



LOOKING BACK AT A GREAT

2007

LOOKING AHEAD TO AN EVEN BETTER 2008

Without a doubt, 2007 was an important and successful year for the GFEBs project. The year began with a strong push to complete the Analyze phase, which culminated in February with the System Requirements Review & Preliminary Design Review. GFEBs confirmed that the system requirements and preliminary designs, available technology and program resources and activities formed a satisfactory basis for proceeding into the next phase of the project lifecycle. The Executive Steering Committee meeting was held in early March giving GFEBs official approval to move forward into the Design Phase.

February was a busy month with the dedication of the new GFEBs Kingstowne facility on the 26th. The guest speakers included Rep. Jim Moran (D-Va.), Nelson Ford, assistant secretary of the Army for financial services and comptroller, and Eric Stange, managing director of Accenture's U.S. Defense practice. The dedication ceremony also brought distinguished guests affiliated with the GFEBs project including Lt. Gen David Melcher and Mr. John Argodale, deputy assistant secretary

of the Army, financial operations.

GFEBs hosted a series of prototype sessions in June where Army scenarios were developed to validate GFEBs business process in SAP. These scenarios included company relocation, ammunition procurement & unit training, and Period-End and Year-End Close. These prototypes represented some of the first opportunities for the Army and Defense Finance & Accounting Service (DFAS) Subject Matter Experts to see how these business processes change with the implementation of GFEBs.

The month of July included data mapping sessions with partner systems and the third round of Design Phase functional workshops. GFEBs also traveled to Ft. Jackson to conduct a working session on the organizations, directorates, and job types potentially impacted by the GFEBs business processes.

As the design phase drew to an end, GFEBs held its Critical Design Review in October. Overall, the CDR was a great success: GFEBs hosted numerous SMEs and completed more than 90% of its designs on time. The ones that were not com-

plete were late additions to the process. After the CDR, GFEBs held another meeting of the ESC in November and was given approval to move into the Build Phase.

The Year Ahead:

GFEBs plans to complete the Build Phase the first quarter of 2008, and will start the Test Phase with its first Test Readiness Review (TRR). Following approval by the ESC, GFEBs will begin the Internal Application Product Test effort and proceed with a series of tests involving other external groups (e.g., User tests, Federal Financial Management Improvement Act (FFMIA) compliancy test) completing testing activities in late 2008. The Deployment Phase and final activities for Release 1.2 [Ft. Jackson] will start in late summer and early fall 2008 culminating in an October 2008 Go-Live date.

GFEBs will focus on much more than just R1.2 in 2008. The two Army-wide releases of GFEBs, Release 1.3 and Release 1.4 will also be initiated with deployment starting in 2009. Army-wide full deployment of GFEBs is targeted for the end of 2010.

While there is certainly a long road ahead for the GFEBs project, it is helpful to look back and realize just how far GFEBs has come in under 12 months. The GFEBs team has clearly established a pattern for success and commitment providing an excellent foundation for the future of GFEBs and its customers worldwide.

GFEBs' Approach to Data Conversion

KINGSTOWNE, Va. — Release 1.2 deployment is less than a year away, and a topic on many people's minds is data conversion. Questions about the GFEBs data conversion approach have been raised in Functional Configuration Control Board (FCCB) meetings, the October 2007 Critical Design Review (CDR), and at GFEBs roadshows. One common misunderstanding is there will be no data converted from legacy financial systems. The fact is that data will be converted from these legacy

systems. The conversion will only be of master data and not transactional data.

Master data includes customer records, vendor records, fund masters, project structures, asset masters, and real estate/property records. This type of data is relatively stable and not likely to change significantly from month-to-month. Transactional data is information that represents a business activity or specific event, and it tends to vary within and across periods. Examples of transactional data include requisitions, vendor invoices, customer bills, and maintenance requests. Because GFEBs will be a brand-new system, the goal is to start operations with the highest

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How Should Access to GFEBs be Controlled/Granted?

KINGSTOWNE, Va. — GFEBs promises substantial advantages over the current way the Army manages its business operations. One such advantage is the unprecedented visibility of the Army's day-to-day business, providing leaders access to real-time, accurate financial information for improved decision-making.

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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:

14-18 IMI Conference at
Jan Louisville, KY

29-30 Site Visit at
Jan Ft. Jackson, SC

20-21 Site Visit at DFAS
Feb Indianapolis, IN

GFEBs' Approach to Data Conversion

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quality data possible. Transferring transactional data from existing systems would likely result in incomplete or incorrect information residing in GFEBs. For this reason, the direction is to only convert Master Data.

After Release 1.2, the team will analyze the results of the data conversion and determine the best strategy for Release 1.3 and Release 1.4. The overall data conversion strategy for GFEBs may be modified, based on the findings of a retrospective analysis that will be performed after Release 1.2 is completed.

There are two exceptions to this approach. The first exception is the conversion of available funding data for multi-year contracts initiated prior to FY09 that will still be active after 10/1/08. For Release 1.2, there is only one known contract that meets this criteria: Fish and Wildlife funds. For Release 1.3, it will be a much more complex process, as there are

many contracts that fall into this category. The second exception is the conversion of available inventory levels (quantity only).

The data conversion for Release 1.2 will occur at the end of fiscal year 2008, which means that many of the source data systems will already be frozen for year-end closeout. Release 1.3 conversion will take place over the course of many months, and the effort will be carefully organized so that these multi-year budget data transfers occur as smoothly as possible. In cases where funds will need to be kept in existing systems, the contract will be 'browned out', meaning some users may be required to access two systems for a period of time to obtain a comprehensive view of financial information. There will be an on-going effort to monitor these existing systems, and individual assessments will need to be made for each system. However, all new business will take place in GFEBs.

As the GFEBs program enters the Build phase of Release 1.2, the data con-

version team will focus on data analysis and preparation, with the ultimate goal of achieving the highest possible level of data readiness. Results of the data analysis will be provided to source data owners, for further data quality improvement. This cycle of extraction, analysis, and improvement will continue throughout the Build and Test phases.

As part of the data conversion strategy, the team will undergo a series of mock data conversions, the first of which will take place in February 2008. The purpose of these exercises are to: 1) test the conversion process and make sure that the applications being built to load the data are working, 2) provide data for other GFEBs testing activities, and 3) validate the business-readiness of the loaded data. The mock conversions will give the data conversion team an opportunity to revise their plans if necessary to improve the outcome of the real data conversion in September 2008.

GFEBs Access Control

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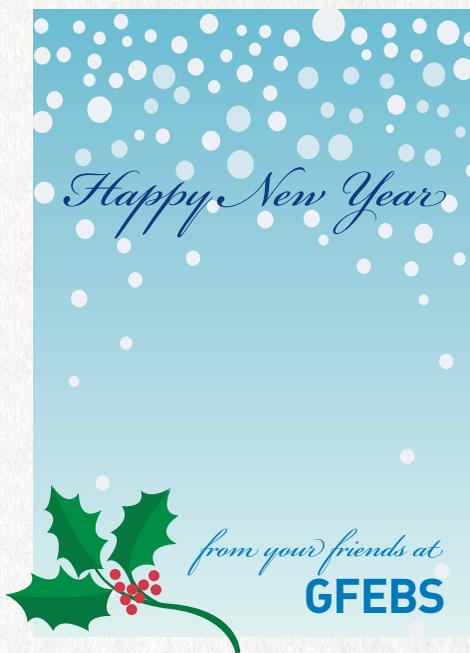
Some advantages come with challenges — Controlling who has access to what information, and determining the triggers that enable such access is essential to the Army's long-term financial security. The GFEBs team established the Role Development Working Group (RDWG) to attack this challenge head-on, and to determine the exact type of access to be granted to the many different people who will eventually use the system.

The RDWG met in a series of workshops during the past two months to explore:

- restrictions on the ability to view and create data in the system;
- how access should be restricted based on organization and level;
- how roles should be segregated to ensure that no single user has too much control over a transaction in GFEBs system; and
- what type of access restrictions should exist for contractors, foreign nationals, and local nationals (if any).

The RDWG will reconvene as necessary to further define access and determine control measures for GFEBs. This information will have a significant impact on the pre-deployment activities.

Prior to deployment at each site, supervisors will assign roles to their subordinate end-users, which align to a group of tasks or activities that the end-user will perform as part of their everyday job. The GFEBs team will use these roles to determine system access to activities and transactions, as well as manual processes GFEBs users performed.



Systems Affected by GFEBs Release 1.3

• 18DBR	• FPIK
• AFCOS	• GTS
• ATLAS	• IPAC Wizard
• AVKINPUT	• MS Access
• BRAC FM	data conversion
• CFRS	database
• DARS	• MSN DB
• DbCAS/ Web-CAS	• PBMS
• DJAS	• PYF DB
• EAS IV	• SABS
• FADS	• SEC-FMIS
• Fadtool	• STANFINS
• FAS (2)	• STARS One Pay
• FC	• TBG
• FEDS	• WebCMS2
• FPBG	• WebTAS

The Army will no longer require the capabilities of the systems listed above, sorted by Acronym, as they relate to the General Fund, once Release 1.3 is fully fielded. This release is currently slated to fully deploy by the end of 2010. These systems will be replaced, encompassed, or incorporated into GFEBs in order to streamline the Army's financial systems landscape. An additional 58 systems will be subsumed in Release 1.4, also scheduled to fully deploy by the end of 2010.

The GFEBs Times will be printing this additional list in a subsequent issue.

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.