



GFEBs Passes CDR with Flying Colors

KINGSTOWNE, Va. — GFEBs reached a major milestone with the completion of the Critical Design Review (CDR) held at the GFEBs program office in Kingstowne from 17-18 October. The CDR included briefings by all the GFEBs Integrated Process Team (IPT) Leads on design phase accomplishments and demonstrations on how the design supports the “exit criteria” requirements.

GFEBs teams laid out designs for business processes, functions, configurations, technical architecture, and training courses which were followed by demonstrations illustrating all the required structures, functions and system characteristics.

“The CDR went very well, the reviewers were engaged and enthusiastic about GFEBs and its endeavors” said Cherie Smith, Program Director for GFEBs. “Our success was evident with over 62 reviewers representing 28 of the 30 organizations impacted by GFEBs in attendance.”

GFEBs was able to finalize the lion’s share of its deliverables, completing 218 designs (totaling 90%), on time for the CDR. There are 22 functional designs, many of which were added late in the design phase or held up due to previously identified issues that are on course for completion prior to or at the beginning of the Build phase.

This significant milestone concluded with an agreement and recommendation by the reviewers to move forward into Build Phase, pending the Executive Management approval. The next step for GFEBs will be the Executive Business Process Owner Briefings during the week of 22 October, where GFEBs will inform process owners in the office of the Secretary of the Army about the functional designs prior to the meeting of the Executive Steering Committee (ESC). The ESC meeting is scheduled for 5 November followed by the Executive Management meetings scheduled for late November / first week of December (depending on availability).

“This puts us in excellent position for the Build Phase of the project,” said Ms. Smith.

ON THE ROAD WITH GFEBs

Representatives from GFEBs will be attending several roadshows and conferences to provide overview briefings of the program and offer technology demonstrations:

Challenge and Change in Army Financial Management

By Nelson M. Ford
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Financial Management and Comptroller)

More than 200 automated financial systems support the core function of fiscal accountability, principally the processes of distributing, controlling and reporting funds in accordance with federal financial policy and law. Following years of incremental improvements, including instituting new controls on off-line purchasing; encouraging the use of the Defense Travel System and Wide Area Work Flow; implementing the Funds Control Module to improve transaction matching; and numerous other efforts to improve visibility and controls, the Army is implementing an enterprise system that incorporates two additional dimensions of financial management – budgeting and cost management.

The centerpiece of Army financial transformation, the General Fund Enterprise Business System (GFEBs), will support all three functions. GFEBs is a web-based system that will integrate data and processes from across the Army and will serve as a single authoritative source for financial and related nonfinancial information. In addition to eliminating 80 percent of the redundancy in our financial systems and bringing the Army into compliance with long-standing laws and regulations, GFEBs will provide complete tracking of

individual transactions to inputs and outputs, thereby facilitating fiscal analysis of results-based performance.

GFEBs will support budget formulation by enabling Army Headquarters to streamline fiscal information flow to the field, and vice versa. The cost management capability in GFEBs will enhance performance budgeting by linking budget execution to cost measurement to specific activities and results. Accurate, reliable financial information will support timely decision making and promote a “cost culture” across all levels of leadership in the Army. Costs of capability elements, such as BCTs, will be linked to the Army’s responsibilities under Title 10 of the U.S. Code to support holistic views of the cost of manning, equipping, training and sustaining the units our Army needs to meet the nation’s expectations.

Clearly, the challenges we face are significant. The degree of difficulty has been increased by the fact that our financial managers are simultaneously developing the largest wartime budgets in the Army’s history. The Army’s financial managers have been doing the impossible for 234 years, a success record that makes us confident that we will successfully transform our financial systems and organizations to meet these challenges.

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GFEBs Completes All MOAs

KINGSTOWNE, Va. — As the design phase draws to an end, GFEBs has successfully negotiated 96 signed Memorandums of Agreement with the owners of the various systems that GFEBs will convert data from or build interfaces to. An MOA represents a formal agreement between the system partner and GFEBs, confirming that each party will work together during the design, build, test, and deployment phases.

“We did whatever it took to explain

what GFEBs was to the system owners,” said Dana Boyer, Technical Integration Co-Lead.

An MOA establishes Points of Contact, identifies associated interface and conversion objects; and defines the roles and responsibilities required to facilitate the successful creation of interfaces and conversions. Because of these efforts, the GFEBs team and the system partners are moving forward with a spirit of collabora-

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Nov

75th Division G8 Roadshow,
Albuquerque, NM

29
Nov

Ft. Leavenworth Roadshow,
Ft. Leavenworth, KS

DEIG Meets at GFEBs Headquarters

KINGSTOWNE, Va. — Over a two-week period this October, GFEBs hosted distinguished guests from 18 countries who attended the 17th meeting of the Defence Interest Group (DEIG). The DEIG is comprised of officials from defense organizations around the world (such as the U.S. Army) who represent some of the largest users of SAP's Defense & Security applications in the world.

The DEIG's goal is to enhance collaboration between these defense organizations and SAP. DEIG is set up to

address global industry demands; interact and discuss system solutions; and to plan for and identify capabilities and improvements for future versions of software. GFEBs and others who presented at the conference are able to use this forum to convey their SAP priorities.

"The DEIG does have influence over our road map — we take some of the information from here and roll it into our planning and education," said David Lincourt, Vice President of Field Services at SAP's Global Defense unit.

On the other side of the table, defense organizations and projects such as GFEBs are able to share information with other projects around the world, presenting a valuable opportunity to pick up on best practices and lessons learned.

"There are other projects worldwide that are also implementing financial [systems]," said Mr. Lincourt. "The value of a conference like the DEIG is the ability to network and have bilateral conversations about where they stand."

GFEBs Reaches Army Leaders and Professionals at AUSA Forum

WASHINGTON — GFEBs was one of over 500 exhibitors that participated in the 53rd Association of the United States

Army (AUSA) Conference at the Washington Convention Center on 8-10 October. The annual AUSA conference attracts over 25,000 people and provides Soldiers, civilians, and Army affiliates from around the world with an outlet for professional development and knowledge exchange. At this three-day conference, the GFEBs Team communi-



From the left: Ms. Brenna Flynn, Mr. Charlie Shanks, Mr. John Argodale, and Mr. Michael Brown.

cated the program's mission and project schedule, highlighting the near completion of GFEBs Release 1.2's design phase.

Mr. Charlie Shanks, the GFEBs functional spending chain co-lead, provided a demonstration of GFEBs' SAP functionalities allowing GFEBs representatives to engage and energize members of the Army's financial community.

Mr. Shanks illustrated GFEBs as the single system of record for several Army General Fund accounts providing real-time and accurate

information to the resource management community. When GFEBs is deployed, the Army's resource management and financial professionals will be able to drill down from balances on reports and see each individual transaction that makes up the balance.

"This will be a tool of immediate value to the end-user and provide a powerful avenue for financial leadership in the auditing of balances," says Mr. Shanks.

Amidst a sea of booths, several Army leaders made time to visit and speak with GFEBs, including Maj. Gen. Edgar E. Stanton III, Director, Army Budget Office; Mr. Peter Kunkel, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, Financial Management and Comptroller; Mr. John Argodale, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, Financial Operations; and Mr. David D. Tindoll, Jr., Director, Southeast Region U.S. Army Installation Management Command.

DOD Finance & Accounting Pros Learn and Ask about GFEBs

WASHINGTON — Leaders from the General Fund Enterprise Business System (GFEBs) briefed members of the Department of Defense (DOD) finance and accounting community at the 2007 Defense Finance Conference. Ms. Krystal Ange, GFEBs functional program director and Mr. Bob Hairfield, GFEBs technical director, explained the background and reasons leading to the implementation of the GFEBs program, its expected benefits, and the major accomplishments to date.

The audience had various questions about the program and how the system

will uphold best business practices. One audience member asked how GFEBs will converge all business processes from every command of the Army into one standardized Army-wide process. Ms. Ange responded by explaining the GFEBs blueprinting process, which consisted of collaborative workshops between the GFEBs Team and Subject Matter Experts from each Army command. From these workshops, a solution was developed that incorporated standard business processes from each command, while complying with relevant federal regulations and including commercial best business prac-

tices reported by SAP.

Ms. Ange and Mr. Hairfield explained the many benefits GFEBs will create for financial and asset management at every level of the Army. These benefits include: a reduction in legacy systems; improved financial transparency; the elimination of non-value added systems; and, the ability to audit quickly and accurately. When GFEBs is fully deployed in FY 2011, it will enable the Army to become a 21st century working business.

All GFEBs MOAs Complete

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tion already established.

"Getting these MOAs is really a testament to the wide-ranging support that GFEBs has across the entire Army," said Col. Leon Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, FIM (Acting). "This was a great effort on the part of our project and our partner customers in the field."

More Information:

For more about GFEBs and the latest news, visit the program's website at www.gfebs.army.mil.

FEEDBACK: For questions, comments, or suggestions about articles, email us at gfebs.info@us.army.mil.