *Rich Kid, Smart Kid*, the author gives parents tools to provide their children with a head-start in life. Similarly, I think we can also provide a head-start in the military. “Rich Lieutenants” think to work for the Wing Commander, while “Smart Lieutenants” think to be the Wing Commander. The purpose of this article is to outline various characteristics of a “Smart Lieutenant” that I have learned during my time in the Air Force.


First, Smart Lieutenants show that true intelligence is knowing what is appropriate and not just what is right or wrong. I learned this wisdom when I witnessed a commander receive a recommendation from major command commander to give an incoming Airman a Letter of Reprimand (LOR). At first, the commander knew that the right action was to give the LOR, but he instead decided to give him a warning. Why? After gathering more evidence, the Airman’s actions were misunderstood and taken out of context. It was too early in the Airman’s career and no mentorship or expectations had been set for the Airman yet. So rather than hurt the Airman, the Commander decided to give the Airman a warning documented in a memorandum for record and provided counseling and mentorship. This is a prime example of thinking like a Wing Commander; do not blindly follow all recommendations, but discern the situation, apply scrutiny, and take the appropriate actions to resolve the issue at the lowest level.

The next lesson I learned is Smart Lieutenants exhibit and teach all Airmen the following three things: to follow, learn, and lead. I learned this from a Logistical Readiness Commander during a Company Grade Officer council meeting. Wing

Commanders do much more than make sure we have completed the mission. They teach their Airmen to follow their chain of command, learn their job, and lead their peers. Wing Commanders and Smart Lieutenants cannot be ever-present. Teaching Airmen to follow, learn, and lead creates effective leaders ensuring the mission gets done, even when you are not around.

In addition, Wing Commanders have an internal reason they are fighting alongside us. Smart Lieutenants have found their “why.” I learned this from a Senior Enlisted Leader. You must look inside yourself and find out why you are here. Most people think “I’m honestly here for the job” or “I need money” but there is more to life than that. You can get a job anywhere. We must remember we joined the military for a reason. What is that reason? One of our Wing Commanders told me they are here to help Airmen and to ensure they did everything to defend our nation. Smart Lieutenants know that they are in the military for a bigger purpose rather than themselves. What is your reason?

The last mantra all Smart Lieutenants and Wing Commanders exhibit is “work to learn” rather than “learn to work.” My most recent Superintendent and leadership has shown me this firsthand. Our environments teach us to learn the work, but you can learn to work any job, anywhere. We do not want to just learn our job. Instead, we want to learn about our people and the mission they serve. Many young officers end up leaving the service within their first term because they learned to work. Smart Lieutenants are in it for the long run. They worked to learn, are hungry to learn, and have a passion to continue to improve every day.

In summary, Rich Lieutenants work for their Wing Commanders while Smart Lieutenants aim to be Wing Commanders. Both will be successful; however, the latter will be more fulfilling. Enriching your leadership toolkit by knowing what is appropriate, teaching Airmen to “follow, learn, and lead,” finding your why, and working to learn will help you become a Smart Lieutenant. Then, maybe, one day we can be a Wing Commander. Now that have adopted the mindset of a Smart Lieutenant, I have started to seeing growth in myself and others and view mistakes as opportunities to learn. My hope is that this mindset helps our future lieutenants as they navigate the new world they are entering. 

About the Author

1st Lt C. Jessica Cisneros is the Flight Commander for the 319th Comptroller Squadron, Grand Forks Air Force Base, ND and has served in various other positions such as Financial Operations and Analysis Flight Commander, Deputy Disbursing Officer, and Quality Assurance Manager.

Updated Web-based Courses

by Ms. Jody Tuel, SAF/FME



Two courses needed for certification have been renewed and enriched! *CFI100* and *FSD101*, two of the most used Financial Management (FM) courses in the myLearning catalog have been revamped with updated content, scenarios, and new material, resulting in more bang for the buck in for the Department of the Defense (DoD) FM Certification Program. These courses help meet the DoD FM Regulation (FMR) training requirements for key fund control personnel including funds certifying officials, authorizing officials, and approving officials.

Each course helps Certifying Officers (CO) and Department Accountable Officials (DAO) better understand their responsibilities and how fiscal law contributes to fulfilling their duties.

As a CO and DAO, your commander and organization rely on you to provide effective counsel on the legal use of the unit's limited resources. Your position is integral in providing the best decision support when considering alternatives that compete for resources and build mission success. The DAO validates, and the CO certifies, that every dollar spent is being used to accomplish the mission intended within the timeframe allotted and for the amount authorized. Your responsibilities are mission critical.


The *CFI100 Certifying Officer and Department Accountable Official* course imparts the importance of fiscal law, and how it relates to your CO and accountable official duties. You will learn the concepts of purpose, time, and amount as well as the construct of the necessary expense rule, the bona fide need rule, and what constitutes an Antideficiency Act (ADA) violation.

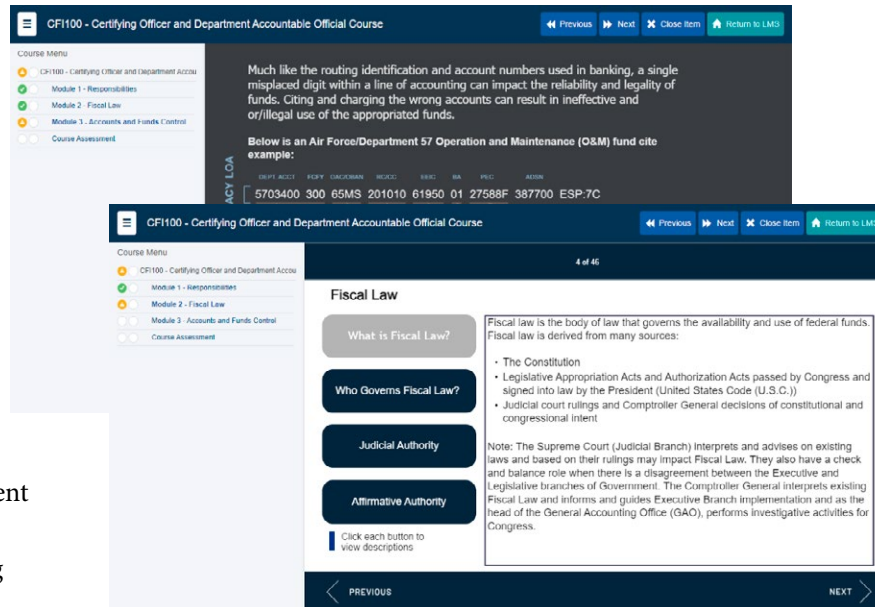
The course also outlines the Air Force's accounting structure, and how fiscal law dictates the control of appropriated funds, how the Service utilizes it to track and account for appropriated funds, and the payment process.

The responsibilities you have as a CO, or a DAO are critical and carry great responsibility, therefore, updated training is a must! Upon completion of this course, you will be able to safeguard the legal use of appropriated funds and provide top decision support to your commander.

FSD101 Basic Fiscal Law is an introductory level fiscal law course that underscores the importance of fiscal law and how it impacts your daily management duties. *FSD101* defines what fiscal law is, explains the importance of purpose, time, and amount in fiscal law, and clarifies aspects of the ADA. The course provides real life ADA violation examples to illustrate how harmful violating the act can be to the Air Force.

The course covers the ways different federal bodies interact regarding physical law and government operations, the roles Congress plays, and how judicial authority influences fiscal law. You will also learn the types of appropriations within the context of availability and limited time periods, as well as the bona fide rule, and how it works with different appropriations.

Understanding basic fiscal law is crucial to properly fulfilling your daily management duties and supporting the Air Force mission. Visit [myFM Learning](#) to take this course and brush up on your skills. 



Screenshot from the Certifying Officer and Department Accountable Official Course explaining how to interpret the DEAMS LOA

About the Author

Ms. Jody Tuel is a Booz Allen Hamilton contractor supporting Workforce Development under the Workforce Management and Executive Services Directorate, Pentagon, Washington D.C.



AF Accounting Operations Center (AFAOC) Sets the Tone for FY22

by Ms. Jeannette "Jenny" Beer, AFAOC

The Air Force Accounting Operations Center (AFAOC)

works year-round to provide dedicated functional support for Air Force Financial Management (FM) personnel. The team tracks operational trends to create focused training and education on issues most concerning to our system users. Deployments and system implementations rolling out across the field also require the concentrated attention of our team. Miscellaneous Payments and Government Purchase Card (GPC) have taken center stage as the AFAOC charges through Fiscal Year 2022.

The Defense Enterprise Accounting and Management System (DEAMS) Functional Management Office (FMO) Deployment and Training team has been conducting a phased transition of Miscellaneous Payments from Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) to the Air Force over the last year. Miscellaneous Payments are described as payments required to be made but not supported by a contractual obligation. DEAMS streamlines the Air Force's manual payment process by allowing direct entry into the system of all data required for a Miscellaneous Payment and electronically routing the data to DFAS for review, validation, and certification of the payment. Detailed information regarding the Miscellaneous Payments implementation can be found in the [DEAMS Miscellaneous Payment Desktop Guide](#) on the [DEAMS Outreach Portal](#).



When the Deployment/Training Team concludes the Major and Combatant Command (MAJCOM/CCMD) implementations, the AFAOC assumes responsibility for assisting the FM community with daily systems operations and sustainment. AFAOC Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) assist base-level users with researching, correcting, and processing Miscellaneous Payments in DEAMS to ensure accuracy. The [DEAMS Users Group on milBook](#) provides an invaluable source of information on Miscellaneous Payments, as well as any other FM Systems-related topic. All questions posted to the DEAMS Users Group receive a timely response from our dedicated SMEs. As with any new process, we have seen an increase in questions on Miscellaneous Payments. We encourage users to take advantage of opportunities made available by the AFAOC FM Systems Training team, who provide regular Miscellaneous Payments webinars, available for self-registration on the FM Systems Training site, as well as Refresher Training provided on a recurring basis by the Deployment/Training Team. An article with more information on the Refresher Training is included on page 11 in this issue of the SAF/FM Online News.

As GPC accounts transition between fiscal years, the [November Users Forum](#) included an over-the-shoulder type briefing which walked account holders through the SF1081 process for GPC accounts. With funding constrained under Continuing Resolution Authority, the recorded briefing highlights key actions to take as well as the pitfalls to avoid. For GPC account holders wanting to set up multiple lines of accounting for their cards, a three-part GPC Reallocation blog series is now available on the DEAMS Users Group—[Part One](#), [Part Two](#), and [Part Three](#) cover error prevention, detection, and correction. At the November MAJCOM Accounting Call, the AFAOC shared the importance of completing current year AF Form 4009s for all active cards to ensure timely payment. [AFAOC Data Analytics'](#) recently re-designed PowerBI applications allow the field to see where attention is needed for GPC accounts as well.

Committed to your success, the AFAOC encourages all users to take advantage of the resources available on these topics. The [DEAMS Outreach Portal](#) and DEAMS Users Group are available 24/7 to register for webinars, research job aids and other reference materials, or to ask questions of the experts. No matter the issue or demand, the AFAOC is ready to provide the support necessary for FMers to successfully perform systems operations every day.



DEAMS FMO Delivers Functionality

by Mr. Todd M. Baker, DEAMS Functional Management Office

The Defense Enterprise Accounting and Management System (DEAMS) Functional Management Office (FMO)

development team continued its heads down software support and testing during the fourth quarter. The program held releasing any new system updates in September during fiscal year end activities, to avoid disruption during a critical period in the year. Once DEAMS opened for business again in October, we had multiple system releases in the queue to bring new functionality to our Airmen, as well as system updates to improve overall performance. These updates can be compared to operating system upgrades on your smart phones; they provide enhancements in the form of functionality, speed, and overall performance, and are usually transparent to the user.



In October, the FMO, in conjunction with the Program Management Office and the System Integrator, resolved an error frequently encountered by users while baselining reimbursable agreement budgets using the DEAMS Budget Form. These errors were caused by the system erroneously generating a zero-dollar delta line as part of budget baselining and funds check, which in turn caused errors when baselining agreements. This release eliminated the need to apply a time-consuming workaround to correct these errors which required running multiple scripts and direct user actions in between scripts.

Also in October, we corrected a data corruption issue with 1081-IPAC invoices, eliminating the need for DFAS to manually process corrections. This enabled credit transactions to be systemically applied across multiple purchase order lines, avoiding duplicate transactions, and ensuring accurate purchase order balances are reflected.

New functionality was fielded in November for the Air Force Security Assistance Training (AFSAT) Squadron, which automated the AFSAT disbursement and reimbursement programs for all new Foreign Military Sales travel transactions. These new capabilities will add approximately \$20 million annually in transactions within DEAMS.

Additionally in November, the DEAMS program corrected a widespread issue which created Open Document List (ODL) out-of-balances where data elements on billing events/invoices did not match the project/task. Now, when selecting the project/task when creating billing events, the Organization, Sales Code, and Object Sub-Class auto-populates. This fix will ensure the Central Disbursing System Line of Accounting will only populate on the Agreement funding line and not on the billing event and the data elements match the task exactly to avoid ODL issues and rework down the road.

The FMO also installed numerous SubLedger Accounting (SLA) updates since the beginning of the fiscal year to bring DEAMS into compliance with Fiscal Year 2022 accounting policy changes. Many of these SLA changes were necessary to reconcile with updated General Ledger Accounting Code updates, some were improvements to reduce rejected and erred interfaces, and one added the capability to view “budgetary transaction/treasury confirmation” transactions when viewing certain reports. These updates did not require changes to guides, job aids, training materials, or instructional supplements, but they all result in improved performance for DEAMS users.

Whenever a system release is installed, the FMO publishes User Release Notes, which translate the technical jargon into user-friendly terminology, and define who is impacted by the release. User Release Notes are published on the DEAMS Outreach Portal, publicized as announcements and posts on the DEAMS Users Group on milBook, in weekly MAJCOM/CCMD Subject Matter Expert communications to the field, and by DEAMS Outreach Portal Announcements. For more information on DEAMS, system releases, and/or DEAMS User Release Notes, please contact the DEAMS Strategic Communications Team at SAF.DEAMS.StratComms@us.af.mil.



Miscellaneous Payments Refresher Training

by Ms. Colleen Robinson, DEAMS Functional Management Office

The Defense Enterprise Accounting and Management System (DEAMS) Functional Management Office's Deployment/Training Team has been implementing the transition of miscellaneous payments entry from Defense Finance and Accounting Services to the Air Force since October 2020. The team used a proven best practice solution for this implementation, providing structured user training, both in classroom and on-the-job, as well as onsite support for 30 days following the training. The team recently added an additional 30 days of dedicated virtual support to ensure user proficiency.

In May of 2020, in conjunction with their implementation schedule, the Deployment/Training Team launched the "Clean Slate" initiative with the objective to substantially reduce reject rates for invoices on hold (IOH) for Air Force/Space Force in preparation for Fiscal Year 2021 closeout. By working directly with users in the field to resolve issues, the team successfully aided in resolving almost 70,000 IOH before closeout. This effort, combined with the previous months' implementations, led to many findings, which the team quickly turned into lessons learned, and developed additional training to communicate those lessons to the field. The *Train It* initiative was launched in July 2021, and was so successful, it became a monthly offering.

The four-day *Train It* course is considered a refresher course, and previous experience with miscellaneous payments is recommended. This virtual training consists of four, two-hour, stand-alone sessions, with a different topic presented each day. Users can attend any or all sessions. *Train It* session information is provided on the [FM Systems Training calendar](#), which provides details of the course content, scheduling, and registration information. Upcoming sessions are advertised on the [DEAMS Outreach Portal](#), the [DEAMS Users Group on milBook](#), and in weekly DEAMS Major Command Subject Matter Expert email communications.

As an added benefit, *Train It* attendees receive two Continuing Education and Training credits per session.

For new miscellaneous payments users, the two-day DEAMS Miscellaneous Payment Course is typically offered the third week of the month, from 1000-1600 Eastern Time. Please visit the [FM Systems Training](#) page to find the next available offering.

For more information on *Train It* or the DEAMS Miscellaneous Payment Course, please contact the DEAMS Strategic Communications Team at SAF.DEAMS.StratComms@us.af.mil. 

Training Schedule (1100-1300 EDT)		
24-27 Jan	21-24 Feb	21-24 Mar
Day	Topics	Duration
1	Supplier & Vendor	2 hrs
2	Purch Requests & Purch Orders	2 hrs
3	Receipts & Invoices	2 hrs
4	DAO Review/Approval	2 hrs

Train It training schedule

Listen Up!

Looking for a good read? But not sure what to select next? Whet your appetite with this [podcast](#) from DefenseOne Radio featuring authors U.S. Navy Admiral Jim Stavridis (ret) and Marine veteran, journalist, and writer Elliot Ackerman's book *2034: A Novel of the Next World War*.





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Looking for a standard practice or a vetted on-the-job training plan? Find it on FICS! The Financial Information Collaboration Space (FICS) is powered by the Resource Training Center (RTC) and YOUR best practices. Check out the latest additions, including:

- **Suspended Debt Training** - Part of the ongoing partnership with AFAFO-F and CFM to deliver training to accomplish the required MilPay systems data/records clean-up prior to the 2022 AFIPPS transition. All training sessions are recorded and posted on FICS SharePoint.
- **PCS Computation Template** - An upgrade to the SG Computation sheet that now contains a "Clear" button, capability to code SG05 transactions, and a DMO code export feature.
- **Training Records Tool** - This automation (VBA) tool addresses the capability gap for electronically recording and managing 3-, 5-, and 7-level training. Supervisors can download this tool for an automated solution to record and manage personnel training records.
- **FM Talks: OCONUS PCS** - A 5-minute video explaining entitlements based upon multiple factors (i.e., accompanied vs. unaccompanied) made for customers.
- **FM Warplanner/UDM Training** - Recording and accompanying materials from the 2-day virtual workshop for UDM operations hosted in partnership with the FM Warplanners.

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