



GFEBs Announces Strategic Review Cycle

KINGSTOWNE, VA — The GFEBs Project employs a comprehensive year-long deployment strategy to ensure success and assist Army organizations prior to their go-live date. Each implementation and deployment cycle provides the Project with insights and lessons learned for future deployments. In the upcoming months, the Project will focus on incorporating successes and lessons learned from Release 1.2 and Release 1.3 Wave 1, enabling the evaluation and improvement of certain aspects of its strategy for the remainder of global deployment.

On Wednesday, 28 January 2009, LTG Edgar E. Stanton III, Military Deputy (MILDEP) for Army Budget, signed a memorandum announcing the GFEBs Project's intention to employ a "strategic review cycle" following Release 1.3 Wave 1 deployment. Specifically, the GFEBs Project will evaluate: the timeline and content of site readiness activities such as Site Visits and Role Mapping/Assignments workshops & coordination; GFEBs training curriculum and course delivery; the development of the "Power User" role; and preparation for anticipated changes in GFEBs business processes.

At the recent Executive Steering Committee (ESC) on 3 February 2009, LTG Stanton also explained that the goal of this six month review cycle is to "ensure the Project takes advantage of the lessons

learned from previous deployments and allows time for rework based on the experiences gained at Ft Jackson [and other organizations involved in R1.2 and Wave 1 deployment]."

LTG Stanton and COL Holzman emphasized that this six month review will

give GFEBs the opportunity to "get ahead of the power curve" for future deployments. The Project is looking forward to this review as a means to ensure the system continues to meet the needs of the Army and is deployed in the most efficient and effective way to its end users. ■

Limited User Test Validates Release 1.2

KINGSTOWNE, VA — The Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) conducted the Limited User Test (LUT) for GFEBs Release 1.2 from 12 November – 12 December 2008. ATEC plans, conducts, and integrates developmental testing, independent operational testing, independent evaluations, assessments and experiments in order to provide essential information to decision makers.

The primary purpose of GFEBs LUT was to provide an assessment of GFEBs development using Release 1.2 as a gauge for measuring the maturity and expectation (Risk) for a successful Initial Operational Test of Release 1.3 in 3rd quarter, FY09. The GFEBs Project demonstrated the potential for R1.3 to be Effective, Suitable, and Survivable (ESS), and also capitalized on the secondary benefits of the

test, which includes lessons learned from end users and quality assurance for the overall system.

There were 147 participants in the LUT from various locations including Ft Jackson, SC; Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) Indianapolis, IN; Ft McPherson, GA; headquarters agencies in Washington, D.C. (Pentagon/Crystal City); and Redstone Arsenal, AL. During the LUT, test participants conducted normal daily activities in GFEBs and completed web-based data collection forms at the end of each day.

The GFEBs Project plans to use this feedback to continue preparing for future Releases of the system. Any additional feedback may be sent to gfebs.info@us.army.mil. ■

Wave 1 Go-live

KINGSTOWNE, VA — On 1 April 2009, the GFEBs Project will mark the next step in its Armywide deployment by implementing Wave 1 to tenant organizations and Installations across the Southeast to include:

- ◆ Ft Jackson, SC
- ◆ Ft Stewart, GA
- ◆ Ft Benning, GA
- ◆ Installation Management Command Headquarters (IMCOM HQ), Arlington, VA
- ◆ IMCOM Southeast Region

◆ Slices* (or portions) of:

- US Army Training & Doctrine Command Headquarters (TRADOC HQ)
- US Army Forces Command Headquarters (FORSCOM HQ)
- Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA)
- Defense Finance & Accounting Service (DFAS), Indianapolis, IN and Rome, NY.

GFEBs is fielding through a series of Waves. Wave 1 builds upon the functionality and capabilities first deployed

on 1 October 2008 at Ft. Jackson Garrison (six sites) and DFAS-Indianapolis. GFEBs modernizes business processes; allows sharing of financial data; lowers the Army's cost of financial management; enables reduction of "inventory-carrying costs" and accounting and record keeping costs; increases process transparency; and reduces potential variation between "stand-alone" systems. ■

* The term "slice" means only a portion of the organization is receiving GFEBs during this phase; the remainder of the organization will deploy at a later date.



It's Almost Time!
10 Days
to Wave 1 Go-live

From the Field: How to Prepare for GFEBs

KINGSTOWNE, VA — Release 1.3 (R1.3) is fast approaching and Wave 1 sites are engaged in readiness activities for the April release. This is a perfect opportunity for sites actively involved in Release 1.2 October 2008 deployment to share their experiences, lessons learned and tips for success. Several individuals reveal their transition experience, providing everyone an opportunity to build on their insight.

Dave Adams: Ft Jackson, SC

Preparing for R1.3 Deployment:

There are numerous tips and lessons to be offered as sites gear-up for Wave 1; many related to communications and On Site resources. The level of success and application of these tips improves the ability to: 1) promote GFEBs effort across sites; 2) gain critical support; 3) maintain positive environment; and 4) adapt to shifting demands and changes.

Tips for Success / Lessons Learned:

- ◆ **Know** the gaining Command infrastructure at your site including the legacy systems and GFEBs.
- ◆ **Identify** GFEBs POCs, site CMD Network member(s) and impacted end users' supervisors [e.g., Department of Public Works (DPW) POC].
- ◆ **Inform** the Commander and leadership about the changes associated with GFEBs. Notify the Command of any projected shifts in workload, resource management and/or system requirements that may affect his/her site and/or staff.
- ◆ **Recognize** and communicate the magnitude of GFEBs transformation and deployment. A complex change of this nature involves a stabilizing period where staff move through a learning curve and become immersed in the new

changes in business processes and day-to-day activities. Increased communications such as weekly staff meetings, monthly Post meetings, etc. assist everyone through this cycle and provide opportunities to address any challenges and/or concerns.

- ◆ **Deliver** a clear and consistent message: GFEBs deployment is not a "test" — 1 April 2009 GFEBs goes "live" at your site.
- ◆ **Communicate** that GFEBs deployment is a team effort and requires all hands-on-deck.

Consistent, repetitive, and timely communication is absolutely essential to prepare and motivate users; reduce and/or eliminate challenges; and build a strong resource-base. Your site's CMD Network member and GFEBs On Site Support personnel are important resources for communicating system challenges or obstacles. GFEBs relies on the CMD Network for feedback, support and knowledge — they are uniquely suited to guide the deployment process towards success.

Have a great story from the field to share?

Send your feedback to
gfefs.info@us.army.mil
and you could see your story
printed in future issues of
The GFEBs Times.

Amanda Pierce, Defense Finance and Accounting Service: Indianapolis, IN (DFAS Indy)

Preparing for R1.3 Deployment:

We are preparing for the upcoming GFEBs deployment by learning how our current processes will work in GFEBs. DFAS is working to ensure all identified users complete their training requirements and successfully gain access to GFEBs.

Tips for Success / Lessons Learned:

- ◆ **Participate** actively in GFEBs briefings. The more proactive and involved you are, the more prepared you and your site will be upon deployment. It is also important to be vocal about issues you foresee or questions you have, especially during your training classes.
- ◆ **Brief** others in your office on GFEBs and its benefits.
- ◆ **Know** the incoming system. Keep up-to-date on GFEBs news and status at www.gfefs.army.mil.



- ◆ **Communicate** any questions back to your GFEBs subject matter experts (SMEs) on site in Kingstowne, VA.

Regardless of your level of involvement throughout the process, there will always be surprises and issues. It is important to remain flexible, positive and open to change.

Tami Henderson, Training and Doctrine Command Headquarters (TRA-DOC HQ): Ft Monroe, VA

Preparing for R1.3 Deployment:

GFEBs deployment has been the most complex, challenging, and yet the most exciting system implementation I have been involved with in my 27 years of government service. My involvement in GFEBs briefings and conference calls helps me stay focused on the financial management advantages the Army and Department of Defense (DOD) will gain upon Army-wide implementation of GFEBs. As we near deployment, I appreciate the job satisfaction gained from making a small contribution to deploying one of the world's largest enterprise financial systems.

Tips for Success / Lessons Learned:

From an Army Command (ACOM) perspective, it is important to:

- ◆ **Build** a team and get people involved at your location to tap into the wide range of expertise needed to make this effort a success.
- ◆ **Capture** issues at your site and keep a pulse on the issues encountered at other sites.
- ◆ **Visit** a deployed location for a first-hand look.
- ◆ **Encourage** participation in the various workshops, teleconferences, and Site Visits by the GFEBs Project.

How do you get started? Just dive in! There is a great deal of GFEBs information on AKO, and introductory training courses in the Army Learning Management System (ALMS) that provide a good foundation. ■



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

General Fund Enterprise Business System (GFEBs) is a project office of the Program Executive Office Enterprise Information Systems (PEO EIS).