

# NEWSLETTER

THE ULTIMATE **FORCE** **MULTIPLIER**

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## SPOTLIGHT: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS HOST SYMPOSIUM FOCUSED ON TRANSFORMATION

DAF FM Strategic Plan Connections

**Goal 1 – Obj 1.2**

**Goal 3 – Obj. 3.4**

*by Lt Col James R. Wilson, AFRC/FM*

Air Force Reserve Command Financial Management (FM) specialists hosted a virtual summit May 7-9, 2024, to discuss current challenges and new strategies for aligning to meet priorities of the Great Power Competition.

The flexibility and willingness to adapt as the command adjusts to meet an evolving strategic environment were among the top priorities for FM professionals conveyed by Maj Gen Frank Bradfield III, Air Force Reserve Command Deputy Commander, during his opening remarks for the summit.

“We have challenges now that will continue while we’re trying to reorganize and reposture forces to better prepare for how we will conduct the nation’s business in the future,” said Maj Gen Bradfield. “Part of that challenge is understanding the new construct of how we’re going to

deploy. It’s important to understand Deployable Combat Wings, In Place Combat Wings, and Combat Generation Wings.”

Maj Gen Bradfield encouraged the FM community to demonstrate a warrior ethos and how it relates to success in supporting Citizen Airmen at a time of unprecedented change in the Air Force Reserve’s history. “As financial professionals, you should embody the warrior ethos in all aspects of your work,” he remarked. “C2A2- Communicate, Collaborate, Action, and Accountability- serves as our guiding principles, ensuring that we remain agile, adaptable, and accountable in our pursuit of excellence.”

The theme of innovation and transformation permeated throughout the symposium, with sessions focused on leveraging technology, optimizing processes, and fostering a culture of innovation within the organization. From exploring the latest advancements in financial systems to harnessing the power of data ➤



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# FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS HOST SYMPOSIUM FOCUSED ON TRANSFORMATION (cont.)



analytics, participants gained valuable insights into driving positive change and enhancing financial readiness.

Highlights of the symposium included FM awards presentations and a “State of FM” presentation by Col Shannon Thompson, AFRC Comptroller, which provided an update on FY24 budgetary execution as well as a preview of the FY25 Presidential Budget and the resources currently scheduled for allocation to AFRC.

The symposium also provided a platform for collaboration among finance professionals. Officials from the FM Directorate hosted breakout sessions on topics to include centrally managed programs, self-inspection tools, and continuing education training for career field certification.

Those who participated felt the opportunity to collaborate and discuss a wide range of issues with program managers from AFRC was invaluable to FM professionals in the field.

“The updates from the FM analysis and operations were very helpful as was the presentation highlighting military travel,”

said Ms. Diane Piquette, 439th Airlift Wing comptroller, Westover Air Reserve Base, Massachusetts. “While we often have in-person symposiums, having it open to everyone helps keep all of our staff members better informed.”

In closing, Col Thompson reiterated the importance of embracing transformation to meet the evolving challenges of financial management while remaining laser focused on unit readiness and continuing to support the Citizen Airmen who are doing the nation’s business.

## About the Author

*Lt Col James R. Wilson is the Strategic Communications Advisor to the Air Force Reserve Command Comptroller located at Robins AFB, Georgia.*



Page 1 / Top: Terrance Miller, Air Reserve Personnel Center financial management specialist, shares resources available from his organization to the FM community during the 2024 Air Force Reserve Command Financial Management Symposium at Robins AFB. (U.S. Air Force photo by Lt. Col. James R. Wilson)

Page 2 / Bottom: Col. Shannon Thompson, Air Force Reserve Command comptroller, provides an overview of the objectives for the 2024 Air Force Reserve Command Financial Management Symposium. (U.S. Air Force photo by Lt. Col. James R. Wilson)

Above: Maj. Gen. Frank Bradfield III, Air Force Reserve Command deputy commander, provides opening remarks for the 2024 Air Force Reserve Command Financial Management Symposium May 7, 2024 at Robins Air Force Base, GA. (U.S. Air Force photo by Lt. Col. James R. Wilson)



# SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE: HURLBURT MOBILE FOOD PANTRY



by Ms. Mary Tims, ACC

In the world of Financial Management, it can become easy to sit in our offices, work through the churn, and focus on what is right in front of us. So often, we lose sight of the broader community on our bases, and I've recently discovered a way to connect with others while also serving those on Team Hurlburt. Last year, I began volunteering at the Hurlburt Mobile Food Pantry, and it has been an incredible experience I am excited to share with the FM Community.

The mission of the Food Pantry is to combat food insecurity among military families. As a team, we meet once a month at the base chapel. Volunteers from all over the local area come to help sort and count food and assemble grocery bags to include an insert on food safety. On average, 160 grocery bags are distributed to families in need, feeding nearly 500 individuals every month. We're also part of Feeding the Gulf Coast, which falls under Feeding America, a nationwide network of 200 food banks and 60,000 food pantries and meal programs providing food and services to people annually. In addition to food donated through Feeding America, the mobile food pantry receives food from local grocers, farmers, and community donations.

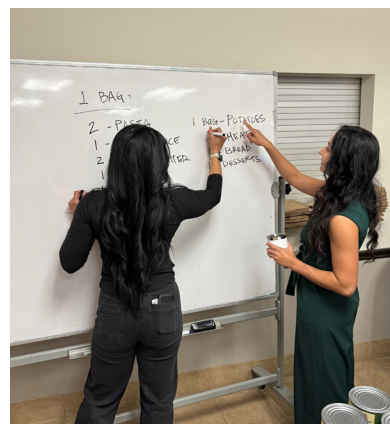
I came across this wonderful organization last year when a fellow military spouse connected me with it as her husband was retiring and she was looking for support to bolster the organization before she departed. I felt moved to answer her call for aid because I spent years volunteering while caring for my young children. During those years, I enjoyed not just the feeling of helping others but the knowledge that my example could have rippling effects across many lives. After I entered the FM workforce, I could still feel the pull of finding a way to donate my time and talents to an organization that helps those in need.

The Food Pantry has been that organization. I have found myself in the role of committee lead and work each month to coordinate the packing and distribution event. It has been a tremendously positive experience, and there is nothing quite like seeing the smiles on the faces of recipients and the excitement that fills the air from the volunteers eager to support others. I would implore my fellow FM brethren to look around their base, see where you can help, and carve out the time to make a difference—a difference not just to the mission, but to the personal lives of the community you serve.

In finance, we are focused on the numbers, “no money, no mission,” but sometimes that mission extends beyond the spreadsheet. There are intangible factors to the mission outside of funding – people, morale, quality of work, or output. Volunteering makes us more self-aware of our greatest asset, the human workforce. What better way to understand people than to spend time with them off the clock? Fight the urge to be comfortable in your office doing the humdrum of the day to day. Find a cause that inspires your passion. I am grateful for the ability to help others and share my story, prayerfully hoping that if it means just one person considers greater volunteerism, some good has been added to this world.

## About the Author

*Ms. Mary Tims is a budget analyst at the 505th Command and Control Wing located at Hurlburt Field, Florida.*



Left to right: 1. Mary Tims and Amn Geovannis Fernandez Napoles from the 505 CCW set up grocery bags in the mobile pickup line. 2. Mary Tims counts potatoes prior to sorting and bagging. 3. Total food counts are divided by 150 to determine quantity of which foods per grocery bag. 4. Cars line up waiting for the food drive to start. It runs from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm.

# A CAREER REFLECTION... WE ARE MORE



by Maj Frank Rodela, AFDW

Team FM,

As I reflect on my journey in our financial management career field, I can't help but feel a mix of pride, gratitude, and a touch of nostalgia. It's been a ride filled with challenges, triumphs, and countless lessons I want to share with you – especially those of you just starting out.

When I first put on my uniform, I was driven by a sense of duty and a commitment to the mission. Our role in financial management might not always be in the spotlight, but trust me, it's crucial. We provide critical decision support to senior leaders, ensuring resources are efficiently allocated and every dollar spent contributes to overall mission success. These actions mean our Air Force remains ready and capable. It's a big responsibility, and I've seen firsthand the impact of our work on the larger mission.

Now this is no retirement or separation speech. I'm only at the midpoint of my career and currently finishing joint Professional Military Education (PME) with the United States Marine Corps. But... it's given me the chance to pause, reflect on the past 13 years, and figure out what's truly important in my life. While the mission is vital, it's equally important to remember who you are outside of the uniform. Our identities are multi-layered, and it's easy to get lost in the demands of our roles. I've had my fair share of late nights, early mornings, and stressful audits, but I've also

learned the importance of making time for the things I love and cherishing moments with family. When we hang up our uniforms at the end of the day, we need to reconnect with those parts of ourselves that make us whole.

Family is your rock. They support you through highs and lows, celebrate your successes, and stand by you during tough times. Never lose sight of that. Make time for your loved ones, pursue your hobbies, and invest in your passions. These keep us grounded and remind us that we are more than our ranks and titles. A key Marine saying that stood out to me is "Semper Fidelis" (Always Faithful). This concept of unwavering loyalty extends beyond the mission and comrades to include one's family and personal values. It's a powerful reminder that while our uniforms may differ, our shared commitment to excellence and devotion to family and integrity unite us all. ➤

Below: Joint officers from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and partner Nations gathered at Marine Corps University in Quantico, VA, for a mess night, celebrating tradition and camaraderie. The event was filled with lively conversation and a shared meal, strengthening bonds across the services.







Another key lesson I've learned is that not everyone will like you, and that's okay. I've encountered leaders who "wrote me off" or doubted my capabilities throughout my career. It stings, but it's part of the journey. What's important is staying true to yourself and your principles. Continue to do what you know is right even when it's hard. Stand up for your fellow Airmen and support them in any way possible. Your integrity and dedication will shine through even if not everyone sees it right away.

To the younger Airmen reading this – know your journey will be unique. Embrace the challenges and learn from them. Lean on your support systems and never forget who you are at your core. The mission is critical but so is your well-being and happiness. Find that harmony and you'll be a better Airman and a better person.

Keep pushing forward, stay true to your values, and remember – you are more than your uniform.

Semper Fi,  
Maj Frank Rodela

### About the Author

*Maj Frank Rodela is currently a Student at Marine Corps Command and Staff College, Quantico, VA. He will take Command of the 87th Comptroller Squadron in July 2024.*



A group of United States Air Force officers attended the United States Marine Corps mess night, proudly sporting their party shirts. Their unique attire added a touch of fun and showcased the distinct spirit of the USAF amid the formal setting.

## MINI BUT MIGHTY!

### Fortifying Wright-Patterson Defense Financial Managers: Highlights From the 27th Annual Mini Professional Development Institute

Nearly 250 defense financial managers gathered at Wright-Patterson AFB on May 2 for the 27th annual Mini Professional Development Institute (PDI) hosted by the American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) Aviation Chapter and Air Force Materiel Command Financial Management. Presentation topics revolved around the theme of "financial fusion" and included cost research initiatives, the national defense budget, leadership qualities, digital transformation, and much more. Mini PDI preceded the national PDI that took place in Phoenix, Arizona from May 29-31.

Read more about the event in Ms. Sarah Gwaltney's article [here](#)!

Left: The 27th Annual Mini-PDI focused on providing for the professional development needs of the FM workforce throughout Wright-Patt. (U.S. Air Force photos by Jim Varhegyi)



# RECAP: SPRING 2024 SAF/FM EXECUTIVE SESSION



by Ms. Maddy Junco, SAF/FME

On April 9-11, SAF/FM leaders gathered for the Spring 2024 Executive Session in McLean, VA. The group engaged in two-and-a-half days of discussions around DAF/FM priorities and initiatives for FY24. Highlights included updates around Goal and Objective progress, Comptroller Squadrons (CPTS) of the Future, Great Power Competition (GPC), and a demo of an enterprise workforce dashboard, among other agenda items aligned to the DAF/FM Strategic Plan.

At the offsite, SAF/FM took great leaps forward in establishing the CPTS of the Future! Col Doug Pierce (AETC/FM) delivered a CPTS of the Future decision briefing that recapped the task at hand – to “refine FM organizations to meet tomorrow’s needs.” This is meant to establish Comptroller organizations with the right structure and number of billets (across competencies) to fulfill evolving DAF needs and develop a community of FM professionals armed with the right skills and experience to effectively address the requirements of the future. After proposing three courses of action, which were developed and analyzed by the CPTS of the Future Working Group, the SAF/FM leaders discussed and decided on the course of action to execute. This decision was a tremendous accomplishment made during the Executive Session and enables the team to continue progress so that CPTS of the Future becomes the CPTS of Today!

DAF’s Reoptimization for GPC was briefed and discussed with an overview provided by Brigadier General Joseph Kunkel. Details encompassed why and how DAF is reoptimizing for GPC, an introduction to the future fighting structure (Air Force Units of Action), the distinction between Combat Wings, Institutional Wings, and Base Commands, and how to contribute to the future fight. This information helped further equip our FM leaders for the shifting strategic environment and the role FM will play.

Leaders also enjoyed a visit from Honorable Kristyn Jones, who delivered updates on audit and systems progress and engaged in discussion with the group regarding various topics including MAJCOM realignment, resource and manpower needs within the cost analysis community, and IT integration efforts. Hon Jones commended the group for their hard work and gave a special thanks to Mr. Carlos Rodgers for leading the FM team.

At the end of the Executive Session, leaders expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to collaborate and make advancements that ultimately affirm our commitment to fulfilling the DAF FM Strategic Plan and our vision of financial excellence.

As always, you can access FM strategy documents, including the FM Strategic Plan, and other resources on [myFMHub](#) for further insight into the topics discussed at the Executive Sessions.



Air Force Financial Management  
**STRATEGIC PLAN**

## About the Author

*Ms. Maddy Junco is a Guidehouse consultant supporting Workforce Development under the Workforce Management and Executive Services Directorate, Pentagon, Washington D.C.*





## DEAMS UPDATE

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



### Agile Development Update

With the upgrade to Oracle E-Business Suite 12.2.10 behind us, the team is moving full speed ahead to get critical functionality installed before the annual code freeze for fiscal year end (FYE). This code freeze typically occurs in mid-August, as a layer of security to ensure stable system performance during FYE. Our priorities at this time are focused on functionality required to address audit findings, to support fiscal year end closeout activities, and to enable deployments scheduled the first quarter of FY25. In parallel with those priorities are our ongoing development projects in the queue to go live this summer, such as G-Invoicing, our replacement reporting tool, Oracle Business Intelligence Enterprise Edition, and enabling Treasury-direct disbursing for grant payments and international vendor pay.

### Grant Payments Functionality

Treasury Direct disbursements have been a success story for the Defense Enterprise Accounting and Management System (DEAMS) Functional Management Office (FMO) over the last two fiscal years as Government Purchase Cards, commercial airlift contracts, and domestic vendor pay have been incorporated into this program. FY24 is no different with disbursements totaling over \$11.6B as of end of month April, in comparison to \$13.2B for all FY23. That number will grow even higher when Grant Payments, with an estimated execution of \$480M per fiscal year, are enabled for treasury direct disbursements from DEAMS. This functionality is expected to become available in June 2024, followed by international vendor pay in December 2024.

### Oracle Business Intelligence Enterprise Edition Reporting Solution

Last quarter we announced the Air Education and Training Command (AETC) pilot for the upcoming DEAMS reporting solution, Oracle Business Intelligence Enterprise Edition (OBIEE), which is the replacement for Discoverer Reports. The pilot began on 29 March 2024 with the provisioning of AETC user accounts for OBIEE access coupled with hands-on training and live demonstrations. With more than 60 reports being made available during the pilot, we are now collecting feedback from users on those reports. Preliminary results have been positive overall, so we are still planning to deploy OBIEE enterprise-wide in July 2024. To ease the transition leading into fiscal year end, Discoverer Reports will continue to be available for use.

## Deployment/Training Update

### Legacy to DEAMS

With activities either ongoing or already completed among all CONUS Commands, Legacy to DEAMS (L2D) implementations continue to be a high priority for the DEAMS Deployment/Training Team. Of the ongoing activities, several Commands have only a handful of contracts or other transactions remaining in the General Accounting and Finance System (GAFS). These transactions are expected to be either moved into DEAMS or deobligated in the very near future to fully complete their L2D transitions. A few others are just getting started with their Open Document Listing review and assessing the scope of their programs. United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) and Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) will kick off their implementations beginning in FY25.

To date this fiscal year, L2D Command implementations have resulted in the transferring of \$323.6M from GAFS to DEAMS, furthering the DAF goal to sunset legacy accounting systems.

### Miscellaneous Payments

In May, the DEAMS Deployment/Training Team introduced four process improvements to the Air Force Miscellaneous Payments Program intended to streamline and simplify transactions and reduce errors. The first two changes are in direct reference to employee/member repayments (DoD Miscellaneous Payment- Category "E"). The other two changes apply to all types of invoices to include vendor (Category V), Intragovernmental (Category I), as well as Category E.

- Category “E” invoices:
  - Will match to the purchase order versus a receiving report
  - Will be entered citing date of entry for Invoice Date and Date Invoice Received
- All Miscellaneous Payments invoice categories:
  - Will use the system stamp with name, date, and time as Departmental Accountable Officials (DAO) approval
  - Will use a simplified Invoice Construct naming convention

One-hour overview sessions were held the first week of May to accommodate users in both CONUS and OCONUS locations. Live demonstrations were provided during these sessions and users had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the process changes. If you were unable to attend one of these sessions, a [recording](#) of the Miscellaneous Payments Process Improvement Overview presentation can be found on the [DEAMS Outreach Portal](#), along with the list of updated guides and job aids to support the DEAMS user community.

## Refresher Training

To get in front of fiscal year end activities, get your requests for Refresher Training in now! The Deployment/Training Team can help if your unit needs to hone their skills in a particular area of DEAMS. One of our more recent refresher training visits involved the team traveling to California where they provided refresher training on a variety of DEAMS processes to over 90 Airmen and Guardians from Beale Air Force Base and the surrounding area. To schedule training for your organization, please contact Mr. Ernest Kindle at [ernest.kindle.1.ctr@us.af.mil](mailto:ernest.kindle.1.ctr@us.af.mil).

Please direct questions about this article to the DEAMS Strategic Communications Team at [SAF.DEAMS.StratComms@us.af.mil](mailto:SAF.DEAMS.StratComms@us.af.mil).

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## The Latest from AFAOC

*by Ms. Jenny Beer, Director, AFAOC*

Change is in the air as we spring into summer! The Air Force Accounting Operations Center (AFAOC) continually seeks process improvements and updates to benefit our customers and system users with a main goal in mind – a smooth, successful Fiscal Year End (FYE) closeout for Defense Enterprise Accounting & Management System (DEAMS) and Air Force Financial Systems Operations (AFFSO) Systems users.



## FYE Preparations

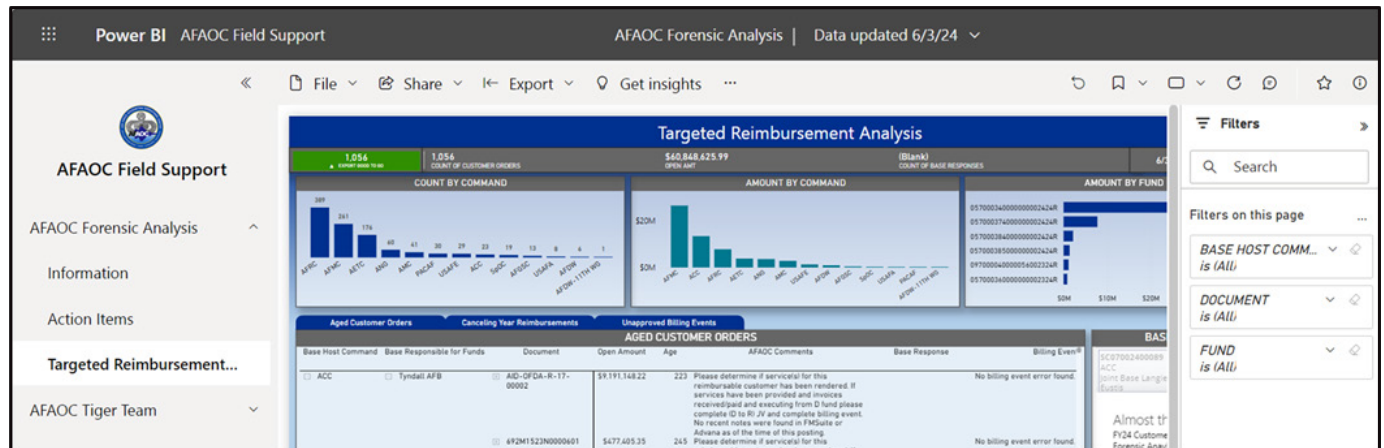
Speaking of closeout, AFAOC is well into preparations for this fiscal year’s end. The FYE Team, including AFAOC, Air Force Accounting & Finance Office (AFAFO), and Defense Finance Accounting Service (DFAS), have been working on the lessons learned during FYE23 to implement changes, improve procedures and resources, and strengthen communication efforts with our customers. Action plans have been developed to ensure the team is tracking, documenting, and communicating closed action items with submitters. Our Strategic Communications team is updating the AFAOC FYE Communications Plan to get relevant information to FMers throughout the months leading to closeout, as well as an updated [DEAMS Outreach Portal](#) FYE SharePoint page available soon. Our experienced Command Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) are working with the field to share guidance, respond to questions, and provide tools. AFAOC Data Analytics and Field Support teams are regularly implementing improvements to our [Power BI application](#) and clean-up efforts. [AFAOC FM Systems Training](#) has a catalog of courses available to assist you in successfully operating in the systems we support; topics include Journal Vouchers (JVs) and SF 1081s, Miscellaneous Payments, Oracle Business Intelligence Enterprise Edition (OBIEE), Funds Loading, and Project Billing User.



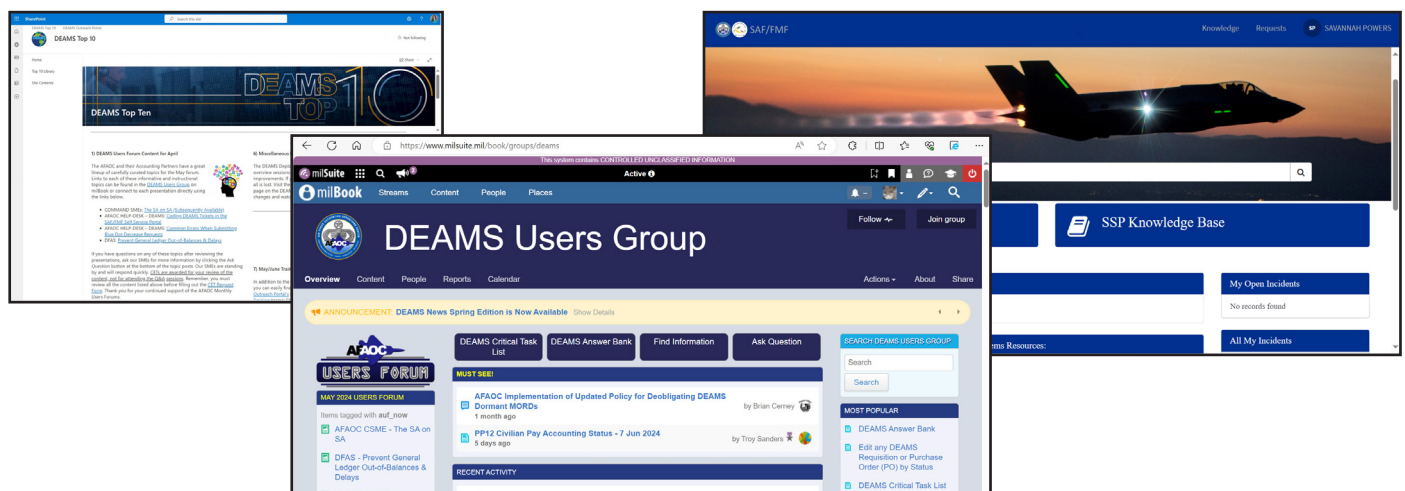
As in previous years, AFAOC will be managing the Virtual FYE War Room group on milBook with AFAFO, DFAS, SAF/FMB, SAF/AQ, and Command representatives. This limited access group will resolve elevated issues requiring assistance beyond normal help desk procedures.

## Forensic Analysis Dashboard Moves to Power BI

The Forensic Analysis Dashboard and AFAOC Items Tracker have moved from OneNote to the AFAOC Power BI application. The mission of the Forensic Analysis Team is to help maximize current year buying power and reduce fall out, while identifying current and canceling year items requiring action. As the team identifies accounting anomalies, their findings become available on three reports: Action Items (potential fallout documents), Targeted Reimbursement Analysis, and DEAMS Dormant Interfund documents. The reports can be easily filtered to your organization and allow you to add comments as needed. The dashboard for Internal Air Force users is: [AFAOC Forensic Analysis- Power BI \(powerbigov.us\)](https://powerbigov.us) and all others/external (non @us.af.mil) is: [AFAOC Forensic Analysis- External- Power BI \(powerbigov.us\)](https://powerbigov.us).



One thing never changes from season to season: supporting you is our mission. Access the monthly [DEAMS Top 10](#) for tips and tricks, review Users Forum videos and blogs in the [DEAMS Users Group](#), submit DEAMS and AFFSO Systems incident tickets via the [SAF/FMF Self Service Portal](#), and take advantage of all AFAOC has to offer as we make our way through the year together.



Left to right: 1. DEAMS Top Ten SharePoint site. 2. DEAMS User Group on milSuite. 3. SAF/FMF Self Service Portal.

## Certify Your Path to Success with Recent Updates to the FM Certification Page

The [DAF FM Certification SharePoint](#) page is your one-stop-shop for all things DoD FM Certification related! Check out all the resources available to help make your certification journey easier to manage, including some of the latest tips and innovative tools listed below.

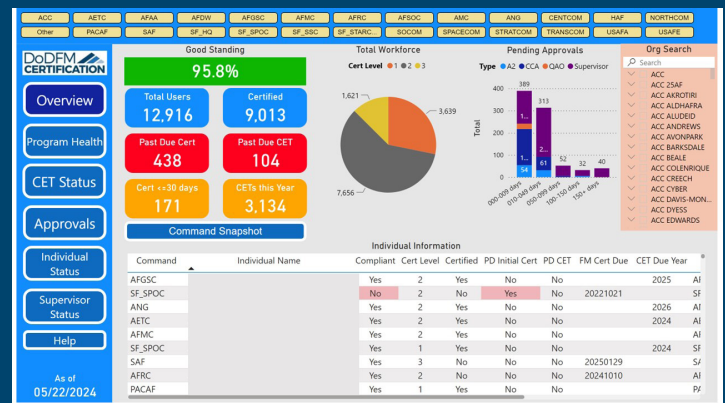
### Exciting New Tools Unveiled

1. Comprehensive FAQs Page: Designed to address common FM Certification questions and provide support regardless of whether you are already a seasoned professional or just beginning your FM career.
2. Self-Service Ticket Tool: If the FAQs page does not address your specific concern, the Self-Service Ticket Tool allows you to request support directly online.

### Introducing the DAF/FM Certification Status Tool

The [DAF/FM Certification Status Tool](#) is live! Out with the old, clunky MACRO enabled Access Database, and in with the new PowerBI Dashboard that streamlines FM Certification progress, with refreshes once a week. This tool offers you insights into:

- Program Health
- Command Standings
- Pending Approvals
- CET Status Page
- Individual and Supervisor Status



## Together We Soar: DAF/FM at PDI

In May, DAF/FM showed up strong at the Professional Development Institute (PDI) 2024 in Phoenix. During the weeklong conference, the DAF held our Air Force Community Day where attendees received FM, Budget, and Audit updates from DAF/FM senior leadership, celebrated the achievements of FY23 award winners, and heard CMSgts Leah Anderson and David Weaver encourage FMers to embrace their role and power as financial managers in an increasingly operational world.

Attendees were also able to learn from interactive workshops hosted by subject matter experts covering a range of topics and themes such as:

- Leadership and Professional Development,
- Data Analytics and AI,
- Addressing Audit Discrepancies and using Economic principles to innovate ideas, and
- The Future of DAF/FM and its Workforce.

We were pleased to see the FM community come together and chart the way of the future.



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