



GFEBs Release 1.2 Goes Live!

Leadership Attends Celebration

KINGSTOWNE, Va. — On Wednesday, 1 October 2008, GFEBs flipped the switch on Release 1.2 functionality at the Ft Jackson garrison, Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA), Installation Management Command Headquarters (IMCOM HQ), IMCOM-Southeast (SE), and the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) - Indianapolis.

GFEBs held a commemorative go-live event at the Ft Jackson garrison to celebrate this momentous occasion. At this event, Mr. David Hawkins, GFEBs end user, demonstrated a live transaction in the system by creating a purchase requisition (PR) for the maintenance of washers and dryers located at the Ft Jackson barracks. Mr. Jerry Weidner, Ft Jackson Director of Resource Management, noted the benefits of GFEBs during this transaction: "After sending the PR to contracts, GFEBs automatically generated a commitment on our status of funds report. With the Army legacy systems, Army personnel had to print out the PR and manually enter this information into the status of funds. GFEBs noticeably reduces manual data entry, saving Army personnel time and reducing the chance for error."

GFEBs leadership was in attendance at this event, including LTG Edgar E. Stanton III, Military Deputy (MILDEP) for Budget for the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management & Comp-



LTG Edgar E. Stanton III kicks off the GFEBs the go-live celebration at Ft Jackson, S.C. on 1 October 2008.

troller) (ASA (FM&C)), Ms. Kristyn Jones, Director of Financial Information Management for ASA (FM&C), COL Simon L. Holzman, GFEBs Project Manager and COL Patrick Riley, GFEBs Functional Project Director. They thanked the GFEBs end user community for making the Release 1.2 deployment a success. LTG Stanton commented, "1 October marks an historical date for the Army financial, accounting and real property community. GFEBs will allow for better decision making, faster and more streamlined work processes and ultimately a greater return on investment for all Army operations."

To prepare for 1 October transactions, manual operations occurred in GFEBs a week earlier when Mr. Rafael Margary from the Army Budget Office (ABO), loaded the Operations and Maintenance Army (OMA) funds for Ft Jackson into

GFEBs. ABO personnel then loaded Army Family Housing Operations funds. Finally, ABO distributed both of these funds down through IMCOM-HQ, IMCOM-SE and then to Ft Jackson, allowing Ft Jackson to begin conducting transactions in the system on day one.

Part of the success of the Release 1.2 implementation of GFEBs is due to the enormous efforts of the GFEBs Operations & Support (O&S) Team. GFEBs O&S is made up of an on-site support team at DFAS-Indianapolis and Ft Jackson, the GFEBs Help Desk, and a steadfast team of GFEBs Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) located at the Kingstowne Office. The team is ready to assist end users with any issues that may arise. For more information please read the "Operations & Support" article found in this issue.

The implementation of GFEBs Release 1.2 was an immense task that was made possible with the hard work of the entire Release 1.2 community. Their efforts will serve as the road map for successful Army-wide deployment. GFEBs Release 1.2 went from planning stages to deployment in less than three years, a noteworthy achievement for an enterprise resource planning (ERP) implementation of this size. Over the next two years, GFEBs will continue at this pace, deploying to more than 78,000 other end users across the globe. ■

GFEBs Operations & Support Taking Care of Business

KINGSTOWNE, Va. — On 1 October, the GFEBs Operations & Support (O&S) Team, consisting of Deployment, On-site Support, Subject Matter Experts (SMEs), and Help Desk personnel, sprang into action in their role to assist Release 1.2 end users.

The GFEBs O&S Team strives to achieve excellent customer service and timely support for all end user issues. To achieve that goal, every call and email to the GFEBs Help Desk is assigned a ticket number. The ticket includes the end user's contact information, description of the incident, the transaction in which the incident occurred, and any steps al-

ready taken to troubleshoot the issue. Once a ticket is logged in the system, the issue is assigned to a Help Desk team member or SME to resolve the issue.

On the first day of Release 1.2 go-live, the O&S Help Desk logged 22 customer incidents. As of 22 October, the team has logged and resolved over 130 end user issues/questions and made over 40 fixes and enhancements to the system. The O&S team continues to improve its process with the resolution of each issue. ■

If an end user encounters a question that cannot be answered through GFEBs Online Help, the Help Desk is available Monday through Friday, 0700-1700 hours. The Help Desk also has a voicemail system so end users may leave an after-hours message or listen to a recording about any current outages. GFEBs end users can contact the Help Desk by calling 1-866-757-9771 or by sending an email to GFEBs.Helpdesk@accen-ture.com. GFEBs Online Help can be accessed by end users through <https://trgep.gfeps-erp.army.mil/nav/nav/index.htm> (CAC Access Required).

ON THE ROAD WITH GFEBs

Representatives from GFEBs will be visiting future deployment sites to provide overview briefings of the project and offer technology demonstrations:

4-5 November Wave 1 Site Visit, TRADOC HQ, Ft Monroe, Va.

17-19 November Wave 2 Site Visit, Ft Knox, Ky.

18-20 November Wave 2 Site Visit, Ft Rucker, Ala.

20-21 November Wave 2 Site Visit, USPFO Frankfort, Ky.

Project Leadership Attends AUSA Annual Meeting

KINGSTOWNE, Va. — For the third year, GFEBs had the privilege to participate in the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Annual Meeting and Exposition. The AUSA Annual Meeting is the world's largest landpower forum, attracting over 25,000 participants from around the world.



LTG Stanton and COL Holzman visit the PEO EIS booth at the 2008 AUSA Conference in Washington, D.C.

GFEBs attended the event as part of the PEO EIS enterprise resource planning (ERP) exhibit. Members from the GFEBs Project talked to visitors about the successful Release 1.2 go-live and the upcoming Release 1.3 Wave 1 go-live.

Additionally, GFEBs was fortunate enough to have senior leadership from the project actively involved in the Annual Meeting, holding breakout sessions with individuals interested in GFEBs and escorting attendees to the exhibit where GFEBs was located. LTG Edgar E. Stanton, Military Deputy (MILDEP) for Budget for the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management & Comptroller) (ASA (FM&C)), visited the GFEBs exhibit multiple times to discuss the way ahead for

Release 1.3, and Ms. Kristyn Jones, the Director of Financial Information Management for ASA(FM&C), visited the exhibit with a group of Senior Executive Service (SES) level GFEBs stakeholders. Other visitors included Mr. Peter Kunkel, Acting ASA(FM&C) and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, and Mr. John Argodale, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, Financial Operations (DASA FO).

COL Simon L. Holzman, GFEBs Project Manager, sat down with stakeholders and conducted one-one-one meetings during the conference. This was a great opportunity for stakeholders to meet with GFEBs leadership. COL Holzman indicated that, "the AUSA Annual Meeting was a great forum to celebrate our success with Release 1.2. Next year, hopefully, we will have Release 1.3 and 1.4 up and running in time to share our experiences with attendees of the conference." ■

Readiness Review Meetings: Deciding the Future of Release 1.3

KINGSTOWNE, Va. — During September, the GFEBs office in Kingstowne, Va. hosted two vital meetings to monitor the progress of GFEBs Release 1.3 (R1.3). The Critical Design Review (CDR) and the Test Readiness Review (TRR) focused on briefing key stakeholders about the project's status before moving forward with the next phase of R1.3. Both of these meetings were facilitated by Ms. Stephanie Kennedy, Deputy Project Manager for the System Integrator, and Ms. Gail Foley, R1.3 Release Manager.

Attendees at the CDR2, held on 24 September, included COL Simon L. Holzman, GFEBs Project Manager, members of the Council of Colonels, and members of the GFEBs Project. A CDR was also held in late August; however, COL Holzman identified several open items that needed further discussion before GFEBs fully moved into Build Phase activities. The primary objectives of the CDR2 were to review those follow-up items from the earlier CDR, review the completion status for Functional Designs and obtain project management approval for progression into the next phase of R1.3, i.e., building the functional solution and preparing to test the system. At the end of the meeting, it was determined that adequate elements were in place for GFEBs to succeed and move forward, focusing fully on the R1.3 Build Phase as scheduled.

The TRR was held five days later on 29 September and included many of the same attendees from the CDR2. Ms. Kennedy explained to those in attendance that "the TRR is focused on the elements which are relevant and directly associated with

the progression into the Product Testing Phase." R1.3 was built upon the baseline of R1.2; therefore, the information, documentation and solution elements remained the same. Ultimately, COL Holzman thanked everyone for their hard work and made the recommendation to move forward with the Product Test Cycle.

The next Readiness Review Meetings for GFEBs are slated for late second quarter fiscal year 2009. These include one more formal TRR prior to the start of governmental testing (User Test and Federal Financial Management Improvement Act (FFMIA) Compliancy Test) for R1.3, and an Operational Readiness Review (ORR) prior to the Wave 1 go-live. ■



GFEBs was selected as the winner of the 2008 Army Acquisition Excellence Award for Information Enabled Army. The award, presented by the United States Army Acquisition Support Center, recognizes the GFEBs Project's outstanding achievements in support of the Soldier and the Army's Business Transformation efforts. GFEBs was chosen because its "innovation and practicality gives it the potential to become the financial system model for other branches of the military in the twenty-first century."

COL Simon Holzman attended the awards ceremony on 5 October in Arlington, Virginia with Mr. Gary Winkler, Program Executive Officer (PEO EIS) who accepted the award from Mr. Dean G. Popps, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology (ASA(ALT)).

GFEBs is honored to be recognized by the Army Acquisition community. Mr. Winkler offered congratulations to the GFEBs Project, stating, "the award is well-deserved...GFEBs has done a superb job and [the team] is making a huge difference for our Army." ■



COL Simon L. Holzman (left), Ms. Cherie Smith (left center), Mr. Gary Winkler (right center), and LTG N. Ross Thompson III (right)