While financial reporting requirements will continue to be accomplished through legacy financial systems for SMART Phase 2.0 customers, SAP now does departmental reporting requirements for in-scope NWCF inventory. SMART reached a significant milestone January 31, 2003, when it successfully closed its books at its first month-end and provided an automated and balanced datastream to the DFAS Cleveland Central Data Base (CDB).

DFAS Partnership

A primary reason for SMART Phase 2.0 success is the close partnership between DFAS and NAVSUP financial subject matter experts. Nine DFAS Norfolk employees were trained on SAP to support month- and year-end reporting, and vendor invoice and accounts receivable processing. DFAS Cleveland assigned very experienced reporting and financial systems experts to SMART for full design, configuration and testing cycles for the Phase 2.0 pilot. As a result, the SMART interface with DFAS systems for departmental reporting and cash management worked flawlessly. In addition, SMART built a design that is not only interoperable with today's financial management enterprise architecture, but also flexible enough to support an ERP solution across the entire Navy, if not the entire DoD.

Designing and implementing ERP did not happen overnight. The SMART team has been making every effort to track and quickly resolve issues reported by pilot sites. The team has been tracking crucial Key Performance Indicators, conducting daily teleconferences with all four sites, and working through numerous calls to the Help Desk. The SMART ERP team and site representatives are dedicated to achieving the pilot's success. There is still room for improvement, but the process changes have been largely successful and show the Navy's resolve to improve business processes.

Future and Convergence

One point is very clear for the future of SMART. SMART will not be going it alone. August 2, 2002, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition (ASN(RD&A)) directed a single convergence of Navy ERP pilots. In response Navy ERP teams developed convergence and implementation timeline plans. Begun earlier this year, the full normalization effort focuses on common, centrally developed solutions managed to drive process and data standardization. Replacing the former ESG for Navy ERP pilots, the newly established Executive Committee (EXCOMM), will be responsible for leading the convergence effort. Led by ASN (RD&A), EXCOMM has representation from the SYSCOMs, OPNAV and the fleet.

The Navy awarded a BPA to SAP Public Sector and Education, Inc. for Enterprise Resource Planning software, maintenance, services and training. SAP BPA N00104-02-A-ZE77 is open to all DoD.

Go to page 48 for a list of other IT solutions under the DON IT Umbrella Program.

Visit the DON IT Umbrella Web site: www.it-umbrella.navy.mil.

To bolster force protection, the general public is urged not to send unsolicited mail, care packages or donations to servicemembers forward deployed unless you are a family member, loved one or personal friend.

On Oct. 30, 2002, the Department of Defense (DoD) suspended the "Operation Dear Abby" and "Any Servicemember" mail programs due to force protection concerns. Although these programs provide an excellent means of support to friends and loved ones stationed overseas, they also provide an avenue to introduce hazardous substances or materials into the mail system from unknown sources. Unsolicited mail, packages and donations from organizations and individuals also compete for limited airlift space used to transport supplies, warfighting materiel, and mail from family and loved ones.

Recently, DoD has become aware of organizations and individuals who continue to support some form of the Any Servicemember program by using the names and addresses of individual servicemembers and unit addresses. These programs are usually supported by well-intentioned, thoughtful and patriotic groups who are simply unaware of the new risks facing deployed military forces. Some individuals and groups publicize the names and addresses of servicemembers, ships or units on Web sites, with good intentions. The result, however, is a potential danger to the troops they wish to support.

DoD cannot support creative and well-intentioned efforts that defeat force protection measures, but can instead recommend alternatives to mail and donation programs.

To show support to troops overseas, the following are recommended:

Log on to the following Web sites to show support, to include greeting cards, virtual Thank You cards and calling card donations to help troops stay in contact with loved ones:

www.defendamerica.mil/support_troops.html

www.usocares.org/home.htm

www.army.mil/operations/iraq/faq.html

Visit Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals and nursing homes, and volunteer your services to honor veterans who served in past conflicts.