



U.S. Department of the Navy

Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management and Comptroller)
The Honorable Richard Greco, Jr.

Success Story

Sigma brings NAVAIR, NAVSEA closer together

On the eve of implementing the Navy's large-scale Enterprise Resource Planning System, the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) has given the Naval Sea System Command (NAVSEA) a view of its future by giving the command access to its ERP system, Sigma.

The idea for this project originated during a discussion between NAVAIR and NAVSEA Comptrollers, Ms. Trish Fox and Ms. Maggie McGuire, respectively, at a Navy Virtual Systems Command (SYSCOM) meeting in Spring 2005. Both officials recognized the need to leverage upon NAVAIR's Sigma experience and look for opportunities to help prepare the other Systems Commands for their eventual transition to Navy ERP.

The Navy ERP program is underway and will begin rolling out its ERP system to the Navy in FY 2007. In the meantime, NAVSEA and NAVAIR have used a joint program to let NAVSEA experience ERP today.

Last October, NAVAIR granted seven NAVSEA employees access to Sigma to allow them to plan, allocate, manage and execute program funds for the Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS).

The program office dedicated to aircraft launch and recovery equipment – catapults and traps – manages the EMALS program. EMALS is a new system that allows aircraft to be catapulted off aircraft carriers using electromagnetic power, instead of the current steam-power method. Although steam has been a reliable method for more than 50 years, it has reached its limitations. The Navy's new aircraft are increasing in weight and some require higher launch speeds that steam power can't provide.

Until FY 2006, NAVSEA issued money earmarked for EMALS program management and execution to Naval Air Warfare Center in Lakehurst, NJ. That funding was then treated as incoming customer funds at the site level and only authorized NAVAIR employees, at headquarters and Lakehurst, had visibility into the Sigma system to manage and execute these funds. As a result, the NAVSEA headquarters program office wasn't able to use the planning tools within Sigma to track program execution against their schedule. Now that the NAVSEA has limited access to Sigma – NAVSEA personnel can run the reports needed directly from Sigma to answer financial data calls and mid-year or year-end reporting requirements associated with its FY 2006 money.

To ease the transition for the new NAVSEA users, NAVAIR established a mentor system. The Sigma Program Office, under direction from the Comptroller Office and the Business Financial Management Coordination Office, identified members of the Business Financial Management (BFM) and Comptroller communities and matched them up with NAVSEA users. Each NAVSEA user was assigned a dedicated mentor. If the user had questions or needed help they contacted their designated mentor who was able to go in, see their data and assist.

Allowing the NAVSEA personnel access to Sigma also gives them a sneak peak into what they will receive from Navy ERP. Sigma is the financial building block on which the Navy ERP system is being built. Many processes Sigma executes are being refined and incorporated into the Navy ERP solution.