

In this issue

- 1-3 Applying Digital Materiel Management to Win the Fight
- 4-6 Major General Lucius Theus: Reflecting on an FM Pioneer on the 75th Anniversary of the Desegregation of the Armed Forces
- 7 Life as an FMer: Positive Impacts of the FM Community
- 8-9 Standing Up the AFIMSC/RMF Innovations, Processes, and Automations Team
- 10-13 Systems Corner
- 14-15 FM Incoming

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SPOTLIGHT:
APPLYING DIGITAL MATERIEL MANAGEMENT TO WIN THE FIGHT

by CMSgt David R. Graham Jr., USAF AFMC HQ

“There is no time for antiquated serial processes, inadequate teaming, or lifecycle and functional stovepipes. The Air Force (AF) relies on Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC) to deliver war-winning capabilities. AFMC must shatter existing paradigms and adopt enterprise Digital Materiel Management capabilities to radically accelerate our fielding, sustainment, and modernization.”

– General Duke Z. Richardson, Commander, AFMC

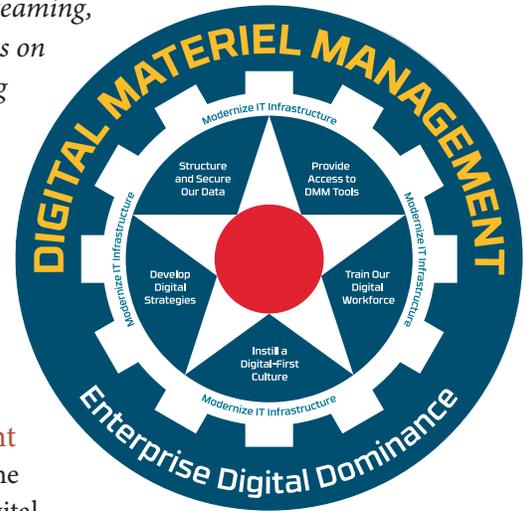
Digital Materiel Management (DMM)

is a comprehensive approach that leverages digital technologies to streamline and optimize the management of materiel resources throughout the AF. It encompasses the systematic acquisition, storage, tracking, and distribution of digital assets, including but not limited to documents, data, software, and multimedia content. By utilizing advanced technologies, DMM enhances operational efficiency, reduces costs, improves decision-making, and ultimately supports the AF’s priorities and operational imperatives.

In an interview with the Defense Acquisition University, Gen Richardson claimed that “Today the People’s Republic of China (PRC) is outpacing the United States (U.S.) in fielding warfighting capability. The U.S. averages sixteen years to deliver a major weapons system. The PRC delivers systems in approximately seven years. The difference means nine more years of production; nine more years of modernization; and nine more years of practicing tactics, techniques, and procedures for the PRC. That’s nine years of the PRC being in the game before the U.S. even takes the field. This disparity in integrated capability delivery timelines must change—or the U.S. will lose.”

HOW CAN THE AIR FORCE AND COMBATANT COMMANDS BENEFIT FROM DMM?

Improved Logistics and Supply Chain Management: DMM enables real-time visibility into the availability, location, and condition of materiel resources within a command’s area of responsibility. By leveraging digital technologies like Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID), Internet of Things (IoT) sensors, and advanced tracking systems, DMM enhances logistics and supply chain management. This allows commanders to make informed decisions about the allocation and distribution of critical supplies, reducing supply chain bottlenecks, and improving operational readiness.





SPOTLIGHT: APPLYING DIGITAL MATERIEL MANAGEMENT TO WIN THE FIGHT (cont.)

Enhanced Asset Tracking and Utilization: DMM allows commanders to efficiently track and manage assets. By adopting digital asset management systems, commanders can monitor the location, status, and maintenance history of equipment, vehicles, and other materiel resources. This improves asset utilization, reduces the risk of loss or theft, and ensures that resources are effectively deployed to support mission requirements.

Streamlined Collaboration and Information Sharing: DMM facilitates seamless collaboration and information sharing among various units and stakeholders. By implementing digital document and records management systems, combatant commands can store, retrieve, and share critical information, operational plans, and intelligence reports. This accelerates decision-making, enhances situational awareness, and improves coordination among different elements of the command.

Data-Driven Decision-Making: DMM leverages data analytics and visualization tools to extract insights from vast amounts of operational data. Leaders can analyze historical data, operational metrics, and intelligence reports to gain valuable insights. This enables data-driven decision-making, including mission planning, resource allocation, and risk assessment. By leveraging DMM's analytical capabilities, commanders can optimize operations, respond effectively to evolving threats, and maximize effectiveness.

Efficient Maintenance and Repair: DMM can streamline maintenance and repair activities within a command by implementing predictive maintenance systems. Decision makers can then leverage data analytics and machine learning algorithms to identify potential equipment failures before they occur. This proactive approach minimizes downtime, improves operational availability, and optimizes resource allocation.

Enhanced Cybersecurity and Risk Management: DMM can strengthen cybersecurity and risk management within an area of responsibility. By adopting secure digital storage, encryption technologies, and access controls, leaders can protect sensitive information and prevent unauthorized access. DMM also facilitates risk management by maintaining an auditable trail of digital assets, ensuring compliance with security protocols, and enabling efficient audits.

Data Analytics and Predictive Maintenance: DMM leverages big data analytics and machine learning to extract actionable insights from vast amounts of operational data. By analyzing historical maintenance records, sensor data, and other relevant information, the program managers can predict equipment failures, optimize maintenance schedules, and proactively address potential issues. This predictive maintenance approach reduces downtime, increases mission readiness, and optimizes resource allocation.

HOW CAN FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (FM) LEVERAGE DMM?

Operational Efficiency: DMM can significantly improve operational efficiency across the AF. By leveraging digital technologies and automation, the AF can streamline processes such as supply chain management, asset tracking, and maintenance. This leads to reduced lead times, optimized resource allocation, and improved overall operational readiness. DMM enables enhanced support to the warfighter, ensuring timely availability of critical materiel resources.

Regulatory and Records Management: DMM allows for the seamless organization, retrieval, and secure sharing of digital documents and records through centralized repositories, version control, and advanced search capabilities; ultimately, streamlining administrative workflows, enhancing knowledge sharing, and supporting informed decision-making. AF personnel can access vital information promptly, collaborate efficiently, and ensure compliance with regulations. GAMECHANGER is an excellent example, and all FMers should leverage the site when looking for regulatory guidance (<https://gamechanger.advana.data.mil/> (CAC-enabled)).

Cost Reduction: DMM provides opportunities for cost reduction and optimization. By transitioning from manual, paper-based processes to digital systems, the AF can eliminate inefficiencies associated with paperwork, storage, and manual labor. This leads to cost savings through reduced administrative overhead, improved inventory management, and better utilization of resources. These cost savings can be reinvested in other critical areas, such as research and development, infrastructure, and personnel training.



SPOTLIGHT: APPLYING DIGITAL MATERIEL MANAGEMENT TO WIN THE FIGHT (cont.)

Decision Support: DMM empowers leaders with enhanced decision support capabilities. Through the application of digital data, analytics, and visualization tools, the AF can gain valuable insights into supply chain performance, maintenance trends, and resource utilization. Data-driven decision-making enables leaders to make informed choices, optimize resource allocation, and align their strategies with the AF’s priorities and operational imperatives.

Readiness and Mission Success: AFMC’s primary mission is to deliver war-winning capabilities to the warfighter. DMM plays a vital role in ensuring readiness and mission success by enabling efficient management of materiel resources. The AF can improve asset visibility, enhance maintenance planning, and reduce equipment downtime with the use of digital tools and processes. DMM leads to increased mission readiness, improved operational effectiveness, and ultimately supports the AF’s mission success.

Compliance and Accountability: DMM facilitates compliance with regulatory requirements and strengthens accountability. By adopting digital document and records management systems, the AF can maintain accurate and auditable records of materiel resources, transactions, and compliance with regulations. This ensures adherence to internal policies, supports audits and inspections, and minimizes the risk of non-compliance penalties.

Improved Resource Allocation: DMM provides accurate and real-time visibility into materiel resources, enabling data-driven decision-making. With comprehensive inventory data and analytics at their disposal, AF leaders can optimize procurement strategies, identify excess inventory, and make informed choices about resource allocation.

DMM is a transformative approach for the AF, optimizing the management of materiel resources through digital technologies. By embracing DMM, the AF can effectively allocate resources, improve operational readiness, and stay ahead in the dynamic landscape of modern warfare, all while supporting the organization’s priorities and operational imperatives.

*“The U.S. is nine years slower than the PRC in delivering integrated capability. The only thing more difficult to accept than change is losing. We will choose change. DMM holds the power to accelerate the materiel management cycle, solidify seamless cross-lifecycle and cross-functional collaboration, and ensure the most effective decision-making within and beyond AFMC. The time to act boldly is now. We cannot afford to wait. The stakes are too high. Our nation’s security depends on our success. **Let’s get in the game with DMM. Let’s win.**”*

– General Duke Z. Richardson

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Major General Lucius Theus: Reflecting on an FM Pioneer on the 75th Anniversary of the Desegregation of the Armed Forces

by Lt Col Eric D. Hulshizer, AETC

“No citizen of this great country ought to be discriminated against because of his race, religion, or national origin. That is the essence of the American ideal and the American Constitution.”

- President Harry S. Truman¹



Major General Lucius Theus.
Source: <https://www.desmond-funeralhome.com/obituaries/Maj-Gen-Lucius-Theus-Rtd?o-bld=12336831>

This past July, the Department of Defense (DoD) celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the Desegregation of the Armed Forces. Desegregation was codified when President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order (EO) 9981 on July 26th, 1948 -- an inflection point after decades of work by pioneers and advocates. The EO opened opportunities for men and women of all races to serve their country. Among the military services, the U.S. Air Force was at the leading edge of full racial integration. Yet, even after EO 9981 was signed, the work wasn't complete. Those same pioneers continued to work tirelessly in pursuit of equality within our military.

One such pioneer was Major General (ret.) Lucius Theus. As members of the Air Force Financial Management (FM) community, we should be especially proud to acknowledge Theus as one of our own. He was a trailblazer, and he achieved many firsts for the African American military community. Theus led the FM community toward modernizing military pay systems, and he opened further opportunities and dialogue on diversity across the entire DoD.

Theus was born in rural Tennessee in 1922 as the youngest of nine children. His father made his living working on farms while his mother was a homemaker. When he was just six years old, he moved to a suburb outside of Chicago, a place that Theus remembered as a “cohesive, yet impoverished, community in which people would look after one another.”² Theus recalled that comic books first sparked his interest in aviation, but he acknowledged “the field of aviation was not as wide open” to African Americans.³ Nevertheless, Theus, led by his early interest in aviation, enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1942. He started as a private (E-1) and served during World War II at Keesler Field, Mississippi as an “administrative clerk, chief clerk, and first sergeant of pre-aviation cadet and basic training squadrons.”⁴

Theus would go on to attend what was then called Officer Candidate School (OCS) at Maxwell Air Force Base (AFB), Alabama, commissioning as a second lieutenant in January 1946. There were no other African Americans in his OCS class. While attending OCS, Theus faced many instances of racism, for example, two of Theus' Caucasian roommates were scolded by their training instructor for rooming with him because he was African American. As a result, he had a six-bunk room to himself for two class sessions, which isolated Theus and denied him a sense of camaraderie and resiliency from his peers.⁵ Despite these challenges, he remained steadfast to his guiding principle of always “exceeding expectations” and ultimately graduated second in his class.⁶

¹ Air University Library. “Leaders in the Integration of the Air Force”. February 2023. <https://fairchild-mil.libguides.com/c.php?g=1295610&p=9522821>

² Bond, Julian. Video Interview “The Community - Lucius Theus”. Explorations in Black Leadership. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29ngf-zfHMU>

³ Yates, Steven K. “Oral History Interview: Maj Gen Lucius Theus”. Air Force Historical Research Agency. 1989.

⁴ United States Air Force. “Maj Gen Lucius Theus”. <https://www.af.mil/About-Us/Biographies/Display/Article/105440/major-general-lucius-theus/>

⁵ Video Interview “Maj. Gen. Lucius Theus, USAF (Deceased)”. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gcoeloSYe4>

⁶ Ibid



Major General Lucius Theus: Reflecting on an FM Pioneer on the 75th Anniversary of the Desegregation of the Armed Forces (cont.)



After commissioning, Theus would serve a year as squadron adjutant at Tuskegee Army Airfield, Alabama. Theus' military career spanned 37 years, with notable assignments as the base comptroller at Kingsley Field, Oregon; base comptroller and deputy base commander of Cam Ranh Bay Air Base, Republic of Vietnam; and data automation staff officer, Office of the Comptroller of the Air Force, Headquarters Air Force.⁷

Near the end of his career, Theus served as Commander of the Air Force Accounting & Finance Center. He also served as the Deputy Director of the Defense Security Assistance Agency. He later remarked, "I think I was the first Black to have command of a major command or separate operating command, so, again, I saw this as an opportunity, but I also saw it fraught with dangers of if I failed, that it would also reflect very poorly on the rest of those who would aspire to this kind of position."⁸

Theus served as chairman of the Inter-Service Task Force on Education in Race Relations, Office of the Secretary of Defense. This task force "led to the establishment of the Defense Race Relations Institute and the Department of Defense-wide education program in race relations."⁹ The task force's findings and recommendations established the foundation to many equal opportunity programs across the military today.

Theus was the third African American general in the U.S. Air Force, after Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., and Daniel "Chappie" James. He also holds the distinction of being the first, and only, mission support officer of the Tuskegee Airmen to be promoted to general.¹⁰

Theus was an advocate of education for minorities in the military. "Without education, without a good solid educational foundation one cannot simply progress in today's society, within the United States."¹¹ He was the first African American to attend Harvard Business School's six-week Advanced Management Program,¹² and was a distinguished graduate of both the Air War College and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (known today as the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy). Theus' 1965 Air War College research, *Effect on computers on the role of the comptroller in the 1970 time period* was forward-looking both in its title and scope. At the time, the Air Force had 811 computers "and more are on the way."¹³ He wrote, "together the comptroller and the computer form an almost invincible team"¹⁴ and cites the potential power computers could have in automating military pay. In terms of decision support, Theus asserts, "a strong comptroller is needed to harness and direct the computer program so that all managers and executives may benefit from this new and potent force" – this is a skill especially relevant in the realm of decision-support to commanders.¹⁵ Theus' predictions echo piercingly in our current time of artificial intelligence and ChatGPT.

Lucius Theus retired in July 1979 as a Major General. He passed away October 15, 2007, and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, DC.

⁷ United States Air Force. "Maj Gen Lucius Theus". <https://www.af.mil/About-Us/Biographies/Display/Article/105440/major-general-lucius-theus/>

⁸ Yates, Steven K. "Oral History Interview: Maj Gen Lucius Theus". Air Force Historical Research Agency. 1989.

⁹ United States Air Force. "Maj Gen Lucius Theus". <https://www.af.mil/About-Us/Biographies/Display/Article/105440/major-general-lucius-theus/>

¹⁰ National Air and Space Museum. "Maj Gen (ret) Lucius Theus". <https://airandspace.si.edu/support/wall-of-honor/majgen-lucius-theus-usaf-ret>

¹¹ Bond, Julian. Video Interview "Legacy of Brown - Lucius Theus". Explorations in Black Leadership. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Axq0uV4UwPw>

¹² Ibid

¹³ Theus, Lucius, "Effect on computers on the role of the comptroller in the 1970 time period," Air War College, Maxwell AFB, AL, December 1965, pp 44

¹⁴ Ibid, pp 9

¹⁵ Ibid, pp 48



Major General Lucius Theus: Reflecting on an FM Pioneer on the 75th Anniversary of the Desegregation of the Armed Forces (cont.)

The Chief of Staff of the Air Force, General CQ Brown, Jr., often says, “young people only aspire to be what they see.”¹⁶ As we reflect on the 75th Anniversary of EO 9981, we remember those who paid it forward for equality and opportunities for minorities in the armed forces. We should be especially proud of the racial barriers Major General Theus broke down across the Department of Defense. Major General Theus’ legacy is one that should inspire all: a pioneer who exceeded expectations in the face of adversity, a trailblazer who forged new opportunities for minorities in the military where none existed, and an innovator whose vision for technology meant airmen would be paid accurately and commanders would receive precision decision analysis.

“Looking down the road, I see that we, as a nation, of course, are going to become more and more a pluralistic society. I see our working closer together with one another, of course, recognizing the differences of people, ethnic origins, religions, and all of this, but working more closely together to accomplish the mission, of course, of creating and maintaining a good quality of life for all of our citizens.”

- Major General Lucius Theus¹⁷

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lieutenant Colonel Eric D. Hulshizer is a student at the School of Advanced Air and Space Studies (SAASS) at Maxwell AFB, Alabama.

¹⁶O'Donnell, Norah. “Two Air Force leaders peak about breaking barriers, inspiring positive change”. CBS News. 17 May 2023.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/air-force-leaders-breaking-barriers-inspiring-positive-change-c-q-brown-joanne-bass/>

¹⁷Yates, Steven K. “Oral History Interview: Maj Gen Lucius Theus”. Air Force Historical Research Agency. 1989.

Happy Birthday Air Force!

On September 18th, we celebrated the 76th birthday of the United States Air Force. The United States formed the Department of the Air Force (DAF) after Congress passed the National Security Act of 1947. Before then, the Air Force first served as a part of the Department of the Army’s Signal Corps, tasked with providing aviation support to combat forces. Today the Air Force continues to fulfill its duty to safeguard American interests by maintaining dominance over the skies and supporting US military forces on the ground. The DAF Financial Management team supports these objectives by ensuring the Air Force’s resources are acquired and utilized efficiently and its people have the support they need to achieve their mission.





Life as an FMer: Positive Impacts of the FM Community

by Maj Christopher L. Cook, ACC

When I enlisted, I didn't choose FM. I entered the Avionics field, but was medically reclassified into FM. That decision was the best thing that could have happened to me. My career experiences, opportunities, and lifestyle, while possible in other career fields, became the highlight of my FM journey.

Just a little background for those of you who might not know me, I enlisted in 2004 and worked my way up to SSgt in the FM community. In 2009, I was selected and attended Officer Training School and found myself returning to the FM world on the other side. Some say this is a good thing and others disagree, but for myself, I knew FM was exactly where I was supposed to be.

When I look back on my first duty station and the other FMers I worked with, I am super appreciative of the support and training they provided to me. Honestly, I intended to only serve four years and then separate, but between my first and second duty stations and the people around me, I made the choice to stick with the Air Force (AF) and see how far the journey would take me – and what an epic experience the FM life has been. There have been high and low points, but find me a job that doesn't have those, and we can discuss another time.



Maj Cook then and now.



23rd Wing Elephant Walk.

Working in the FM community offers many perks that other careers do not. For instance, a financial manager can work in any AF base while other professions, like the A-10 pilots, have a limited selection of duty stations available to them. The availability of duty stations also provides a great selection of opportunities, special duties, and programs that the FM community can partake in like Education with Industry (EWI), Green Door, and becoming Military Training Leaders (MTL)/Military Training Instructors (MTI). While some people do not like working in an office environment, I have seen many FMers, particularly while stationed in South Georgia, enjoy the comforts of air-conditioned buildings when it is over 100 degrees outside and 100% humidity. Now this is not to say that we do not deploy and always have the luxury of climate-controlled environments, but to illustrate that when we, as FMers, are dealing with customers, it's important to remember that not all of them have the

same luxuries afforded to them. One great example of this in my career took place when I served as the Comptroller Squadron Company Commander (CPTS/CC) of the world-famous Flying Tigers (23 CPTS). Several of my airmen had the opportunity to embark on a familiarization flight in our HH-60W helicopter stationed there. However, moments before takeoff, the aircraft developed a technical problem, and as a result, my airmen sat on the flight line for an hour in the heat while the maintenance crew assessed the problem before resolving the issue.

Through various assignments, I have seen the FM community provide foundational mission support time and time again, from something as simple as providing military pay solutions to figuring out how we operate within the Air Force Force Generation (AFFORGEN) Lead Wing model. FMers are a unique group of individuals who rarely get the limelight or center stage recognition, but we should all strive to be the best Financial Management silent professional that we can be and ensure our wing's mission is the #1 priority! It takes professionals like each of you, doing your behind-the-scenes duty, to keep every part of the AF moving in the direction that our nation requires. Leaders across the enterprise look at your attitude and work ethic when making selections for special duty assignments, new positions, and, on our officer side, to lead an organization to success. Don't ever sell yourself short and think that you are not important; every job in the AF is important. I challenge you to understand why FMers do what we do and to understand your importance to the mission of your organization.

I have been blessed to serve in some unique organizations and been able to show others what the FM team brings to the fight. I know that FMers don't have the most glamorous job in the DoD, but again I challenge each of you to be the best FMer that you can be and provide the top-tier level of customer service. Be the voice of change, stand tall and make us proud! It has been an honor to serve alongside each of you!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Major Chris "CK" Cook is the 23d Wing CAG Team Leader at Moody AFB, Georgia.

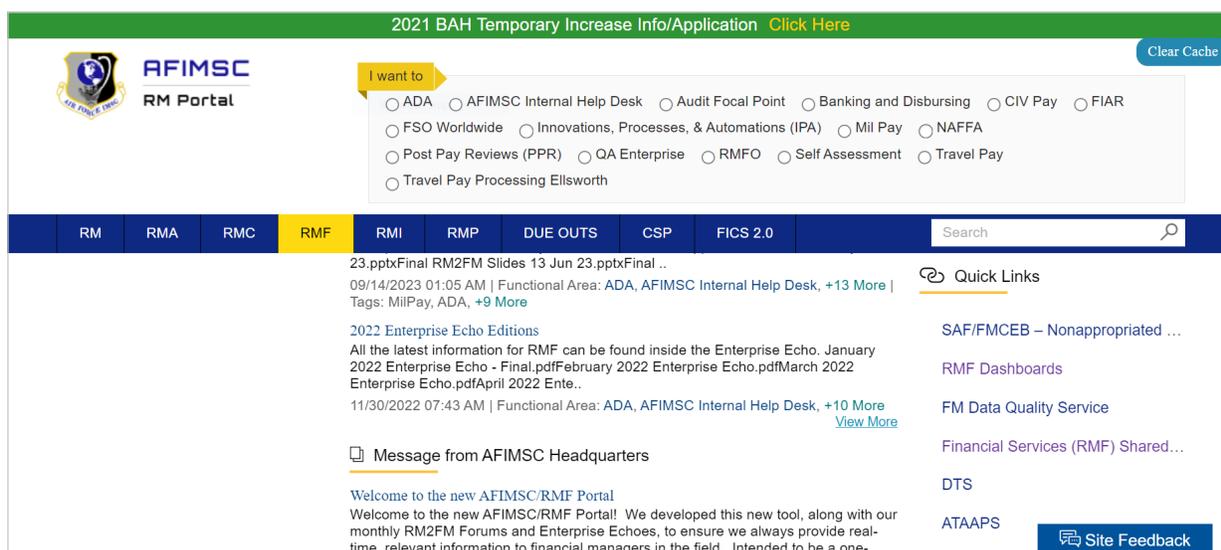




Standing Up the AFIMSC/RMF Innovations, Processes, and Automations Team

by Ms. Norma Insurriaga, AFMC

In March 2023, the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center (AFIMSC) Resources Management Directorate's Financial Operations Division (RMF) created a newly formed section, the Innovations, Processes, and Automations (IPA) team. The team is a striking change to how RMF provides services and support to over 78 installations. While the AFIMSC/RMF has long provided enterprise-wide financial services and oversight for financial management operations, the IPA leverages a separate set of skills and abilities in financial operations. Since March 2023, the IPA team has created accessible dashboards and processing tools using innovative, data-driven analytical technologies. **The IPA's objective is to support the future of financial operations through technological solutions to enhance customer service.** It provides FMers the capability to improve their analyses, identify root causes, and support process improvement efforts! Since the team's formation, bases can now utilize IPA's tools and dashboards to optimize their processes and minimize efforts to obtain comprehensive reports.



RMF SharePoint Page on the AFIMSC RM Portal. Find the RMF Dashboards link and RMF Shared Documents site link under "Quick Links".

To date, the IPA team has created innovative tools for Government Travel Card (GTC) delinquency data and developed dashboards, which track enterprise Financial Services Office (FSO) Case Management System (CMS) and Comptroller Services Portal (CSP) cases daily, highlight Station Gain (SG) Out-of-Balances and mismatches, and identify where members are missing a State of Legal Residence. These data tools combine robotic process automation or "bots" to pull and combine multiple reports that are presented through a comprehensive visual dashboard. **Within two months of the launch date, the CMS and State of Legal Residency tools resulted in more than a 40% decrease of open cases and a 20% reduction in GTC delinquency amounts and accounts in 2023.** In addition to these achievements, the SG timeliness metric hit a four-year high shortly after the dashboard was launched!

Another great aspect of these tools is that they serve as a principal source for feedback, highlighting high risk areas for Comptrollers to address. Dashboards are available and can be found by accessing the RMF SharePoint page through the [AFIMSC RM Portal](#). GTC delinquency data can be found at the Financial Services (RMF) Shared Documents site by requesting access. However, access is base- and role-specific. Links are provided below under "Resources".



Standing Up the AFIMSC/RMF Innovations, Processes, and Automations Team (cont.)

RMF has increased focus on outreach, including visits with financial services organizations for two-way communication and feedback. The RMF wants to hear how they can make your jobs easier! To date, they've made meaningful connections with Comptroller Squadrons at Joint Base Andrews, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Maxwell AFB, Hurlburt AFB, Eglin AFB, Buckley SFB, USAFA, and Peterson SFB, as well as AFSOC/FM and USSF/FM. These visits have resulted in great collaboration and ideas for process improvements.

The AFIMSC/RMF and IPA teams want to hear from you! Reach out directly to AFIMSC.RMFI.IPA@us.af.mil with your ideas.

Resources:

AFIMSC RM Portal - <https://usaf.dps.mil/teams/RMSO/rmportal/rmf/SitePages/Home.aspx>

GTC Delinquency Data – <https://usaf.dps.mil/teams/RMSO/RMF/QualityAssurance/SitePages/Home.aspx>

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ms. Norma Insurriaga is the Section Chief for the Innovations, Processes, and Automations (IPA) Team located at JB San Antonio, Texas.

Home
Financial Services (RMF) Shared Documents

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RMF Shared Documents Site.



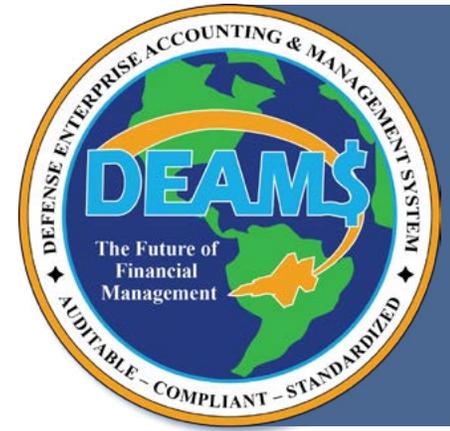


DEAMS FMO Prepares for Closeout

by Mr. Todd M. Baker, DEAMS Functional Manager

SYSTEM AND ORGANIZATION CONTROLS (SOC 1) AUDIT

Throughout FY23, Defense Enterprise Accounting and Management System (DEAMS) has been undergoing a SOC 1 audit by an independent public accountant, who issued a “Qualified” opinion in August 2023. This opinion marks the significant progress made over the last year, to develop and implement corrective action plans which support the Notices of Findings and Recommendations (NFR’s). The opinion is the result of focused, dedicated efforts by teams from across the Functional Management Office (FMO), Air Force Accounting Operations Center (AFAOC), and Program Management Office (PMO), who pulled together with a “one program/one team” approach. DEAMS is the only Air Force program to receive a “Qualified” opinion; however, this doesn’t mean the journey is over. **Our priority is to achieve a sustainable “Unmodified” opinion for all users of the DEAMS Program.**



AGILE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The third quarter brought a series of technical upgrades to the DEAMS application designed to 1) provide long term supportability for the back-end components no longer supported by Oracle®, 2) improve cyber security, and 3) implement upgraded capacity necessary for future development efforts. These upgrades are as important to an Information Technology (IT) system, like DEAMS, as regular maintenance is to your vehicle. They keep the system performing as expected and reduce the risk of future “break downs.”

More recently, an update to DEAMS added validation of the General Ledger (GL) period, including date and fiscal year, against the funding period of availability. Now, when users submit Purchase Orders, Releases, and Requisitions, an error message will display if funds are being used prior to the period of availability, and a “Caution” message will prompt the user to correct the GL date if funds are used after the period of availability. **For optimum performance, users should update their DEAMS profile from the default system time zone (GMT) to their local time zone.** For more information, and step-by-step instructions for setting time zones, please visit the [DEAMS Outreach Portal](#).

In early August, another change was installed to initiate a pop-up warning when unapproved special characters are used in the invoice number and description fields. DEAMS now recognizes unapproved special characters that cause payment rejection at Treasury and requires manual intervention to correct. Frequently, this error happens when users copy and paste data in DEAMS, which is always a discouraged practice. Many characters may look visually similar, but the code behind them can be different. For this reason, **it is more important than ever not to copy and paste anything from outside sources into a DEAMS form.**

Finally, “Non-PPA Immediate” is a new option available in the invoice “Terms” field in DEAMS and will prevent unnecessary interest invoices from being created. Currently, every invoice that is late based on the “Payment Term” in DEAMS for certain “Pay Groups” (i.e., some Vendor Pay types, Government Purchase Card (GPC), and Powertrack) creates an interest invoice. Manually entered invoices, including but not limited to Miscellaneous Payments, require intervention by the Defense Finance Services Agency (DFAS) to void. As many as 1,500 invoices per month have required manual cancellation. The addition of the “Non-PPA Immediate” option will reduce the need for manual intervention by DFAS.

System releases are publicized in DEAMS Help Desk and Portal announcements, and a reference library of User Release Notes is maintained on the [DEAMS Outreach Portal](#).

SYSTEMS CORNER



DEAMS FMO Prepares for Closeout (cont.)

SUPPORTING FISCAL YEAR END OPERATIONS

During the third and fourth quarters of each fiscal year, the Deployment/Training Team offers its expertise to the field to assist with clearing Miscellaneous Payments Invoices on Hold (IOH) in preparation for closeout. Two targeted activities are Clean Slate and DEAMS Operation Revisit.

Clean Slate

Clean Slate III kicked off in June and completed at the end of August 2023, following the same successful model used in the last two fiscal years. The DEAMS Deployment/Training Team, together with their DFAS counterparts, teamed up to offer guidance and assistance to base-level users in clearing aged invoices. Using the IOH report to find invoices 10 days or older, the team researched, provided corrective actions, and offered direct assistance specific to each invoice via email to the user and Departmental Accountable Officials (DAO). During this year's effort, the team reviewed approximately 5,000 invoices. Not only did this effort provide tangible support to the base by ensuring payment invoices continued processing, but it also served as a refresher training opportunity.

DEAMS Operation Revisit

Because of its focus on Miscellaneous Payments, the DEAMS Operation Revisit (DOR) is an effort often associated with Clean Slate but is a separate initiative. When requested, this program offers users, bases, and commands targeted attention and focused training with the Miscellaneous Payments process, while supporting immediate processing needs. Whether on-sight or virtual, the DEAMS team tailors the training as needed, and partners with DFAS on cases that require urgent direction and action. This past summer, the team provided support across the Continental United States (CONUS), assisting customers at locations from Florida and California to New York and New Mexico. DOR is not limited to fiscal year end operations; to request DOR Support, please contact the DEAMS Deployment Training Lead, Ms. Colleen Robinson, colleen.robinson@us.af.mil.

Continued Training Opportunities

The Deployment / Training Team will continue to offer monthly Miscellaneous Payments Basic Users Courses for personnel new to the process. This two-day course offers an introduction to the process and attendees can earn 12 Continuous Education and Training (CETs) for completion.

The team will also continue providing their Experienced Users Course sessions. These two-hour sessions are conducted via MS Teams and provide lessons learned during the Air Force-wide Miscellaneous Payments Implementation. Sessions are offered over the course of four consecutive days, with a different topic covered each day. Users can attend any or all sessions and earn 2 CETs for each session attended. Topics Include: Supplier, Requisitions and Purchase Orders, Receipts and Invoices, and DAO Review and Approval.

Please visit the [FM Systems Training page](#) on the DEAMS Outreach Portal for specific course dates, access to information and training materials, and to view other available training.

For more information on this article, please contact the DEAMS Strategic Communications Team at saf.DEAMS.stratcomms@us.af.mil.





The AFAOC Approach to Fiscal Year End Closeout and Beyond

by Ms. Jeannette “Jenny” Beer, Director, AF Accounting Operations Center (AFAOC)

Since its inception, the Air Force Accounting Operations Center (AFAOC) has provided world-class customer support for FM Systems users with all Fiscal Year End (FYE) Closeout needs. We’ve compiled a few focus areas for our customers to pay attention to during closeout, but also throughout the upcoming fiscal year.



USE THE FM MORNING PAPER TO IDENTIFY AND CLEAR ERRORS DAILY

Read your FM Morning Paper! The FM Morning Paper is a compilation of daily reports providing background and perspective on your financial data. Reading through these reports daily supports a better understanding of the issues affecting your status of funds. The FM Morning Paper has been updated this fiscal year; changes are detailed on the DEAMS Outreach Portal, [FM Morning Paper \(dps.mil\)](https://dps.mil). Make sure to utilize the filters on the right-hand side of the screen to drill down to your MAJCOM, Fund Status of Cancelling and Current, and other relevant criteria.

OVERSPENT FUNDS		DEAMS TO ADD RECON ERROR		INVOICES ON HOLD		DEAMS ACTION ITEMS		OPEN SP 1081A R, JN		PRG ERRORS - ERRED DOCS TO COM	
1,582	1,582	313	4,408	8	8	43	43	812	812	812	812
0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
435	2,861	2,861	2,861	2,861	2,861	2,861	2,861	2,861	2,861	2,861	2,861
0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
2,867	6,294	26,922	20	20	824	824	824	824	824	824	824
0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
703	329	1,376	14,576	14,576	908	908	908	908	908	908	908
0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
13,787	2,867	78	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
589	589	589	589	589	589	589	589	589	589	589	589
0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

AFAOC Morning Paper Snapshot.

PRIORITIZE CANCELLING AND EXPIRING CURRENT YEAR FUNDS

Documents funded with Cancelling Year and Current Year should be prioritized to ensure they are either liquidated or obligated prior to closeout. If not addressed, there is a high potential to lose obligation authority as funds expire, and the funds will no longer be available for new obligations. On the other hand, cancelling obligations not fully expended or canceled will result in unexpected bills in the future and may require current for cancelled funding to make payment.

VIRTUAL WAR ROOM OPERATIONS

In September, AFAOC will again host the Virtual FYE War Room using the milBook platform. Select command POCs are identified and represent their commands within the limited-access group to get questions answered and unresolved tickets elevated. FMers are asked to work with their POCs to appropriately elevate issues or ask general questions in the [DEAMS Users Group](#).

SYSTEMS CORNER



The AFAOC Approach to Fiscal Year End Closeout and Beyond (cont.)

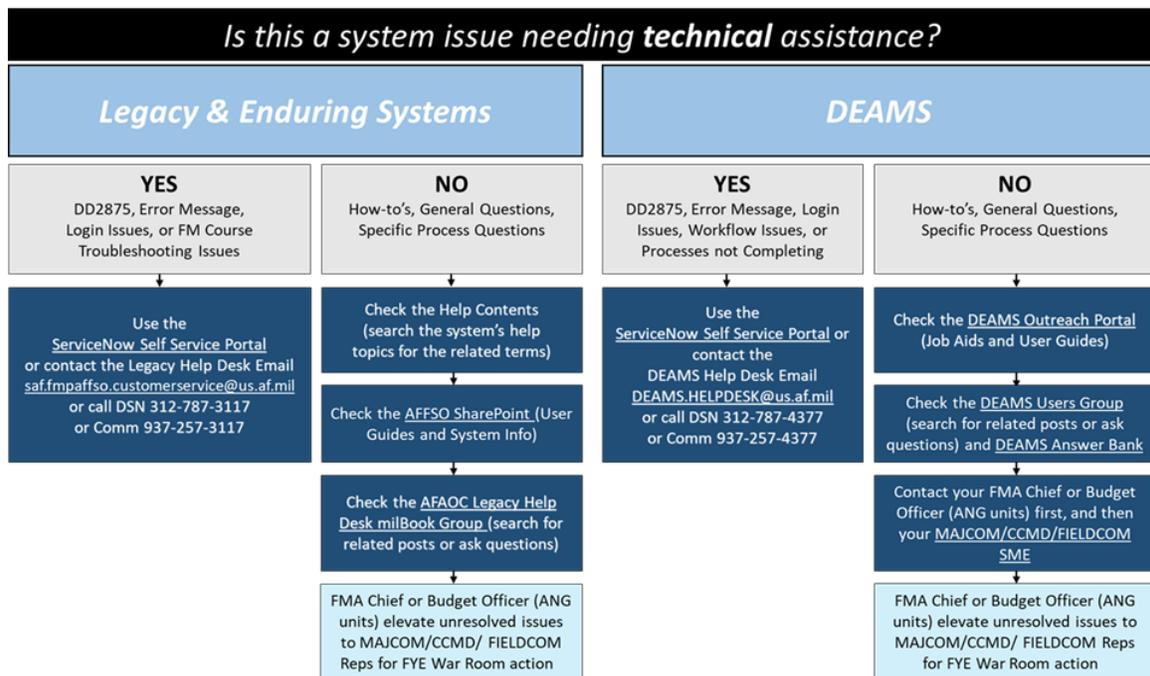
CRITICAL TASK LIST (CTL) IN THE DEAMS USERS GROUP

The Critical Task List is an invaluable resource for successful daily system operations throughout the fiscal year and especially during closeout. The document includes the task to perform, Officer of Primary Responsibility (OPR) and Officer of Co-Responsibility (OCR), task frequency, reports used, and guidance to run the report or perform the task, as well as links to applicable AFAOC User Forums topics. The critical tasks are grouped by topic and include Overspent Funds, Obligation Authority, Target Load Accuracy, DEAMS to Automated Disbursing System (ADS) Reconciliation (DADR), Reimbursement Funds, Purchase Orders, SF1081s & JVs, Miscellaneous Payments, Government Purchase Card (GPC) Releases, Open Document Listing, Invoices on Hold, Travel Orders, Air Force Reserve Order Writing System (AROWS) Requisitions, Project, Task, Expenditure, Organization (PTEOs), and Requisitions.

KNOW WHO TO CALL FOR HELP!

Helpful Links:

- ServiceNow Self Service Portal
- AFAOC Legacy Help Desk Email
- AFAOC Legacy Help Desk milBook Group
- AFFSO SharePoint
- AFAOC DEAMS Help Desk Email
- DEAMS Outreach Portal
- AFAOC FYE SharePoint Site
- DEAMS Users Group on milBook
- DEAMS Answer Bank
- AFAOC MAJCOM/COCOM/FIELDCOM SMEs
- Data Analytics Presentation at 2023 Accounting Conference



The AFAOC stands ready to assist for all closeout needs at the tail end of this fiscal year and are prepared for an incredible FY24. **Happy Closeout!**

FM INCOMING

GET BETTER WITH BECKER!

With a repository of over 2,000 credit hours of continuing professional education (CPE) courses and more than 1,000 webcasts, Becker CPE offers eligible DAF/FM personnel the opportunity to pursue professional development and continuing education opportunities in a variety of subjects ranging from Leadership to Data Analytics.

Eligibility requirements: Becker CPE is available to personnel assigned to DAF/FM who are enrolled in the DoD FM Certification program.

If you have questions about this exciting opportunity – including staff eligibility – or if you want to provide feedback on the program, **please reach out to: SAF/FMEW Workflow, SAF.FMEW.Workflow@us.af.mil**.



Follow the steps below to start your Becker CPE journey today:

1. [Click Here](#) to explore the Becker CPE program.
2. Enter your e-mail address (as listed in FM LMS).
3. Enter the temporary password: Becker123! (Case sensitive and include the "!").
4. Click on the yellow "Sign In" button and follow the prompts to establish a new password.
5. Use the search and filter functions to find your next course!

Please note, the preferred browser for access to Becker's course portal is Google Chrome. If you experience issues logging in or accessing courses, please email Becker customer service: [Here](#).

UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



fmVisionExchange

The fmVisionExchange (fmVX) training program is an opportunity for FMers to attend live virtual events about a variety of financial management topics, led by experts in the field.

Improve your FM knowledge and register for one of the three October sessions below!

Civilian Pay Fundamentals

Date and time: Thursday, October 5th, 2023; 12:00pm – 1:00pm EST

Presenter: Mr. Jae W. Lee, Director Financial Management Directorate (FMD), Washington Headquarters Services (WHS)

Details: This session is targeted for individuals looking for an introduction or a refresher on civilian pay management. This session will focus on the basics of civilian pay, to include terminology used when discussing manpower/labor-execution in the DoD, the relationship between End Strength and Full Time Equivalent, fact of life changes (e.g., pay raises, benefits, taxes, localities etc.), and other considerations/best-practices important for accurately projecting annual labor execution.

Credits: 1 Credit Hour Earned may be applied toward CETs or the Fundamentals and Operations of Military and Civilian Pay PL-1 for initial DFMCP Certification.

[Direct Registration Link Here.](#)

FM INCOMING



Ethics for Department of Defense Supervisors

Date and time: Thursday, October 19th, 2023; 12:00pm – 1:00pm EST

Presenter: Office of General Counsel

Details: The intent of this module is to help DoD supervisors better understand their responsibility to foster and encourage ethical conduct. Specifically, you will be encouraged and learn to foster an environment where subordinates go beyond asking “is this legal?” to “is this prudent?” Additionally, this course is intended to teach the DoD supervisor to be visible about making the right decision, cultivate mutual respect, and remove fear of retaliation from organization climate while knowing your role as a supervisor in compliance ethics.

Credits: 1 Credit Hour Earned may be applied toward CETs or the Ethics-201 for initial DFMCP Certification.

[Direct Registration Link Here.](#)

Ethics for Department of Defense Senior Leaders

Date and time: Thursday, October 26th, 2023; 12:00pm – 1:00pm EST

Presenter: Office of General Counsel

Details: The intent of this module is to help DoD senior leaders better understand their responsibility to foster and encourage ethical conduct. While attending this course you will be introduced to Senior Leader Action/Communication standards. Specifically, you will be encouraged and learn to foster an environment where subordinates go beyond asking “is this legal?” to “is this prudent?” Additionally, this course reinforces the Senior Leader’s role in ethical decision making and is intended to teach the DoD supervisor to be visible about making the right decision, cultivate mutual respect, remove fear of retaliation from organization climate while knowing your role as a supervisor in compliance ethics.

Credits: 1 Credit Hour Earned may be applied toward CETs or the Ethics-301 for initial DFMCP Certification.

[Direct Registration Link Here.](#)

For additional information about fmVX go to <https://fmonline.ousdc.osd.mil/CET/cet.aspx> and open the fmVX tab.



DAF Financial Management is on LinkedIn!

Follow DAF Financial Management on LinkedIn to hear the latest updates from the SAF/FM front office. There you will also find Hot Job Alerts, news on how FM is bringing our strategy to life, and information on recent all calls and conferences.

#DAFFMLife

Check it out at <https://www.linkedin.com/company/daffm/>



Stay up-to-date with the latest in Air Force FM on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/USAFComptroller>

