

NEWSLETTER

THE ULTIMATE FORCE MULTIPLIER

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A FINANCIAL MANAGER BRIDGING CULTURES AND STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH LEAP

DAF FM Strategic Plan Connections
Goal I | Obj. I.I

by **MSgt Michael Ortiz, AMC**

MSgt Michael Ortiz, Financial Management Superintendent at the 89th Airlift Wing, Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, is a shining example of how language skills and cultural awareness can significantly enhance a financial professional's impact within the Air Force and beyond. Since 2018, MSgt Ortiz has been actively involved in the Language Enabled Airman Program (LEAP), focusing on Spanish, and his experiences have been transformative.

One of the highlights of his LEAP journey was a three-week immersion program in Bogota, Colombia. He had the opportunity to attend Sergio Arboleda University, delving into the country's rich history and culture. "This experience broadened my understanding of the region immensely," MSgt Ortiz stated. "It allowed me to gain insights and perspectives I wouldn't have been able to achieve otherwise." This immersion has been invaluable, allowing him to become a regional expert within SOUTHCOM, and providing him with a unique edge in joint environments. ➤



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A FINANCIAL MANAGER BRIDGING CULTURES AND STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH LEAP (cont.)



Beyond the immersion program, MSgt Ortiz has actively participated in various training partnerships and Language Intensive Training Events (LITEs), including the Air Chiefs and Senior Enlisted Conference run by AFSOUTH and the Senior Enlisted Leader International Conference. These opportunities have allowed him to network with fellow LEAP participants from diverse career fields, fostering a collaborative learning environment. He's also worked alongside members of other U.S. military branches and partner nations, united by the common goal of strengthening U.S. ties with South American allies through security cooperation.

"The chance to learn from and collaborate with individuals from different backgrounds and specialties has been incredibly enriching," MSgt Ortiz explained. "It's broadened my perspective on global challenges and the importance of cross-cultural understanding."

MSgt Ortiz is now an active member of the National Capital Region (NCR) LEAP Chapter council, where he and his fellow council members dedicate their time to promoting Language, Regional Expertise, and Culture (LREC), as well as advocating for the LEAP program itself. The council assists Airmen from all career fields interested in applying to the program, offering guidance to ensure their application packages are competitive, and fostering a strong sense of camaraderie among members.

Recently, MSgt Ortiz's dedication to professional development was further recognized when he was selected to attend the Inter-American Air Forces Academy (IAAFA) SNCO Academy at Lackland AFB. This highly competitive program will provide him with advanced leadership training and further enhance his expertise.

One of MSgt Ortiz's most impactful experiences to date was his involvement in the Programa Integral para Suboficiales de Alta Jerarquia 21 (PISAJ 21), a U.S. Army South program in coordination with the Colombian army. This past August he was hand-picked to provide interpreting and logistical support for 38 Colombian Sergeant Majors from the Air Force, Army, Navy, and Marines, who were completing their capstone training to become Command Sergeant Majors. This was an Enlisted Professional Military Education opportunity that also included the Colombia Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman (SEAC) and other senior enlisted leaders. The program took place in Columbia, South Carolina, and El Paso, Texas.

MSgt Ortiz spent two weeks interpreting for the Colombian leaders in a classroom setting and accompanied them on excursions to various military bases. His contributions were highly valued, and he was recognized by numerous leaders, including the Sergeant Major of the Army. MSgt Ortiz's support in PISAJ 21 allowed the program to strengthen ties between US and Colombian forces and support regional security.

His efforts during PISAJ 21 earned him the Army Achievement Medal, a testament to his exceptional dedication and contributions to strengthening international partnerships. His involvement was also highlighted on DVIDS, bringing further recognition to his achievements and the value of the LEAP program.

MSgt Michael Ortiz's story exemplifies the power of language skills and cultural understanding in today's global landscape. His dedication to the LEAP program has not only enhanced his own professional development but has also made a significant impact on strengthening international partnerships and promoting security cooperation. He is a true asset to the Air Force and a role model for other Airmen seeking to expand their horizons through language and cultural immersion.

LEAP is open to officer and enlisted personnel and is managed by the Air Force Culture and Language Center (AFCLC). For eligibility information, board dates, and to submit an application, please visit the AFCLC website at <https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/AFCLC/Language-studies/> or contact the AFCLC LEAP Selection Team at AFCLC.LEAP.Selection@us.af.mil.

About the Author

MSgt Michael Ortiz is the Financial Management Superintendent for the 89th Airlift Wing located at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland.



PISAJ 21 participants and facilitators, including MSgt Ortiz, from the U.S. and Colombian militaries. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua Taeckens)

GRAPPLING WITH WARRIOR CULTURE: Lessons from Jiu-Jitsu

by Lt Col Frederick "Rick" Freeman, AETC

In his *First Letter to the Force*, General Kenneth Wilsbach calls every Airmen to keep our warrior culture at “an all-time high”. While his call emphasizes the importance of combat readiness, he underscores that the embodiment of warrior ethos isn’t defined by violence but rather is built on standards and resilience. For the last five years, the sport of Brazilian jiu-jitsu has personally been a proving ground for shaping these values.

On the surface, jiu-jitsu is a competitive sport involving a one-on-one grappling contest between opponents. Victory is earned through submission: secured by a chokehold, heavy pressure, or simply by exhausting your opponent. At a deeper level however, jiu-jitsu is shaped by a warrior culture, elevated by the same principles outlined by General Wilsbach – technical excellence, accountability, pride, and resilience.



Developing technical excellence (grappling during a live-roll).

Technical Excellence:

Gen Wilsbach’s letter highlights the importance of attention-to-detail and precision required in both combat and training. The same values apply to jiu-jitsu, knowing the basics of a technique is only the beginning. To be successful during a live roll (sparring against a resisting opponent), you must be able to apply the techniques with the proper grips, balance, angles, and timing. To perfect these details, you must spend hours drilling the technique and position. Through repetition, you build the needed reflexes and muscle memory to perform the technique rapidly and under pressure.

Consider the triangle submission as an example, it is a simple choke that requires you to enclose your legs around your opponent’s neck and one arm to complete the technique. However, finishing the move depends on the details-- breaking your opponent’s posture, isolating the trapped arm, and achieving the right angle. In other words, precision is key or the technique will fail.

Like jiu-jitsu, our professions require mastery of the details. To perform under pressure, we need to know our regulations and checklists thoroughly, and we must practice our skills repeatedly to be ready to meet the demands of high customer operations, complex problem solving, or deploying into austere conditions.

Accountability:

Jiu-jitsu requires relentless effort. You must think constantly — contemplating how to beat your opponent’s defense, set up your next submission, all while predicting your opponent’s next response. If you lack the correct technique or skill against them, you will immediately find out. If you haven’t been training, you’ll feel the rust and lack of rhythm as your opponent takes advantage of your mistakes. Most challenging, is remaining calm when trapped underneath your opponent with no perceivable way to escape. These high-pressure moments generate immediate feedback if you’re underperforming. Careless technique or poor judgement can result in submission or a harsh injury.

Sustaining a warrior culture inside of our formations means personal responsibility and holding ourselves to a high standard of readiness, even when its uncomfortable. This level of readiness requires a commitment to discipline, mental and physical fitness, and routine self-assessment. ➤

GRAPPLING WITH WARRIOR CULTURE: Lessons from Jiu-Jitsu (cont.)



Pride:

An overlooked aspect of jiu-jitsu is its team environment, a culture built on hard work and competition. Jiu-jitsu schools are made up of a diverse group of individuals of different ages, genders, and backgrounds, all united around the shared purpose of self-improvement. To illustrate, a jiu-jitsu round begins with an affirming hand slap and fist bump with your teammate, a gesture that signals “I’m with you... lets go”. When the round is over – regardless of the outcome – you finish with the same fist bump, a sign of support and gratitude for the mutual effort. During rounds, you can regularly find classmates cheering for each other, sharing a favorite technique, and giving advice on how to improve their grappling.

In the squadron, the same idea of shared purpose, values, and cohesion through hard work are essential for accomplishing the mission. When we understand our significance to the bigger picture and have teammates who lead, support, and sharpen us, even in difficulty our pride in service and our unit can become even stronger.

Resilience:

Jiu-jitsu is a continuous journey. Regardless of how much experience you have, there will always be someone better than you – someone who can outthink, overpower, or outlast you. You will occasionally lose, but if you don’t give up, you learn. Through these losses, you will discover how to counter submissions, how to escape heavy top pressure, and how to put yourself in a better position. Most importantly however, jiu-jitsu gives you the resolve to keep getting back up and showcase your resiliency.

Whether for sport or self-defense, jiu-jitsu teaches the principles that are fundamental to establishing a warrior culture inside of our own units. Technical excellence built on repetition and precision, accountability through pressure and routine evaluation, and pride in a shared purpose give us the foundation necessary to foster resilience and stay in the fight!



Self-improvement (my promotion to blue belt).

About the Authors

Lt Col Frederick “Rick” Freeman is currently an Air University Fellow serving as a Course Director at the Air Force Global College in Maxwell AFB, AL. Previously served as the Commander of the 673d Comptroller Squadron in JBER, Alaska.

Contributing editor: Col Leria M. Diaz – Director, Defense Financial Management & Comptroller School



POWERING PROGRESS: LEADERS UNITE AT SAF/FM EXECUTIVE SESSION

In December, SAF/FM leadership joined forces with MAJCOM and FLD COM FM leaders for two days of powerful discussions at the SAF/FM Executive Session. Together they shared ideas, addressed challenges, and set the direction for FM Warfighter support. Our leaders made great progress and know that DAF FM has great plans, strong leadership, and a united team of Force Multipliers ready to deliver.

DEAMS Corner

by DEAMS Functional Manager



Happy New Year! While you were hopefully enjoying a well-deserved break, our team was pushing forward with key updates to Defense Enterprise Accounting and Management System (DEAMS). We've hit the ground running in 2026 with new system releases, development progress, and training activities to help you succeed.

System Releases: Throughout November and December, there were 22 system releases installed into the DEAMS Production environment, consisting of 134 user stories and bugs. These releases covered several key areas of improvement, including enhancements to payment processing interfaces, data integration and validation, and system reporting and compliance functionalities.

- **Interface and Data Format Enhancements:** A significant focus is on updating interfaces like the Pay Pre-Validation Module (PPVM) within the Elimination of Unmatched Disbursements (EUD) system ([Release 23.2.3](#)) and the Job Order Cost Accounting System (JOCAS) ([Release 25.1.5](#)) to handle Standard Line of Accounting (SLOA) data formats and improve data processing logic.
- **Data Accuracy and Validation:** Multiple releases aim to correct mismatches and improve data consistency, particularly between the Air National Guard Reserve Order Writing System (AROWS) and DEAMS systems, and by establishing new database links for cross-validation (Releases [24.4.9](#) and [25.1.1](#)).
- **Reporting and Compliance:** The Defense Departmental Reporting System (DDRS) interface received numerous updates ([Release 18.2.16](#)) to improve compliance, performance, and data accuracy for financial reporting.

As noted under the theme of data accuracy, several of these releases focused on resolving Program, Task, Expenditure Organization (PTEO) mismatches. These fixes were significant, as the discrepancies were causing issues with assigning the correct "object class" for Military Personnel (MILPERS) lines of accounting, particularly in the communication between the AROWS and DEAMS systems.

To save you time and reduce manual corrections, we've implemented a new enhancement for the requisition approval process. The system now automatically updates the General Ledger (GL) date on certain requisitions, streamlining approvals while still allowing for manual changes when needed. This update determines if a requisition's GL date is in a prior accounting period that has already been closed or not. If so, the system will now automatically update it to the current date. This feature helps streamline approvals for multi-line requisitions by reducing manual date corrections. Users will still have the option to manually update GL dates before approval. Ultimately, this enhancement is designed to reduce manual effort while ensuring users maintain control over the approval process.

As updates are installed, the DEAMS Customer Engagement Team publishes the [User Release Notes](#) to provide an overview of the install. Stay up to date on these notes by clicking the [Release Notes](#) tile found on the DEAMS Outreach Portal home page.

Development Update:

G-Invoicing and Special Characters: An issue has been identified where copying and pasting text from other sources (like websites or other documents) into G-Invoicing's freeform text fields can introduce "special" characters. These characters, while often invisible, can cause transaction processing to fail. Special characters are those that fall outside the standard range of printable American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII) characters (codes 32-126).

- Examples of problematic characters include, but are not limited to:
 - Em dashes (—): A long dash that is sometimes used in place of other punctuation.
 - Carriage returns: An invisible character that moves the cursor to the beginning of a line of text.
 - Section signs (§): The symbol used to reference sections of legal code. ➤



- Allowable Characters: To ensure your transactions are processed successfully, please only use characters that can be typed directly from a standard keyboard. The following is a comprehensive list of all characters that are permitted in G-Invoicing freeform text fields:
 - Letters:
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
 - Numbers:
1234567890
 - Symbols:
~\!@#\$%^&*()_+=;,.:/<>?[]{}|`
- **Recommendations:** To avoid introducing problematic characters, we strongly recommend the following:
 - Type directly: Whenever possible, type information directly into the G-Invoicing text fields.
 - Paste from a plain text editor: If you must copy and paste, first paste the text into a plain text editor (like Notepad) and then copy it again from the plain text editor into the G-Invoicing field. This should strip out any unsupported characters.

Please reach out to us in the [General | Air Force G-invoicing, Support Agreements, GT&Cs, Orders and Performance | Microsoft Teams](#) channel if you have any questions.

Deployment and Training Update

Ongoing and Upcoming Deployments: The October 2025 deployments for the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center (AFLCMC) and Space Systems Command (SSC) are progressing with a focus on our Job Order Cost Accounting (JOCAS) pilot. We are currently developing new processes to gather execution data, refine billing processes, and develop DEAMS/JOCAS interfaces.

Looking ahead, the May 2026 deployment, which includes SSC, Combat Forces Command (CFC), DAF-RCO, AFLCMC, and the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center (AFNWC), is in the early planning stages. The team has begun collecting site profiles and will be holding town halls and deep-dive sessions for users in late January and early February of 2026.

Future deployments are already being mapped out as well, with the Air Force Test Center (AFTC) and Air Force Research Lab (AFRL) tasked to identify units for rollouts scheduled for the spring and fall of 2027. Additionally, a significant “Legacy to DEAMS” effort has been kicked off with the Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC) to transition remaining legacy systems and users.

G-Invoicing Command Priority Days: The Deployment and Training Team is implementing another training opportunity by offering Command-specific training. This training targets how to create the 7600B via virtual on-the-job (OJT) training. A subject matter expert (SME) will process a 7600B addressing known issues and/or concerns as the Purchase Request is created, and users can create their own document in DEAMS side-by-side with the SME. Each two-hour session will offer training unique to each Command. Tenant units fall under the host installation’s day, for example, an ACC unit at Yokota AFB will attend on PACAF Day.

More information, including the schedule for Command Priority Days can be found on the DEAMS Outreach Portal’s [G-Invoicing Command Priority Days](#) news page.

The G-Invoicing War Room continues to operate to assist with other requests for OJT and to answer questions. The War Room is manned from 0800-1800 EST Monday-Friday via Teams, at [DEAMS G-Invoicing War Room | DEAMS SME GINV OJT | Microsoft Teams](#).

Another source of support is the SAF/FMFO Teams channel for questions in US Treasury G-Invoicing access, available high-level agreements, & policy at [General | Air Force G-invoicing, Support Agreements, GT&Cs, Orders and Performance | Microsoft Teams](#).

Fiscal Fitness in 2026: Get Ready for Mini-FYE Events and Annual Accounting Conference

by Ms. Jenny Beer, Director, SAF/FMFO Accounting Policy & Operations



In 2026, our financial operations are guided by a critical theme: **Sharpening Our Skills to Support Combat Capabilities**. This focus reinforces the direct link between fiscal diligence and mission readiness. A smooth fiscal year-end (FYE) closeout is not just an administrative goal; it ensures that resources are available to the warfighter without delay or disruption.

To foster a culture of proactive financial stewardship, we are again implementing a series of mini-FYE events throughout the year. This structured approach is designed to prevent a last-minute rush and ensure continuous progress. The schedule is as follows:

- **January:** Cancelling Year
- **March:** Reimbursement Balancing (Prior Year) & Current Year Agreements
- **May:** Open Prior Year Government Purchase Card (GPC)
- **July:** Current Year Reimbursement Billings
- **August:** Invoices on Hold

The landmark event of the year will be the **2026 Accounting Conference**, an in-person event held at **DFAS Columbus from April 28-30**, with a virtual option for remote participants. This event provides a vital platform for professional development and sharing expertise. The call for agenda topics has concluded, and conference registration will begin in February 2026.

By embracing these ongoing training opportunities, we are actively investing in our personnel and our mission. Honing our financial skills throughout the year is essential to enhancing the strength and readiness of our Warfighters. Please stay tuned for upcoming calendar invites and further information.

Please reach out to SAF.FMIE.CustomerEngagement@us.af.mil with any questions.



HAPPY NEW YEAR FORCE MULTIPLIERS!

We are excited about the new opportunities, growth, and success coming in 2026!



Release of Updated DAFI 65-117

The updated DAFI 65-117, Administration of the Financial Management Certification Program, was officially released 04 December 2025. This updated instruction implements numerous enhancements and clarifications designed to streamline processes, improve program consistency, and empower our Financial Management professionals in their career development. All personnel are encouraged to review the publication in full here:

[DAFI 65-117 Publication](#)



Key Program Changes:

The following topics were updated in the new DAFI 65-117 and the changes are intended to provide greater fidelity and stability to the certification program. Read more detail about the updates on the [myFMHub](#) News Post titled "DFMCP Instruction Updates Officially Released".

- **Approvals and Timelines**
- **Oversight and Responsibility**
- **Program and Track Alignment**
- **Guidance and Clarity**
- **CET Management**
- **Applicability**

For expert guidance and resources, visit the [DAF FM Certification SharePoint](#). If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to your [local or command component administrators](#) or our [SAF/FM Workforce Development Team](#).

Fresh for the New Year – Welcome Civ FTP V2!

SAF/FMEW refreshed the Civilian Foundational Training Plan (Civ FTP) with you in mind! Updated in December 2025 and fresh for the new year, the Civ FTP is an agile training tool that serves as a helpful resource for any FMer wanting to further develop their competencies.

Courses are laid out by occupational series – supervisors and individuals alike benefit from the Civ FTP. Leverage the Civ FTP and be the best FMer you can be!

Check out Civ FTP V2 today on [myFMHub](#)!



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