


# General Fund Enterprise Business System (GFEBS) Transforms Army Business

Mohamed Ibrahim

**T**he Army is transforming business processes to allow for more informed decisions, better resource management, and greater support to warfighters. GFEBS is a significant initiative in this transformation, moving the Army to a cost management culture. Leaders and managers regularly make decisions that impact and consume resources, but the current proliferation of systems provides limited, inadequate, or often untimely information for decision making. The Army needs integrated, enterprise-wide data for well-informed decisions and must therefore replace the many costly legacy financial systems.

GFEBS will empower leaders and managers to determine the true costs of operations. Here, Ko Un Yong, budget officer for the 2nd Infantry Division (2ID) Resource Management Office, evaluates 2ID's annual budget plan in his office at Camp Red Cloud, Korea. (U.S. Army photo by CPL Sohn Joon Hyung, 2ID Public Affairs Office (PAO).)

A man with dark hair and glasses, wearing a dark suit jacket, white shirt, and patterned tie, is shown in profile from the chest up. He is looking towards the left of the frame, presumably at a computer monitor. The background is slightly out of focus, showing a framed picture on the wall and some office equipment.

GFEBs is a Web-based system with real-time visibility of data for the active Army, Army National Guard (ARNG), and U.S. Army Reserve. The system integrates funding, real property management, financial cost, and related output and performance data from functions and organizations across the Army. GFEBs provides an Enterprise Resource Planning solution that builds upon a modern accounting system for recording fund transactions, meeting statutory requirements, and much more, such as relating the funds to organizations and other projects, tasks, and activities; integrating and relating the funds to outcomes, outputs, and performance; and producing data for better informed decisions by leaders and operation managers from across the staff.

GFEBs will transform the way the Army does business by providing information on the full costs for output and performance, and empowering leaders and managers at all levels to determine the true costs of operations and the full costs that affect the Army's budget. GFEBs will enable Army decision makers to better leverage current resources and plan for future requirements.

GFEBs integrates many processes into a single system including funds distribution, funds control, accounting, and general ledger compliance; real property management to include property, equipment and asset management, project systems, and plant maintenance; spending chain processes including end-to-end "requisition-to-pay,"

reimbursable orders such as *Economy Act* orders, project orders, and reimbursable orders with advances; budget formulation; and cost management. Ultimately, GFEBs will replace more than 80 Army legacy accounting, financial, and asset management systems, such as the Standard Finance System (STANFINS) and Standard Operations and Maintenance Army Research and Development System (SOMARDS). The transformation is massive and complex and will occur over the next few years.

### Release 1.3 Wave 1

On April 1, 2009, the Army's Program Executive Office Enterprise Information Systems (PEO EIS) deployed the first of eight deployment "waves" for GFEBs to more than 1,500





GFEBs integrates many processes into a single system including funds distribution, budget formulation, and cost management, among many others. Here, 2LT Kandi King provides guidance to SSG Amy Crawford on the budget for the 525th Military Police Battalion. (U.S. Army photo by SPC Carlynn Knaak, Joint Task Force Guantanamo PAO.)

end users in CONUS. This is a significant step in transforming how the Army does business. “We don’t want to just deploy new technology on top of legacy processes—we want to transform the way the Army does business,” stated Kristyn Jones, Director of Financial Information Management, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management and Comptroller.

Wave 1 included:

- Users with full functionality at:

- ▲ Fort Jackson, SC.
- ▲ Fort Stewart, GA.
- ▲ Fort Benning, GA.
- ▲ Headquarters, Installation Management Command (HQ IMCOM), Arlington, VA.
- ▲ HQ IMCOM Southeast, Fort McPherson, GA.

- Users with specific, limited functionality at:

- ▲ HQ U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC).
- ▲ HQ U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM).
- ▲ HQ Department of the Army.
- ▲ Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), Indianapolis, IN.
- ▲ DFAS, Rome, NY.

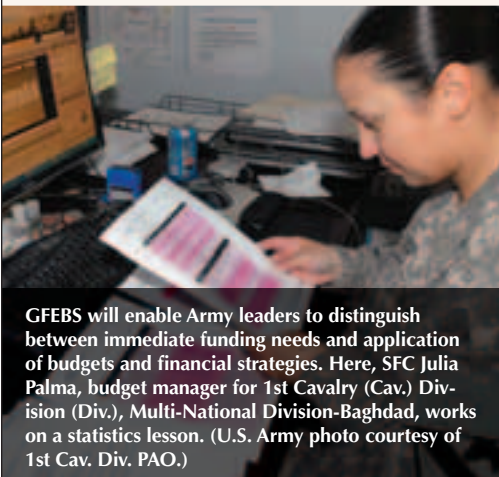
Wave 1 uses the GFEBs Release 1.3 version, which heavily leverages previously deployed financial management capabilities from Release 1.2. Release 1.3 provides enhancements to transaction processing, depreciation, real property, time tracking, and payroll processing to the 40 existing interfaces and adds 10 new interfaces.

During FY10, the Army will implement GFEBs Release 1.4 (R1.4) functionality to various organizations within FORSCOM, TRADOC, IMCOM, U.S. Army Medical Command, U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command, the PEOs, ARNG, and DFAS. GFEBs R1.4 functionality will incorporate 13 new interfaces. The October R1.4 implementation will be fielded as a “mini-deployment” to a group of Army organizations, including PEO EIS under the U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center (USAASC)

and the Program Director Information Technology Systems. This group of approximately 20 users will serve as the pilot for R1.4 functionality and will further prepare GFEBs for the simultaneous deployment of GFEBs to STANFINS- and SOMARDS-related organizations in Waves 2 through 7. Currently, mini-deployment Wave 2 and Wave 3 organizations are actively involved in deployment readiness activities. GFEBs Wave 2 is scheduled to go live on April 1, 2010, and Wave 3 will go live on Oct. 1, 2010.

Upon completion, GFEBs will serve as the first-rate process and system for conducting financial and asset management operations with integrated non-financial functional data for the entire Army. GFEBs will impact every organization in the Army, reengineering business processes and offering new and improved capabilities to HQ, command, and operational levels. GFEBs’ benefits extend beyond the financial arena, offering new and improved capabilities for Armywide interoperability while increasing quality and effectiveness, and reducing cycle time and variance to free human and financial resources for higher priorities. COL Simon L. Holzman, GFEBs Project Manager, stated, “GFEBs revolutionizes the Army’s financial framework, providing a window for viewing and determining impacts of financial management decisions alongside budget structures. . . . This is significant. The Army will have the ability to differentiate between immediate funding needs and application of budgets and financial strategies that target near- and long-term demands of Congress, the Army, and the warfighters they serve.”

**MOHAMED IBRAHIM** is a USAASC Program Analyst. He holds a B.S. in international relations from George Mason University.



GFEBs will enable Army leaders to distinguish between immediate funding needs and application of budgets and financial strategies. Here, SFC Julia Palma, budget manager for 1st Cavalry (Cav.) Division (Div.), Multi-National Division-Baghdad, works on a statistics lesson. (U.S. Army photo courtesy of 1st Cav. Div. PAO.)