

DFAS and NAVAIR Teaming

Prior to the implementation of the Sigma Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) Charleston and San Diego were the Authorization Accounting Activities (AAA) for the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) General Fund and Working Capital Fund activities. When Sigma was implemented NAVAIR became their own AAA and staffing requirements were difficult to determine. The skill sets and requirements were unknown to the Command and limitations on staff size prevented building a staff of government employees.

NAVAIR General Fund teamed with DFAS and Navy Supply Information Systems Activity (NAVSISA) to be able to perform the required accounting and reporting functions. DFAS Cleveland and NAVSISA accountants were used to facilitate the implementation of Sigma with some being temporarily located at NAVAIR. Ultimately, three DFAS Cleveland accountants were permanently moved to the NAVAIR. In addition teams of specialists were formed at DFASs Charleston and San Diego. Charleston supports the Headquarters area and San Diego provides the service for the field activities in Orlando, Atsugi and Naples. These DFAS employees are an integrated part of the Accounting Department at NAVAIR with one onsite at Orlando and the remaining eleven at their homeport. Other DFAS staff members have had rotational assignments at NAVAIR to improve the relationships and knowledge of the different aspects of accounting.

This teaming enabled NAVAIR to meet reporting requirements without an extensive learning curve. In addition, the Department of Navy and DFAS have a better understanding of the end-to-end processes of funds management. The number of workyears at DFAS Cleveland sites supporting NAVAIR General Fund activities has decreased from 42 to 14 which equates to savings of approximately \$3 million a year. After realizing the success of this agreement, three DFAS San Diego staff members were assigned to support working capital fund activities on a full time basis. NAVAIR Headquarters has not added any navy accountants to their staff. Management of additional requirements (Accounts Receivable, Undistributed Disbursements, etc) have also been absorbed by the existing staff.

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