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The FMS Tradition: Meeting Each Challenge with Excellence

By Judy Tillman, Commissioner, Financial Management Service

Last year as I wrote the first article of the new year for the Financial Connection, I had just become the FMS Commissioner. It is truly amazing to think that a year has passed and we find ourselves looking to a new year. I again thank the other federal agencies for working collaboratively with us. Much was accomplished and we made major improvements in some areas by working together. We are unsure of what 2009 will bring but confident that whatever comes, we'll approach it with a spirit of

cooperation with our customers and the highest standard of service and commitment.

Looking back, 2008 was certainly not without challenges. We took on new and unexpected work, we re-directed our path when the original course was blocked, and developed innovative solutions to tasks at hand. Each FMS Assistant Commissioner area met, and in many situations, exceeded the expectations with which we began 2008.

(Continued on page 2)

CCMM Initiative On Track to Transform Government's Revenue Collection

By Sarah Ralston and Gregory Till, Modernization Planning Office

In 2008, Federal Finance's Collections and Cash Management Modernization (CCMM) initiative made significant advances. The Financial Management Service established this enterprise architecture initiative three years ago in an effort to reduce costs, mitigate risks, and improve the efficiency of the Treasury's collection and cash management capabilities. As we begin 2009, it's worth taking a look back at CCMM's recent accomplishments related to collection channels, settlement and reporting.



(Continued on page 3)

Gregory Till, Director, Modernization Planning Office



The FMS Tradition: Meeting Each Challenge with Excellence

By Judy Tillman, Commissioner, Financial Management Service

(Continued from page 1)

Last year, just a few days into the month of January, I was advised an Economic Stimulus package appeared to be headed for enactment. As the government's financial manager and major disburser of government payments, the portion of the bill authorizing payments to approximately 130 million individuals had a direct impact on us. We immediately started building scenarios and determining how we would accomplish the additional increase in workload given a very short period of time to prepare. We were committed that there should be no degradation of services even though the stimulus payments were to occur during our heaviest production period of the year. The decision that each of the payments would be subject to the offset process for payment of delinquent government debt meant that two of our four major business lines would have a huge increase in unplanned workload.

I'm very proud to tell you that we were extremely successful. We made over 117 million payments with an efficiency and accuracy rate of 100% and collected \$1.5 billion through the Treasury Offset Program from those payments.



Judy Tillman, Commissioner, FMS

We also made excellent progress on our commitment to increase government collections utilizing electronic processes by converting paper cash flows to electronic collection systems. With your help, 80% of the Government's collections dollars were made electronically in 2008. In the realm of financial accounting, we met a 100% timeliness and accuracy standard on both daily and monthly Treasury statements; again, possible because of work accomplished between federal agencies.

Looking to 2009, we'll continue to concentrate on making progress

on reaching our goals to increase electronic processing for both payments and collections, improve Government-wide accounting and reporting, and optimize delinquent debt collections. Our overarching priorities will continue to be:

- Maintain high quality daily operations.
- Move toward electronics in everything we do.
- Practice effective cost management.
- Be a model employer that emphasizes our values of information sharing, informality, inclusion, integrity, and individual respect.
- Maintain strong security to include security of people, data, dollars, and physical locations.

As we start 2009, it promises to be a historic year with new challenges for all. I'll commit to you, that FMS management and employees will continue to be steadfast in our endeavors to serve the U.S. taxpayer and other federal agencies with the level of excellence you've come to expect from us. Best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year.



Mission

To provide central payment services to Federal Program Agencies (FPAs), operate the federal government's collections and deposit systems, provide government-wide accounting and reporting services, and manage the collection of delinquent debt owed to the government.

Vision

World class delivery of Government financial management services.

Values

Individual Respect ♦ Integrity ♦ Informality ♦ Information Sharing ♦ Inclusion

Strategic Goals

1) Timely, accurate and efficient disbursement of federal payments, 2) Timely, accurate and efficient collection of federal government receipts, 3) Maximize collection of delinquent debt to the government, 4) Timely and accurate financial information that contributes to the improved quality of financial decision making, and 4) Be a great place to work.



CCMM Initiative On Track to Transform Government's Revenue Collection

By Sarah Ralston and Gregory Till, Modernization Planning Office

(Continued from page 1)

A significant focus of the CCMM initiative involves the restructuring of Federal Finance's collection channel programs. One of the first steps in this process was the selection of the financial agents responsible for the operation of the future channels. During 2008, Federal Finance selected agents for the Over-the-Counter Channel, Mail Channel, and Credit Card Gateway business lines, with two final competitive selections—for the Fedwire and ACH Credit Gateways being completed by the end of the year.

Many transitions are now underway in Federal Finance's collection channel programs. New Federal Reserve Banks and commercial banks have come on board to build systems, take over responsibility for legacy systems, or both. The General Revenue Collection (GRC) division successfully transitioned the majority of Automated Clearing House (ACH) debit lockboxes to Pay.gov and began similar transitions for all Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD) accounts. GRC and the Tax Collection Division worked together to decommission the RRBLink channel application and move its functionality to Pay.gov and the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS). In addition, the Over-the-Counter division moved restorations functionality out of CA\$HLINK II and into the Paper Check Conversion Over-the-Counter (PCC OTC) program.

Another key CCMM component involves the separation of the collection channels from settlement operations. The implementation of settlement gateways will allow for the various collection channels to treat settlement as a reusable

service, as opposed to performing settlement within each channel application. Over the past year, the Settlement Services Division (SET) initiated the development of and selected the software for the ACH Debit and Check Gateways. In addition, SET moved hundreds of agency cash flows and locations off of the Plastic Card Network (the legacy solution for credit card transactions) and onto the new Card Acquiring Service. Because of the more favorable terms to the new program, this credit card transition alone will save the government millions of dollars each year.

One of CCMM's major goals focuses on the consolidation of reporting functionality into the Transaction Reporting System (TRS). In 2008, TRS established connections with the Shared Accounting Module, Pay.gov, EFTPS (including the Federal Reserve Electronic Tax Application), and TGA.net. These implementations bring the total number of TRS connections to seven, including the combined Paper Tax System and the Treasury Investment Program, as well as the Electronic Check Processing system, which connected in late 2007. TRS also implemented the ability to report commercial bank transactions to the Governmentwide Accounting Modernization Program the "GWA way," and identified means to report Federal Reserve Bank transactions the "GWA way" as well.

Outside of these program areas, there were other CCMM accomplishments of note. The Agency Relationship Management division obtained signatures on the first four Holistic Approach Strategic Cash Management Agreements with agencies. The

Modernization Planning Office worked with the Federal Reserve System to obtain consensus on allowing commercial bank-run applications on the Federal Reserve's Treasury Web Application Infrastructure (TWA), and provided detailed information concerning the infrastructure requirements of the upcoming applications.

CCMM accomplished a lot in 2008. It's a tribute to the hard work of many people in Federal Finance, other FMS and Treasury offices, and our fiscal and financial agent partners. Together, we're moving toward solutions that will allow us to serve agencies more efficiently and save taxpayer dollars. We're looking forward to another strong year in 2009.

FY 2008 Revenue Collection Statistics

- Collected \$3.2 trillion through more than two dozen FMS collection programs.
- Processed 403.2 million transactions.
- Collected more than \$2.54 trillion (80%) through EFT.
- EFTPS collected more than 97.9 million transactions totaling more than \$2.12 trillion.
- Pay.gov collected more than 15 million transactions totaling nearly \$48.7 billion.



GWA is Looking for a Few Good Players - Is Your Agency One?

By Luz Davila and Marilyn Santiago, *Governmentwide Accounting*

There are many agencies that are currently enjoying the benefits of being Government-Wide Accounting (GWA) Reporters. Below is a list of agencies who have transitioned to become GWA Reporters, as well as agencies who are Parallel GWA Reporters (Parallel Reporting) for both Intra-governmental Payment and Collection (IPAC) and Treasury Disbursing Office (TDO) Payments. For the live reporters, FMS is now reporting these two transaction types for them, eliminating their need to include them in their end-of-month reporting (Partial 224 [P224]).

While participating in the Parallel Reporting phase, agencies work with the GWA data analysis team to analyze and compare the data they report on their P224 to the data reported in the IPAC or PACER systems and resolve any data differences. All Statements of Differences must be cleared before an agency can become a live GWA Reporter. As soon as all data reporting issues have been resolved and the agency is comfortable with the new process, a "go-live date" is set for the agency to become a GWA Reporter. There are actually more phases included in the process of becoming a GWA Reporter, but the Parallel Reporting phase is the most crucial to the success of each Agency Location Code's (ALC) transition.

The rollout of our current GWA reporters has been very successful and well received. Currently, the Bureau of Public Debt, Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Department of Agriculture, Department of Energy, Government Printing Office, US Agency for International Development (USAID), Defense

Intelligence Agency, Denali Commission, Executive Office of the President, Department of Justice and the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board have ALCs that are GWA Reporters. These agencies are taking advantage of the new process, having FMS report their IPAC and/or payment transactions for them. This has reduced their end-of-month reporting for these transactions and improved their reconciliation. Our future GWA Reporters, currently in the Parallel



Reporting Phase, are USAID, Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation and the IRS. For a detailed listing of the ALCs that are currently participating, please visit the GWA web site at www.fms.treas.gov/gwa.

These agencies have taken the steps to improve their reconciliation process and become GWA reporters. If you do IPAC business with any of them, you will be required to input a Treasury Account Symbol (TAS)/ Business Event Type Code (BETC) on the receiver side of each transaction for which they are your trading partner. As mentioned in previous *Financial Connection* articles, recording a financial transaction the "GWA way" will require that the TAS be provided with each

transaction. A new data element, the BETC, is also required for each transaction. This new BETC identifies the type of transaction being reported and the accounting effect on the Fund Balance [plus(+) or minus(-)]. For example, a BETC of REDTSEC represents the Redemption (sale) of U.S. Treasury Securities.

Use of both the TAS and BETC will ensure that transactions are processed correctly by FMS and are easily identifiable on the Account Statement. FMS has developed an on-line tool, the Shared Accounting Module (SAM), which FPAs will be able to use to validate the TAS and BETC and to set up unique profiles for their ALCs to derive or default TAS/BETC information when it is not readily available.

If you would like to set up a meeting to discuss the possibility of your agency or any ALC(s) within your agency to become a GWA Reporter, please contact Luz Davila at Luz.Davila@fms.treas.gov or at 202-874-8599.

Note: GWA and PACER have the capability to work with TDO Payment ALCs, but just on a one-to-one basis (one Treasury Account Symbol per payment ALC). In this case, the TAS is hard coded in PACER and transactions are defaulted to that specific TAS. As soon as Secure Payment System (SPS) becomes available, agencies will need to input the TAS/BETC combination on each schedule into the SPS system.



Financial Management Service Contact Directory 2009

<u>PROGRAM/SERVICE</u>	<u>CONTACT NAME</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
Administrative Wage Garnishment	Debt Management Operations Center	202-874-6653
Agency Cross-Servicing Federal Program Agency Inquiries	Debt Management Operations Center	800-858-0725 800-858-0725
Agency Location Code Check Resolution Division (4 digits) Cash Accounting Division (8 digits)	Brent Weaver	202-874-8259 202-874-8891
ASAP (Automated Standard Application for Payments) Agency Implementation Development Operations	Carol Cole Cheryl Murray Philadelphia Regional Financial Center Kansas City Regional Financial Center San Francisco Regional Financial Center	202-874-6542 202-874-6467 215-516-8021 816-414-2100 510-594-7182
Automated Clearing House (ACH) 31 CFR 210 (ACH Rules) Collections Disbursements: Payments and Claims Formats Product Development Risk Assessment/Security Technical Requirements Treasury Disbursed Payments Kansas RFC Help Desk Payment Management Help Desk Regulations and Policy	Bill Brushwood Bill Brushwood Margot Kaeser Dale Walton Dick Bauder Margot Kaeser Bill Brushwood	202-874-1251 202-874-1251 202-874-6781 202-874-7118 202-874-6576 202-874-6781 816-414-2100 512-342-7300 202-874-1251
Card Acquiring Service	Dena Corson	202-874-0807
CASHLINK II	Call Center Phyllis Allen Zelda Gantt Tamara Whitaker	1-800-346-5465 202-874-3528 202-874-6894 202-874-7132
Cash Management Improvement Act (CMIA)	Victor Poore	202-874-6751
Cash Management Made Easy	Teri Hoehn David Burgess	202-874-6694 202-874-8645
Check Inserts	William Mehr	202-874-6932
Child Support	Debt Program Division	202-874-0540
Collateral	Mary Bailey	202-874-7055
Collections and Cash Management Modernization (CCMM)	Gregory Till	202-874-6935
Credit Bureau Reporting	Accounting & Agency Services Division	202-874-8580
Credit and Debt Management Policy	Business Management Staff	202-874-6600
Cross-Servicing Debt Exemptions	Business Management Staff	202-874-6600
Current Value of Funds Rate	Denice Wilson	202-874-9428
Debit Card Program	Brett Smith	202-874-6666
Debt Check	Debt Program Division	202-874-0540



Financial Management Service Contact Directory 2009

PROGRAM/SERVICE

CONTACT NAME

PHONE

Debt Collection Agency Training & Education	Accounting & Agency Services Division	202-874-8580
Debt Collection Center Designation	Business Management Staff	202-874-6600
Debt Collection Performance	Accounting & Agency Services Division	202-874-8580
Debt Management Agency Facilitation	Accounting & Agency Services Division	202-874-8580
Debt Write-Off	Business Management Staff	202-874-6600
Debtor Inquiries	Debt Management Operations Center	888-858-0725
Direct Express	Nevelyn Jones	202-874-9602
Electronic Check Processing (ECP)	Craig Sadick	202-874-6754
Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS) Development/Operations Marketing	Russell Kuehn Melanie Rigney	202-874-5784 202-874-6763
Electronic Transfer Account (ETA) Policy	Pamela Jordan	202-874-7143
Enterprise Data Architecture/XML Standards	Ed Coia Marcel Jemio Brian Brotsos	202-874-7039 202-874-6838 202-874-1618
FedDebt	Debt Management Operations Center	800-858-0725
Federal Agencies Centralized Trial Balance System I (FACTS I)	Kathy Wages	202-874-4713
Federal Agency Liaison (Collections)	Carolyn Dunston	202-874-7491
Federal Reserve Electronic Tax Application (FR-ETA)	Mike Chew	202-874-7064
Fed Tax II	Russ Kuehn	202-874-5784
Fedwire Deposit System	Phyllis Allen Zelda Gantt Alexander Ip Randolph Maxwell Tamara Whitaker	202-874-3528 202-874-6894 202-874-0428 202-874-3720 202-874-7132
Financials, Accounting, Collections, Disbursements & Reconciliation System (FACDR)	Accounting & Agency Services Division	202-874-8580
Financial Accounting and Services Division (FASD) Credit Accounting Branch Judgement Fund Branch Surety Bond Branch	Scott Barber Kevin McIntyre Rose Miller	202-874-8740 202-874-6664 202-874-6850
Financial Connection, The	Teri Hoehn David Burgess	202-874-6694 202-874-8645
Financial EDI Payments	Jenie Perry	512-342-7303
Financial Organization Master File (FOMF)	Dwight Sage	816-414-2302
Financial Report of the U.S. Government	Karen Hunter	202-874-9910



Financial Management Service Contact Directory 2009

<u>PROGRAM/SERVICE</u>	<u>CONTACT NAME</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
Foreign Check Issues	William Mehr	202-874-6932
Foreign Currency Accounting	Rick Barnett Lauren Gant Andrea Pearson	202-874-7994 202-874-8004 202-874-8001
General Lockbox	Michael Salapka	202-874-8919
Gold Book	Delphine Bryant	202-874-8061
Government On-Line Accounting Link System (GOALS II)	Sheila Higgs	202-874-8196
Governmentwide Accounting Modernization Program	Michael Norman	202-874-8788
Governmentwide Financial Report System	Angela Potts	202-874-9917
Green Book	Dale Walton	202-874-7118
Holistic Approach	Carolyn Dunston	202-874-7491
Imprest Fund Management: Policy	Denice Wilson	202-874-9428
Intergovernmental Payment and Collections (IPAC)	Susan Markland	202-874-9816
International Treasury Services (ITS.gov) Policy Operations	Susan Helm Ethan Cole	202-874-6873 816-414-2102
Internet Payment Platform	Pavita Murthi	202-874-3685
Intragovernmental Fiduciary Confirmation System (IFCS)	Financial Reports Division	202-874-9910
IRS Lockbox	Tannura Elie	202-874-6554
Notification of Change	Austin Help Desk Kansas City Help Desk	512-342-7300 816-414-2100
PACER On-Line: Non Treasury-Disbursed Agencies Treasury-Disbursed Agencies	Michael Harrison David Winters	202-874-3838 202-874-9138
Paper Tax Application (PATAX)	Mike Chew	202-874-7064
Pay.gov	Marshall Henry	202-874-6940
PCC OTC (Paper Check Conversion Over-the-Counter)	Reginald McKinney Bonnie Ray	202-874-6983 202-874-2138
Postage Payments	Dale Walton	202-874-9428
Private Collection Agencies	Private Collection Division	202-874-8700
Prompt Payment	Denice Wilson	202-874-9428
Regional Financial Centers Austin Financial Center Kansas City Financial Center Philadelphia Financial Center San Francisco Financial Center		512-342-7300 816-414-2100 215-516-8000 510-594-7300
Remittance Express (REX)	John Schmid	202-874-7026



Financial Management Service Contact Directory 2009

PROGRAM/SERVICE

CONTACT NAME

PHONE

Repurchase Agreement (Repo)	Thompson Sawyer	202-874-7150
Salary Offset	Debt Program Division	202-874-0540
Secure Payment System	Gary Ng	202-874-6947
Seized Currency	Mike Zeigler	202-874-8906
Shared Accounting Module (SAM)	Cyndi Pham	202-874-8947
State Income Tax Debt	Debt Program Division	202-874-0540
State and Local Government Tax Withholding Agreements	Denice Wilson	202-874-9428
State Reciprocal Agreement	Debt Program Division	202-874-0540
Stored Value Cards	Graham MacKenzie	202-874-1845
Tax Levy	Debt Program Division	202-874-0540
Tax Refund Offset	Debt Program Division	202-874-0540
TGA Bank Network	Deborah Pearson	202-874-7496
TGANet	Donald Clark	202-874-7092
TOP (Treasury Offset Program)	Debt Program Division	202-874-0540
TOP Call Center	TOP Systems and Operations	800-304-3107
TOP Payment Exemptions	Debt Program Division	202-874-0540
Transaction Reporting System (TRS)	Christina Cox Monica Shelton	202-874-7207 202-874-1346
Treasury Check Information System (TCIS)	Lourde Romain-Prue	202-874-9582
Treasury Check Offset	Marva Evans	202-874-8256
Treasury Disbursed Payment Inquiries	Austin Financial Center	512-342-7300
Treasury Investment Option	Thompson Sawyer	202-874-7150
Treasury Investment Program (TIP)	Thompson Sawyer	202-874-7150
Treasury Receivable Accounting and Collection System (TRACS)	Cathie Blewitt	202-874-7920
Treasury Report on Receivables (TROR)	Accounting & Agency Services Division	202-874-8580
TRUFACS	Richard Haug	202-874-6955
TT&L (Treasury Tax & Loan) Plus	Thompson Sawyer	202-874-7150
Unclaimed Moneys	Laverne Triplett	202-874-8262
USCIS Lockbox and e-Filing (U.S. Citizenship Immigration Services)	Nadir Isfahani	202-874-0275
USSGL (U.S. Standard General Ledger Division)	Judy Yuran	202-874-6308



AARP's 50th Anniversary Celebration Promotes Go Direct

By Rick Corrigan, San Francisco Financial Center

The San Francisco Financial Center (SFC) staff promoted GO Direct at the American Association for Retired Persons (AARP) National Event & Expo in Washington, D.C. recently. The Life@50+ premiere event was an excellent opportunity to promote the GO Direct program to one of the fastest growing markets in the country - baby boomers and beyond. There are more than 80 million people in America over the age of 50, with 38 million as AARP members. The ultimate goal for SFC participation was to encourage AARP members to sign up for Direct Deposit through the GO Direct program.

GO Direct is a national education campaign to motivate people who receive federal benefit

payments to sign up for Direct Deposit. Since the inception of GO Direct in 2004, over 2 million people have registered, saving



the U.S. government 210 million dollars.

AARP's 50th Anniversary was a monumental event with over 27,000 people and 450 exhibitors attending the festivities. The SFC

staff distributed brochures and educated attendees about the benefits of Direct Deposit: It's safe, reliable and convenient-giving people more control over their money. GO Direct messages were also displayed with video clips of Philip Belisle, Regional Director of SFC, promoting Direct Deposit at various media events. The Products and Initiatives Branch has promoted Direct Deposit at AARP events since the inception of the GO Direct program. The SFC has been an active participant in helping the Financial Management Service achieve its mission to promote the use of electronic payments.

For more information about the GO Direct program, call (800) 333-1795 or visit www.GoDirect.org.

F M S o n t h e M o v e



Wanda Rogers will become the new Assistant Commissioner for Management. Wanda is currently on a 6 month detail to the Office of the Fiscal Assistant Secretary (OFAS). During her absence, Dave Rebich will be the acting Assistant Commissioner for Management.



Rita Bratcher will become the new Assistant Commissioner for Payment Management.



Scott Johnson will become the new Assistant Commissioner for Debt Management Services.



Judgment Fund Seminar Eases Complexities for Federal Program Agencies

By Phyllis S. Robinson, Management

About 150 participants attended a recent flagship Judgment Fund seminar which included attendees from the Departments of Labor, Justice (DOJ), Education, Veterans Affairs, Agriculture (USDA), Army, Air Force, NASA, and other Treasury bureaus. The training was a huge step in explaining to Federal Program Agencies (FPAs) and others the basics and complexities of the Judgment Fund.

In his welcoming statement, Scott Johnson, Assistant Commissioner (AC) of Management, thanked the participants for their overwhelming response to the event. "This is the first ever seminar since the Fund came to Treasury, but certainly not the last." He noted the Fund serves customers and stakeholders in all 50 States and territories.

The seminar covered both simple and complex Judgment Fund processes in an environment offering interactive discussion between Judgment Fund Branch (JFB) subject matter experts and users. Attendees who have used the Judgment Fund for decades participated; newer Judgment Fund users reviewed the curriculum and asked extensive questions. But even veteran Judgment Fund users had basic questions that needed answering.

Vivian Cooper, Director of the Financial Accounting and Services Division (FASD), which administers the Judgment Fund System (JFS), told the group: "We heard you. The JFB Seminar is a direct response to the needs of our customers. As we prepare for future Judgment Fund Internet Claims System (JFICS) releases,

we want to ensure you have all the information you need to work efficiently with JFB claims." (See article about deployment of JFICS in the *Financial Connection*, Volume 17, Issue 4, Special FMS Conference 2008 Edition.)



Participants were provided their own binder of materials featuring printouts of Judgment Fund transactions, sample forms, policies and procedures, legislative and regulatory background, and user screens to help navigate through the entire lifecycle of claims approval, payment, and reimbursable payment processes. "This compilation, along with evaluations from attendees creates a powerful reference and learning tool for FPAs that want to use the materials over and over again, and for future JFB seminars," Cooper said.

Judgment Fund Basics

Kevin McIntyre, the Manager of JFB, presented clear-cut information about the Judgment Fund basics:

WHAT: The Judgment Fund is a permanent, indefinite appropriation available to pay many judicially and administratively ordered monetary awards against the United States. The statutory authority for Judgment Fund appropriation is 31 USC 1304.

WHO: The JFB administers the Fund and is in the Financial Accounting and Services Division (FASD), which came under the umbrella of AC Management in October 2007. JFB ensures the FPAs provide sufficient documentation to satisfy the criteria of 31 USC 1304 and seeks reimbursements for payments in Notification and Federal Employees Antidiscrimination and Retaliation (No FEAR) Act and Contract Disputes Act (CDA) cases.

Mr. McIntyre also pointed out recent key events that attendees should be aware of:

- JFB discontinued processing IRS small claims in May 2007.
- Secure (Esker) fax was implemented in September 2007.
- JFS began transition to JFICS in April 2008.

William Erle, Treasury Office of the Chief Counsel, provided information on the statutory and legal authority for the Judgment Fund.

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Claims Approval Process

Alberta Holloway, a JFS expert who helped develop JFICS, described the claims approval process. The purpose of the Claims Review Process, she noted, is to ensure that claims are payable under the criteria of 31 USC 1304. Agencies must provide required documentation such as a copy of the judgment or settlement agreements as well as documentation about the awards. The claims review process entails three reviews. The claims analyst performs data entry, as well as an initial review and recommendation. The claims reviewer conducts a second-stage review and disposition of claims. A supervisor/manager performs the third and final review and disposition of claims exceeding \$1 million.

Upon conclusion of the claims review process, approved claims are transferred electronically to the FASD accounting system for payment, and JFB notifies the submitting agency of denied/rejected cases.

Claims are accepted in three ways: 1) Mail; 2) Esker (secure) Fax; and electronically using JFICS. Paper claims must be submitted using FMS Forms 194, Judgment Fund Transmittal; FMS Form 196—Judgment Fund Data Sheet; and FMS Form 197—Judgment Fund Voucher for Payment.

Payment Process

Bernice Mays, Supervisor of the Payment and Collections Team, provided explicit details about the two-stage review and acceptance process. She noted

that certified payment requests are transmitted to Treasury's Philadelphia Finance Center (PFC). PFC disburses the funds within 24 hours of receipt. Mays' suggestions for improving timeliness of payments included checking with banks to verify routing numbers as either Automated Clearing House (ACH) or wire transfer; verifying account numbers and account type (checking or savings); and ensuring addresses are complete and accurate.

Reimbursable Payment

The reimbursable payments area was covered by Yvette Camp, a JFB program analyst, and Bernice Mays.

Key points Camp noted were that: 1) only two types of payments must be reimbursed to the Judgment Fund: No FEAR and CDA payments. For the No FEAR payments, JFB drafts a letter (within 15 days of payment) to the responsible agency Chief Financial Officer requesting reimbursement. Agencies that fail to meet this requirement are recorded and posted annually on FMS's public website until the obligation is paid or arrangements for payment are made.

For CDA claims, the payment and collection supervisor sends a letter to the Reimbursement point of contact requesting reimbursement within 15 days after paid confirmation. A follow up letter is sent 30 days later if the Point of Contact (POC) fails to respond. Letters and summary statements outlining the outstanding CDA's amounts due to Treasury are sent quarterly. Federal agencies should make Judgment Fund payments via

the Intra-governmental Payment and Collection (IPAC) System using ALC 20180002. The reimbursement letters include specific instructions on using the IPAC system. Check payments are highly discouraged.

With All Bases Covered, Looking to Future Rollout of JFICS

Kenneth Roberts of the Army Tort Claims Office in Fort Meade, MD, shared his experience and expectations about JFICS. Mr. Roberts worked directly with JFICS as a pilot user shortly after it was developed. JFICS has improved the efficiency and accuracy of Judgment Fund claims, he observed.

Mr. McIntyre noted that JFB will implement a phased approach to rolling out JFICS; with agencies processing the largest amount of claims being deployed first, followed by those with a mid-level number of claims, and concluding with agencies that process the least claims.

The seminar concluded with Mr. McIntyre echoing Mr. Johnson's sentiments and thanking participants for their interest in the material. "Your input is key to including specific elements in JFICS that will make your job easier."

For more information about the Judgment Fund, visit <http://www.fms.treas.gov/judgefund/index.html> or call 202-874-6664. There is also a toll-free number available on 1-866-277-1046.



FY 2008 Financial Report of the U.S. Government Released

By David Strobel, *Governmentwide Accounting*

The *Fiscal Year 2008 Financial Report of the United States Government (FR)* was released by the Department of the Treasury and the Office of Management and Budget on December 15, 2008. This marks the 12th year that the audited FR has been prepared and released on time. The FR is prepared at FMS by the Financial Reports Division (FRD) of Governmentwide Accounting.

The FR provides a comprehensive view of how the federal government is managing taxpayer dollars by disclosing the Government's financial position and condition, its revenues and costs, assets and liabilities, and

other responsibilities and commitments, as well as important financial issues that affect the Nation and its citizens both now and in the future. It is compiled within 8 business days, using the accrual basis of accounting, as opposed to the budgetary basis used in the *President's Budget*.

The FY 2008 FR reported that:

- the net cost of the government is \$3.6 trillion,
- the total assets are \$2.0 trillion,
- the total liabilities are \$12.2 trillion, with federal debt securities and federal employee and veteran benefits payable making up 92%, and

- projected scheduled social insurance benefits exceed earmarked revenues by approximately \$43 trillion in present value terms for the next 75-year period.

FRD staff were recognized for their efforts by Ken Carfine, Fiscal Assistant Secretary; and Judy Tillman, FMS Commissioner.

The FY 2008 FR is located at <http://fms.treas.gov/fr/index.html>

Financial Connection Bids Farewell to Assistant Editor, Gregory Crawford

By Teri Hoehn, *Editor*



Gregory Crawford, Agency Relationship Management Division

In October 2005 Gregory Crawford became the assistant editor of the Financial Connection (FC) news. Working within the Agency Relationship Management (ARM) Division of Federal Finance, Gregory has assisted with FC articles, photos, special editions and events these past 3 years—all while performing his duties as a Customer Relationship Manager (CRM) to federal agencies.

"Working with Gregory was a true pleasure," said Melanie Rigney, former FC editor. "Not only was he a thorough, thoughtful reader of articles, but he also showed initiative and creativity in the way he approached his position."

Thank you, Gregory, for all your contributions to the FC—we'll miss you. And, we wish you the very best of luck on your next exciting FMS endeavor!

FMS Key Statistics (FY 2008)

- Funds disbursed annually—more than \$67.3 billion
- Non-Defense payments disbursed annually—more than 999 million payments to more than 100 million people
- Stimulus Payments—nearly 117 million totaling more than \$94 billion
- Delinquent debt collected—more than \$5.9 billion*
 - ▶ Child support collected—more than \$2.8 billion

For Revenue Collection statistics see page 3.

*Stimulus payment offsets accounted for \$1.5 billion of the \$5.9 billion in delinquent federal debt collections.