

IMPLEMENTATION OF WIDE AREA WORKFLOW at NETC

The Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) has been working to implement Wide Area Workflow (WAWF) system throughout the command. One of the areas they have focused on is the processing of Tuition Assistance (TA) payments.

In Fiscal Year 2005 they processed 45,884 manual TA payments through one of their subordinate commands, the Naval Education & Training Professional Development and Technology Center (NETPDTC). These payments were made to various colleges and universities for the Navy's Off Duty Voluntary Education Program. By using WAWF to process these transactions, there is a potential for savings to the Navy of approximately \$836K per year - based on the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) billing rate differential for manual versus electronic payments (\$21.86 vice \$3.63). In an effort to adapt the WAWF process for TA, NETPDTC initiated a pilot program with the University of Phoenix. The university went "live" in October of 2005 and now all of their course billings are being submitted electronically in WAWF. Compared to fiscal year 2005, the reduction in manual payments at the University of Phoenix has already saved the Navy \$92K (as of August 2006).

Just recently, NETC/NETPDTC partnered with the WAWF Program Management Office to proliferate this electronic payment process to approximately 1,500 other schools. The response from the schools has been outstanding, as 300 already committed to using WAWF for TA Payments.

NETPDTC also provides financial management support for the Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) and Junior ROTC (JROTC) programs. They partnered with DFAS to create batch files that eliminated the need to submit paper invoices for the Navy Exchange Uniform Bills and the Quarterly JROTC Instructor Salary payments. This initial batch process was a significant improvement, but still did not qualify for the DFAS electronic payment rate. Since WAWF does not currently have the capability to handle these type payments, the NETC Comptroller Office coordinated with DFAS-Cleveland, the Navy Supply Information Systems Activity (NAVSISA), and NETPDTC to develop, test and implement an electronic batch solution. In Fiscal Year 2005, NETPDTC processed 70,322 line items at the DFAS manual payment rate. This represents a potential Navy savings of nearly \$1.3M per year. The first batch file, at the DFAS electronic rate, was processed in March 2006. As of July 2006, NETPDTC processed 21,568 line items with a savings to the Navy of \$393K.

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