



## Army Prepares for Year-End Close in GFEBs

KINGSTOWNE, Va. — Every year in September, the Army Financial Management community works feverishly to close the fiscal year out. This upcoming September is no exception; in fact, this year is particularly noteworthy because it is the first time year-end close activities will occur within GFEBs. The following organizations will be involved in performing at least a portion of year-end close activities in GFEBs:

- ◆ Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA)
- ◆ Headquarters, US Army Forces Command (HQ FORSCOM)
- ◆ Headquarters, US Army Training & Doctrine Command (HQ TRADOC)
- ◆ Headquarters, Installation Management Command (HQ IMCOM)
- ◆ Headquarters, IMCOM Southeast (SE)
- ◆ Defense Finance & Accounting Service (DFAS), Indianapolis, IN & Rome, NY
- ◆ FORSCOM, TRADOC, and IMCOM organizations at:
  1. Ft Jackson, SC
  2. Ft Stewart, GA
  3. Ft Benning, GA

Fiscal year closing is always a challenging and stressful time. This year, the Wave 1 organizations that went live in the middle of the fiscal year, have the added complexity of year-end closing in both GFEBs and legacy systems. GFEBs converted specific customer master data; however they did not convert any current-year, or historical transactional data from the Standard Financial System (STANFINS). The result is that any activities that began in legacy systems will need to be closed out in legacy systems, while any activities that began in GFEBs on 1 April will need to be closed out in GFEBs.

There are a number of reasons that users will need to operate in both systems while performing the year-end close process. Users may need to release funds and budget authority for realignment between both systems to cover final costs of execution. Users will need to perform obligation validations in both systems as well as clear all commitments before fiscal year end.

The GFEBs Project recognizes that the year-end close out process is going to be complex and it will require a team effort between all gaining organizations and

the Project. The Operations and Support (O&S) Team is leading the way to support year-end activities. The O&S Team holds weekly “Functional Forums,” during which all sites are invited to call in and discuss their top issues, exchange tips on using the system and share lessons learned. The year-end process is often a major focus of these calls, with sites asking questions and providing their thoughts.

To ensure that the system performs as expected the O&S Team is working with employees from DFAS to run a “Mock Year-End Close” during the two week period beginning 17 August. The Mock Year-End Close will run simulations of the year-end closing process and address any issues or concerns that may arise. Also, in preparation for closing, the DFAS staff responsible for executing closing processes will receive training specific to their

new roles and responsibilities. Training will occur during the first week of August, followed by hands-on reinforcement provided by on-site Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) during the Mock.

Although there will be challenges ahead for both the GFEBs Project and users, the Army will see benefits with the year-end close process, including no system down time and no need to consolidate trial balances within the GFEBs community. Once the entire Army is live in GFEBs, there will be less time spent on reconciliations and more time available to analyze the data and make decisions on how to obligate funds before the end of the fiscal year. Through a collaborative effort, users, supervisors and the GFEBs Project can ensure a successful year-end close for FY2009. ■

## Direct Charge Processing Replaces Many Army-to-Army MIPRs

KINGSTOWNE, Va. — The Army uses reimbursable orders when one government agency (the requestor) wishes another government agency (the performer) to provide or procure goods or services on its behalf. These requests may occur between Army organizations; or from one Army organization to another Department of Defense (DOD) organization (e.g., Navy, Air Force, etc.); or to any other government organization external to DOD (e.g., Department of Energy (DOE), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), etc.). Such requests are typically executed by issuing a Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request (MIPR). Once GFEBs is fully operational, Army organizations will no longer create MIPRs for Army-to-Army transactions within GFEBs, instead they will use the direct charge method.

Here is an example of how direct charge works on the ground. Both IMCOM and TRADOC organizations at Ft Benning, GA are now live in GFEBs; therefore they are able to take advantage of the direct charge process. Suppose the Infantry School needs to refit and modify one of their classrooms with modern electronics which is over and above its Service Support Agreement (SSA) with the Fort Benning Garrison. The Infantry School can fund the update through a direct

charge within GFEBs. In this case, the Infantry School (TRADOC) is the “requesting organization,” and Fort Benning Garrison (IMCOM) is the “performing organization.”

The process begins when the two organizations agree to the service provided and price. Once an agreement is reached, the Fort Benning Garrison creates a GFEBs Project Systems Project and associated Work Breakdown Structure (WBS). A WBS element is a tool used to plan and estimate phases of the project and connect the Line of Accounting (LoA) and funding to support the performance of work-in this case, refitting a classroom. The creation of a Project and associated WBS is performed by someone with the Project Structure Controller role within the Project Systems business process area.

The Infantry School Funds Management Maintainer then applies the appropriate LoA to the WBS element and checks the box to create a funded program. The creation of a funded program ensures that funds are correctly allocated to the Project. Now the Fort Benning Garrison has funds to refit the classroom for the Infantry School. Any funds consumed by the performing organization are recorded di-

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### ON THE ROAD WITH GFEBs

11-13  
September

131st ARNG National Guard Associations of the United States of America (NGAUSA) Conference, Nashville, TN

5-7  
October

Association of the US Army (AUSA) Annual Meeting & Expo, Washington, DC

14-15  
October

Defense Finance & Cost Management Conference Washington, DC

# GFEBs Provides Enhanced Reporting Capabilities

KINGSTOWNE, Va. — GFEBs is a support tool designed to assist the Army enterprise in making better informed business decisions. The system incorporates enhanced reporting capabilities which analysts can use to support Army leaders and managers with the data required to make well-informed decisions. These reporting capabilities are supported by incorporating SAPs Enterprise Core Component (ECC) and Business Intelligence (BI) modules.

ECC comprises the core of SAPs capability – master data creation and maintenance, transactional postings, and interface runs—and also offers users access to basic, real-time canned reports about data in GFEBs. ECC reports are generated by the system and are accessed by specific transaction codes, or T-Codes. For example, if a user wants to run a “General Ledger Account Balance” report, he or she inputs the T-Code “S\_ALR\_87012277”

into GFEBs. After a few more steps, the G/L Account Balances screen will appear and the user can even drill down into the specific G/L Account Balances in which he or she are interested. Users now have the ability to drill into standard reports to view individual transactions from a summary level to a transactional level. Since ECC allows real-time access to data, generally, ECC reports are “static,” meaning the report layout itself cannot be changed because it would cause a backup in the system.

In contrast, reports in the BI data warehouse are dynamic and contain a number of “free characteristics,” which can be customized by users depending upon their role needs. BI augments the system’s reporting capabilities by updating data on a daily basis to provide a more comprehensive reporting capability. The reports in BI can be accessed based on user assignments: for example, if a user assigned to

the “Budget Reporter” role wants to view a specific report in BI, they would log into GFEBs and click on the “Business Intelligence” tab. Once inside the BI section, the user can view all reports accessible to the Budget Reporter role, such as the “Budget Targets at Cost Center Level” report.

In BI, free characteristics add additional data elements which can be added to customize report views. Rows and columns can be added, removed and re-positioned to produce a dynamic and more robust report and detailed data analysis. However, unlike ECC a user cannot drill down to the individual transactions in the reports. The purpose of running reports in BI is to free up ECC for its primary purpose - to process transactions efficiently throughout the Army.

The table below highlights some of the differences between reporting in ECC and BI. ■

ECC	BI
Real time reporting	Real time access to overnight batch-updated data
Reports small/less complex amounts of information	Reports large/complex amounts of information
2 dimensional – report displays a single data slice	3 Dimensional - report can be pivoted/arranged to show desired data slice
Data stored in tables	Data stored in data fields
Displays/queries instant impact of a transaction with drilldown capability to view individual transactions	Displays/queries information between overnight data migrations
Reports key modules such as Financial Ledger, Funds Management/Control, Reimbursables, Project Systems, Real Estate, Plant Maintenance, Sales & Distribution, Material Management, and Funds Management	Reports aggregated information for Cost, Payroll, Funds Management/Control, & Real Estate
Standard, canned reports	Customized reports
Narrow queries	Summary data or in-depth analysis
Reports accessed by T-Code	Reports accessed by role
Reports related to execution	Reports related to planning, simulation, & analysis

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rectly to the WBS element for the project, resulting in postings against the requesting organization’s direct LoA in GFEBs.

Since there is no sales order or billing documents, there are no budgetary impacts for the performing organization. All budgetary impacts occur against the funded program which contains the requesting organization’s LoA. The Infantry School has the ability to see the amount of its funds being used by the Fort Benning Garrison to refit the classroom.

The direct charge process is one way that GFEBs enables the Army to track funds to specific projects and reuse that informa-

tion in the future to eliminate redundant data entry. In GFEBs, the Army’s workforce will be able to focus their attention

on value-added tasks, such as analysis and decision making, as opposed to redundant data entry or extensive reconciliations. ■

*MIPRS will still exist when issuing and accepting Economy Act orders for organizations not operating in GFEBs, including other DOD organizations and other Army organizations not yet live with the system. If the Navy, for example, would like to purchase equipment from the Army, and requests the Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) perform a test prior to that purchase, they need to issue a MIPR to ATEC. (Note: a WBS element must be created before the creation of a sales order in the system.) The Customer Order Processor role in GFEBs accepts the MIPR, then enters and saves the sales order into the system. Once the sales order is saved in GFEBs, it is routed to the Customer Order Approver who is responsible for reviewing new or updated sales orders. When the sales order is approved, ATEC executes against the WBS element related to the project for the sales order.*

**FEEDBACK:** For questions, comments, or suggestions about articles, email us at [gfefs.info@us.army.mil](mailto: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).