

IN THIS ISSUE:

- *A Remembrance of Cynthia Louise Johnson* - 3
- *SVC Program Reaches the \$2B Mark* - 5
- *DOT Transports Cash Flows into the Electronic Age* - 6
- *Good-bye FEDTAX II; Hello EFTPS* - 6
- *2nd Annual GWA Day* - 8

Published by:

Financial Management Service, a Bureau of the U.S. Department of the Treasury

Publisher:

Carolyn Dunston

Editor:

Teri Hoehn

Assistant Editor:

Gregory Crawford

Editorial Board:

Luz Davila
 Jennifer Evans
 Shirley Hopkins
 Vivian Lopez
 Michael Norman
 Eva Rhodes
 Fabienne Robinson
 Denice Wilson

Address:

401 14th Street, SW, Room 404C
 Washington, D.C. 20227
 Phone: 202-874-6694
 Fax: 202-874-6965
 Website: www.fms.treas.gov/finconn
 Email: teri.hoehn@fms.treas.gov

For a free electronic subscription, visit: fms.treas.gov/scripts/subscription

GWA Designs Initiatives to Improve Efficiency and Effectiveness

By James Sturgill, Assistant Commissioner, Governmentwide Accounting

For the past five years, I have had the pleasure of serving as the Assistant Commissioner of the Governmentwide Accounting (GWA) area. The GWA Assistant Commissioner area serves as the federal government’s banker, providing the financial infrastructure for federal central accounting and governmentwide reporting, the reconciliation of agency and bank reporting differences, and the generation of regular daily, monthly, and quarterly financial reports. In addition, Governmentwide



(Continued on page 2)

FMS Recognizes 12 Financial Institutions as “Go Direct” Champions

By Nora Nienhagen, Office of Legislative and Public Affairs

Go Direct, launched nationally in 2005, is a campaign sponsored by the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury) and Federal Reserve Banks to motivate Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and other federal benefit recipients to use direct deposit. More than 1,200 Go Direct partner organizations engage in direct deposit education efforts across the country—including financial institutions, non-profits, and community-based groups. On July 14, Treasury’s Financial Management

Service (FMS) hosted the second annual “Champions” award ceremony to recognize financial institutions that achieved the highest percentage change in Social Security Direct Deposit payments received from Treasury as part of the Go Direct campaign.

The “Champions” ceremony was held in the Diplomatic Room at the Treasury. Judith Tillman, FMS Commissioner, and Ken Carfine, Treasury’s Fiscal Assistant Secretary, hosted the event and delivered remarks.

(Continued on page 4)



GWA Designs Initiatives to Improve Efficiency and Effectiveness

By James Sturgill, Assistant Commissioner, Governmentwide Accounting

(Continued from page 1)

Accounting is responsible for the annual compilation and publication of the Financial Report of the United States Government (formerly the audited Consolidated Financial Statement of the United States).

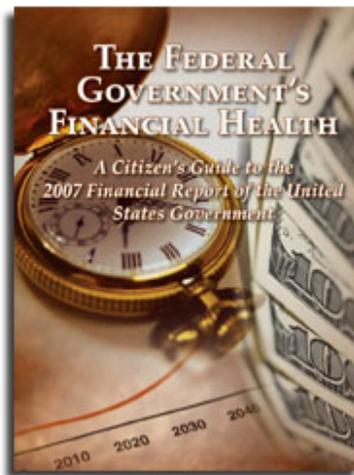
The GWA AC area is broken out into 4 major areas: Cash Accounting and Reporting Directorate; Financial and Budget Reports Directorate; Accounting Systems and Standards Directorate, and the Government-Wide Accounting Modernization Project. These areas have the responsibility to develop accounting policy and standards, set reporting requirements, and create the mechanisms Federal Program Agencies (FPAs) use to improve the ways in which they manage their accounting and reporting activities. In performance of these responsibilities, the accuracy, integrity, and security of governmentwide financial information are thus ensured. This infrastructure results in the ultimate accumulation and publication of governmentwide financial information.

GWA accomplishes its mission by providing, operating, and overseeing financial resources and systems as well as setting standards for data integrity and reporting. GWA's primary customers are the FPAs. However, as mandated by law, GWA also serves the Congress, the President, and the public. GWA's work allows FPAs to handle financial transactions necessary for the measurement and success of their programs and to provide accounting guidance and reporting mechanisms to comply with the law.

Now, let me talk a little about each of the areas and the important role each plays in our success.

The Financial Reports Division (FRD) of GWA is primarily responsible for the preparation and publication of the annual Financial Report of the United States Government (FR). 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. FRD compiles the FR using the accrual basis of accounting, as opposed to the cash basis used in the President's Budget. The accrual basis of accounting provides definitive answers to how the government's resources are used and what future commitments of resources the government has made while the cash basis concentrates on current period receipts and outlays only.



The issuance of the FR represents a culmination of the year-long activities of FRD. The preparation process begins in early January when FRD lays out its plans for the year and meets with the auditors from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to begin working towards addressing their audit recommendations. Amongst many tasks, FRD also monitors and collects quarterly intragovernmental data from the agencies and then follows up to resolve any discrepancies prior to the year-end; determines new reporting requirements; coordinates modifications to the Governmentwide Financial Report System; and updates guidance to the agencies. The bulk of agency reporting is received in the middle of November giving the FRD staff very little time to compile and prepare the final FR for audit by GAO.

The Budget Reports Division (BRD) prepares and publishes governmentwide reports on the financial condition of the Federal Government and reports on the budget execution results. While BRD ensures there is consistency among the various financial reports, including the Monthly Treasury Statement, the quarterly Treasury Bulletin, and the Combined Statement of Receipts and Outlays, a major goal of this process is to verify that the reports are both accurate and timely.

The Division also works closely with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and Federal Program Agencies (FPAs) to develop operational methodologies and standards that ensure agreement with and compatibility to OMB and Treasury budgetary data. The Division provides guidance and assistance to FPAs in resolving accounting and reporting issues. Finally, BRD draws (i.e. completes) all appropriation warrants and other funding authorizations, including non-expenditure transfer authorizations; assigns official Treasury account symbols and titles to various agency programs; and centrally maintain funds control over all approved Congressional appropriations.

Some of the significant accomplishments BRD completed this past year include the warranting of across the board (ATB) reductions and continuing resolutions (CR) thru the OMB MAX System. In an effort to streamline the governmentwide ATB reduction and year-long CR exercises, BRD's warranting processes have been converted from a paper-based operation to a web-based application, utilizing MAX. As a result, all FPAs will now perform these functions in the OMB MAX system and BRD will no longer require written requests from the FPAs for ATB or yearlong CR warrants. As the business owner of the Federal Agencies' Centralized Trial-Balance System (FACTS II) system, BRD closely monitors the data input. The FPAs submit budgetary trial balances to FACTS II each quarter and the trial balances must pass

(Continued on page 7)



In Remembrance of Cynthia Louise Johnson

1953-2008

On July 28, Cynthia Louise Johnson, FMS's liaison between the U.S. Treasury and the Federal Reserve Board, died of cancer at her home in Falls Church, VA. Ms. Johnson was survived by her brother. Born in Alameda, California, Cindy grew up in Suitland, Maryland and was a graduate of the University of Maryland. She received her master's degree in government administration from George Washington University.

Serving as a pioneer in the field of Banking and Cash Management at FMS in the 1980s, Cindy played an instrumental role in researching the tools and techniques that were used at that time in the private sector to improve the management of funds and determine the applicability for use in the federal government. Cindy, affectionately known as "Ms. Lockbox," led the effort to establish the Treasury's first Lockbox Network. This was a network of five banks geographically located to provide increased availability on government deposits by minimizing mail, processing, and collection float. This was the first time that the Treasury solicited proposals nationwide to establish a collection system. Consequently, millions of dollars were saved as a result of lockbox processing. Now, billions of dollars are collected annually through the lockbox network.

In the early 90s, Cindy played an active role in designing, developing and implementing the first CA\$HLINK system, a worldwide cash concentration system which is now the legacy system. This system enhanced collection and depositary services for agencies by:

- Integrating the reporting of deposits for seven major collection systems;
- Shifting deposit reporting from voice to an electronic basis;
- Streamlining the funds transfer and reconciliation process;



- Accelerating the flow of information for investment decisions by one day;
- Providing agencies on-line access to all deposits processed by financial institutions to accelerate reconciliation of deposit transactions;
- Streamlining bank compensation and reporting processes.

Cindy next tackled the Federal Tax Deposit System — a system that encompassed paper tax deposits received in 15,000 financial institutions. Working with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), she led a series of automation tests which helped determine the direction of the redesign effort. Cindy and the IRS also successfully tested the use of the Automated Clearing House (ACH) to electronically collect these taxes. Through her efforts, much experience was gained and ideas generated that ultimately resulted in the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS).

Cindy's most recent position at FMS was as the Federal Reserve System Liaison. Always taking her work most seriously, she was truly committed to doing her very

best at all times in the handling of every issue and detail between the FMS and the Federal Reserve. To many people in the Federal Reserve System, Cindy Johnson, was the face of FMS and she represented all of us exceptionally.

Personally, what we cherished about Cindy was exactly who she was. A kind-hearted soul who was always more concerned about everyone else other than herself. Cindy had a unique gift to deflect people's inquiries about her right back to them. Always asking "How are you doing?" "How are your dogs?" "How was your weekend?" or inquiring about your family member who she had connected with over the years. Cindy did this because she genuinely cared about people. Sir Winston Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give." Cindy Johnson lived a most successful life doing the work she loved and by giving of herself to everyone around her. She was truly a one-of-a-kind person who will be deeply missed by everyone in our FMS family.



FMS Recognizes 12 Financial Institution as "Go Direct" Champions

(Continued from page 1)

In addition to the financial institutions accepting the awards, representatives from bank and credit union associations and the Federal Reserve were also present.



Tier One First Place Champions from JPMorgan Chase (From left) Gregory Schaus, Judy Tillman, Commissioner of FMS, and Brian Feehely. (FMS Photo/Teri Hoehn)

The "Champions" ceremony coincided with an important milestone in the **Go Direct** campaign—the enrollment of two million recipients in direct deposit, representing a savings to taxpayers of \$178 million over the next 10 years. "The **Go Direct** campaign benefits both Treasury and financial institutions," said Commissioner Judith Tillman. She added that direct deposit has saved taxpayers \$6.6 billion since 1986, but increasing the use of direct deposit is also beneficial to financial institutions. Direct deposit helps reduce operational and paper-based transaction costs, increases customer and member base, and enhances customer and member loyalty. All of these factors help boost the bottom line, making direct deposit a smart effort for both the Treasury and financial institutions.

Go Direct "Champions" is Treasury's way to recognize the outstanding financial institutions that go the extra mile in

encouraging their customers or members to sign up for direct deposit of their federal benefits. The most successful financial institutions distribute **Go Direct**

materials in their bank branches, strongly advocate direct deposit when customers come in to open an account, and some even offer financial incentives to their customer service representatives. A total of 145 financial institutions—representing more than 27,000 branches nationwide—participated in **Go Direct** "Champions" this year. This was an increase over the first year, when 133 financial institutions—representing 25,000 branches—signed up to

take part in the program. Treasury is excited by this level of involvement and by the potential to reach the 10.5 million Americans who still receive their Social Security payments by paper check, which costs \$.88 more per transaction than direct deposit.

The "Champions" program measured Federal Automated Clearing House transaction activity for participating banks and credit unions over an eight-month period ending May 31, 2008. Participating financial institutions were divided into four tiers based on their size, assets, and number of retail branches. Within each tier, three financial institutions were recognized.

Tier One Champions 12 Participating Banks

First Place: JP Morgan Chase of New York, NY

Second Place: Washington Mutual of Seattle, WA

Third Place: Citibank of New York, NY

Tier Two Champions 9 Participating Banks

First Place: Woodforest National Bank of The Woodlands, TX

Second Place: Guaranty Bank of Milwaukee, WI

Third Place: First National Bank Texas of Killeen, TX

Tier Three Champions 27 Participating Banks and Credit Unions

First Place: R-G Premier Bank of Puerto Rico

Second Place: Scotiabank of Puerto Rico



Tier Two First Place Champions from Woodforest National Bank (From left) Judy Tillman, Commissioner of FMS, Michael White and Jessica Ramirez, Fiscal Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Ken Carfine. (FMS Photo/Teri Hoehn)

(Continued on page 5)



(Continued from page 4)



Tier Three First Place Champion from R-G Premier Bank (From left) Judy Tillman, Commissioner of FMS, Carlos Mantaras, Fiscal Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Ken Carfine. (FMS Photo/Teri Hoehn)

Treasury's management of the government's finances includes responsibility for disbursing 85 percent of all federal payments, as well as collections, cash management, financial statements, and debt collection through FMS. Judy Tillman, FMS Commissioner, said: "Go Direct represents good stewardship of government resources. With a daily cash flow of approximately \$60 billion, it is imperative that Treasury improve the efficiency and management of payments and collections. Among other initiatives that we are undertaking to make those improvements, we need to continue to move as many federal payments as possible to electronic delivery. After all, we know that a check payment costs the government more, and we also know that direct deposit is a much better choice for most Americans."

Third Place: American Chartered Bank of Schaumburg, IL

Tier Four Champions
97 Participating Banks and Credit Unions

First Place: Cooperativa de Ahorro y Credito Roosevelt Roads of Puerto Rico

Second Place: Interstate Credit Union of Jesup, GA

Third Place: Century Heritage Federal Credit Union of Pittsburgh, PA

In addition to these 12 "Champions," 47 participating financial institutions also performed better than the industry average in their respective tiers. More than 800 financial institutions are involved in the overall Go Direct campaign to inform federal benefit recipients about the advantages of direct deposit and to help them begin receiving payments electronically.



Tier Four First Place Champion from Cooperativa de Ahorro y Credito Roosevelt Roads of Puerto Rico (From left) Judy Tillman, Commissioner of FMS, Maria Esquelin Millan, Fiscal Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Ken Carfine. (FMS Photo/Teri Hoehn)

Stored Value Card Program Surpasses \$2 Billion Mark

Treasury's Stored Value Card (SVC) Program surpassed a major milestone last month when the value of electronic transactions processed exceeded the \$2B mark. This achievement took place approximately 15 months after the program passed the \$1B mark—a level that took ten years to reach.

The Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force each rely on the SVC Program to reduce or eliminate cash in areas which are remote, dangerous, or difficult to service, and allows them to focus on their primary military missions. Cardholders benefit from increased security, flexibility, and convenience.

Although usage and transaction volume is heavily dependent on the number of armed forces personnel deployed, continued growth is forecast as replacement units leverage existing infrastructure and capabilities, and new organizations evaluate the Programs' potential to address their cash management needs.

For more information on the SVC Program, contact Graham Mackenzie at 202-874-1845.





DOT Transports Cash Flows into the Electronic Age

By JoDee DeVillier, General Revenue Collection Division

When the Department of Transportation (DOT) was informed last fall that three of their lockboxes were targeted for closure, they viewed the news as an opportunity for change. After John Schmid, Financial Program Specialist with the General Revenue Collection's lockbox team, coordinated a successful conference call with the leadership at DOT, they began looking at how they could make their Department's collections more efficient.

Choosing to move their lockbox collections to Pay.gov and Paper Check Conversion Over The Counter (PCC OTC), DOT assigned a central point of contact for each of the three agencies involved. Ed Ramos, Systems Accountant, with the Office of the Secretary, Financial

Management, led the Federal Highway Administration, Maritime Administration, and Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration through the closing of their lockboxes, the creation of



twelve new Pay.gov forms and the necessary PCC OTC accounts. There was tremendous effort on the part of everyone involved to meet the strict end of fiscal year deadline. With DOT successfully submitting their documents on time or early, the Pay.gov team was also able to begin working with DOT on another form for their Office of the

Secretary before the three lockboxes closed.

DOT's first form went live on Pay.gov September 16, 2008. The remaining forms went live on September 23, 25 and 29. The first processed Pay.gov transaction will begin on October 15, 2008. Pay.gov anticipates 23,462 transactions annually for DOT with an estimated associated cash flow of \$18,471,993 from the twelve forms created.

For more information about how Federal Program Agencies (FPAs) can utilize Pay.gov to improve their collections, please contact JoDee DeVillier, Financial Program Specialist, at 202-874-6920 or visit www.Pay.gov.

Good-bye FEDTAX II; Hello EFTPS

By Russell Kuehn, Tax Collection Division

FEDTAX II, the system many federal agencies use to transmit tax deposits and forms, will be decommissioned in 2009. The Financial Management Service (FMS) will assist agencies in moving these functions to the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS).

EFTPS, a free service of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and FMS, launched in 1996. Since its inception, EFTPS has processed more than 780 million transactions totaling more than \$18 trillion. Many federal agencies already use EFTPS.

This transition is part of the larger FMS Collections and Cash Management Modernization (CCMM) strategy, which aims to reduce the number of systems and processes and eliminate duplication of data, applications, products, interfaces, and technologies. Federal agencies will be able to complete the following tasks using EFTPS.gov:

- Electronically file 941 tax forms.
- Fill out and print 945 and CT-1 tax forms.
- Make payments for 941, 945, CT-1, 720, and 1042 tax forms.

Agencies will be able to make payments to settle the same day by meeting the 8:00 PM ET deadline or by scheduling payments up to 120 days in advance. Once agencies begin using EFTPS.gov, up to sixteen months of filing and payment history can be viewed.

Any arm (i.e. divisions, departments, units, etc.) of the federal government will be able to enroll in EFTPS as a federal agency. To do this, agencies need their Agency Location Code (ALC), agency name, and employer identification number (EIN) as well as the agency's contact information. All enrollment information will be mailed to the contact address provided.

EFTPS customer service is available around the clock via toll-free numbers. Customer service provides status on EFTPS payments, supports enrollment problems, and provides general Web site assistance.

Existing FEDTAX II information will not be available after the system is decommissioned. Agencies will need to save these data on another medium (paper, disk, etc.). The historical information may include: enrollment information, payment activity, filing activity, and wage data.

More information about the transition will be provided at both the EFTPS (www.eftps.gov) and FEDTAX II (www.fedtaxii.com) Web sites.





GWA Designs Initiatives to Improve Efficiency and Effectiveness

(Continued from page 2)

several accounting edits before FACTS II will accept them. In addition to assisting the agencies, BRD uses the FACTS II data to complete the Combined Statement of Receipts, Outlays and Balances. The Combined Statement presents budgetary results and is recognized as Treasury's official publication of receipts and outlays. This year, BRD issued the new suspense "F" account discontinuance and waiver policy (Treasury Financial Manual [TFM] bulletin 2007-07 and 2007-09), to reevaluate the use of Budget Clearing Account F3875 and Undistributed Intragovernmental Payments F3885. FMS's analysis resulted in a reduction of "F" account usage of 3875 and 3885 by 75% with only 90 accounts remaining. Finally, the printing of the Monthly Treasury Statement (MTS) has changed dramatically. Due to internet availability by a majority of users and an effort to reduce paper use, effective July 2008 reporting, paper copies of the MTS will be distributed only upon request. An electronic version of the most current MTS will be accessible at 2pm on the eighth business day of each month, via the Financial Management Service (FMS) website. In addition to posting the most recent MTS on the website, previous MTS' are archived dating to FY 1998 and historical "published" surplus and deficit figures are available dating to 1981.

GWA's Accounting Systems Division (ASD) is responsible for building and maintaining systems, including our central accounting system that supports the GWA business line. Our personnel sit co-mingled with personnel from the U.S. Standard General Ledger (USSGL) Division by design. For our systems to operate successfully, we need to be familiar with the accounting profession, our customers' needs, and modern system development techniques. ASD acts as GWA's change agent, pushing new and more efficient ways of doing business.

Recently, we have been working on the Financial Information Reporting Standardization (FIRST) initiative. This system will collect agency data in a streamlined way and provide an

up-front edit capability, preventing some of the inconsistent data FMS receives from entering our systems. This effort will streamline four of our current reporting systems into one entry point. While doing this, we will provide instant feedback to agencies so they make corrections. The first part of the FIRST initiative is up and running.

The U.S. Standard General Ledger Division is responsible for maintenance and oversight of the USSGL. The USSGL Division works closely with OMB and the agencies to facilitate government wide accounting and reporting using the USSGL chart of accounts. The USSGL Division continues to improve its process for updating the USSGL document through the implementation of a



database-driven application the United States Standard General Ledger Interactive Database (SID).

With the transition of the USSGL TFM process to SID, the USSGL Division ensures consistency of the data throughout the USSGL document. Additionally, because of combining SID with a search engine on the USSGL website, users have a new and effective tool for finding USSGL information. In the next few years, SID will become the front-end to FIRST, combining FACTS I, FACTS II and Governmentwide Financial Report System (GFRS), thus ensuring consistency of USSGL data requirements among these data collection systems. The USSGL Division is also responsible for maintenance and oversight of the TFM.

In support of governmentwide financial management standardization, GWA has successfully

completed an important step in the first phase of updating from department regular codes to the new Agency Identifier of the Common Governmentwide Accounting Classification (CGAC) Structure Treasury Account Symbol (TAS). Working with OMB, FMS sent a Chief Financial Officer (CFO) letter with a list of expenditure accounts on May 1, 2008, asking CFOs to review and provide comments on the new codes by July 1, 2008. All of the comments supported FMS's efforts to standardize financial management data governmentwide.

In support of the CGAC effort, FMS, OMB, BPD and the affected program agencies decided on July 1, 2008 to change the Treasury Managed Trust Fund (TMTF) codes from the Treasury Department code to the program agency codes. This will take effect on October 1, 2008. This change will not affect current relationships or reporting responsibilities for TMTF.

The Cash Accounting Division (CAD) maintains and controls the collection of data to ensure the integrity of accounting and reporting of cash related activities by the financial institutions and FPAs. The success of this major responsibility has allowed Treasury to continue to achieve a clean audit opinion of the U.S. Government's cash.

CAD also provides support for the development and enhancement of systems relating to the accounting and reporting of cash transactions. An example of this is the Cash Accounting and Reporting Modernization Activity (CARMA) initiative, for which CAD played the major role in completion of the first phase in June 2008. CARMA is one of many projects moving toward Treasury's goal to improve the quality and integrity of financial information and establish uniform standards that will better manage the U.S. Government's systems and daily operations.

The Cash Forecasting Division (CFD) provides program support to the Treasury's Office of the Fiscal Assistant Secretary (OFAS) in forecasting,

(Continued on page 8)



(Continued from page 7)

monitoring and managing the Treasury's cash and debt position.

The CFD staff coordinates and participates in the Daily Cash Position Management Conference Call conducted every banking day at 9:00 am EST. The purpose of the call is to maintain an approximate \$5 billion daily target balance in the Treasury General Account held at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York through investments or withdrawals to the Treasury Tax & Loan accounts. In addition, the staff prepares the Daily Treasury Statement (DTS), which summarizes the U.S. Treasury's cash and debt operations for the federal government. CFD also serves as the business owner of the CASHTRACK system, a centralized cash management and reporting system that provides data to Treasury for use in its daily cash management activities.

In the past issue of The Financial Connection, we talked about the GWA Modernization Project (GWAMP) and its benefits. Under the new "GWA way," agencies classify financial transactions when they are initiated, eliminating the need to classify them on the Statement of Transactions at month-end. Use of both the Treasury Account Symbol (TAS) and Business Event Type Code (BETC) will ensure that transactions are processed correctly by FMS and are easily identifiable on the Account Statement. The final result: FMS is now reporting their Intra-Governmental Payment and Collection (IPAC) transactions for them, eliminating the need to include them on their end of month reporting. Moreover, since the classification information was included on their IPAC transactions instead of separately at month-end, this also eliminates any IPAC Statement of Differences. GWA is working with other areas within FMS to incorporate the payments and collections activities in the future.

In 2008 only, we have implemented nine GWA Reporters for a total of 19 live GWA Treasury Disbursing Office (TDO) Payments and IPAC Reporters. We currently have 16 Agency Location Codes (ALCs) in the Parallel Reporting phase (testing). The Internal Revenue Service, Defense Intelligence Agency and the U.S. Agency for International Development are some of the agencies enjoying the benefits of being a GWA "player".

The latest system release was implemented to accept collection

transactions. It addresses the capability to capture deposit reporting information for collection transactions which contain GWA Classification Data identified as valid TAS/BETC and/or Classification Keys (CKey), which affect the Fund Balance with Treasury (FBWT).

This release is a major milestone for GWA Modernization Project's goal of streamlining the collection and reporting of financial data and improving the processes used to disseminate financial data and reports. The GWA Modernization Project has converted all of their system interfaces which support TDO ALCs, so they are now ready to accept data which has been classified upfront from the many payment and collection feeder systems. Once the payment and collection feeder systems are able to accommodate upfront classification by allowing for a TAS/BETC or CKey to be entered at the initiation of a transaction, agencies that elect to become GWA Reporters for all three interfaces will be fully implemented and no longer need to report SF 224 except for reclassification purposes.

GWA is also in the process of transitioning all FMS 224 users and ALCs from GOALS II over to GWA's new Partial FMS 224, eliminating the need for a separate dial-up PC and secure-ID cards; and providing access thru the current web-based GWA environment. This conversion began on June 1, 2008 (for May's reporting) and we plan to have all FMS 224 ALCs converted by September 2008 (for August reporting.) Due to the FMS 224 Conversion and the Agency Outreach efforts, we have a total of 298 ALCs using GWA's Partial 224 (including 11 Reporter ALCs). This is approximately 596 users.

Treasury Agency Services is a critical part of the GWA area with a mission to improve the quality of federal government financial management by assisting federal agencies with their financial management problems. Although Treasury Agency Services was established in 1991, it became part of GWA in 2007 and offers financial management advisory services (on a reimbursable basis) to any federal entity requesting assistance. During FY 2008, Treasury Agency Services is assisting the National Security Agency, the Central Intelligence Agency, the

U.S. Coast Guard, the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs and the Department of Transportation's Pipeline Hazardous Material Agency.

Treasury Agency Services also offers financial management training that assists agencies in complying with Treasury and OMB financial guidance and coordinates the annual Treasury Financial Management Conference and the annual Year-End Closing seminar. In addition, Treasury Agency Services can provide training services at the agencies' location provided at least 15 students attend.

As you can see, GWA has extremely complex and far reaching responsibilities related to the accounting function and financial management of the federal government. You can also see that GWA is in the midst of several far reaching initiatives designed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness by which the federal government carries out its financial management and accounting functions.

Make Plans to Attend the 2nd Annual GWA DAY

Today, Tomorrow and the Future

October 20, 2008

GSA Auditorium
Washington, DC
(Between 7th and D Street)

8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Tentative Agenda:

- GWA Modernization Project Update
- Becoming a GWA Player
- Treasury Account Symbol and Business Event Type Code (TAS/BETC) Policy
- Provisional Account Statement and Reclass
- Payments-Secure Payment System
- Collections-Transaction Reporting System
- FIRST
- NTDO Reporting

For more information or to register, please visit the GWA website (Training and Events) at www.fms.treas.gov/gwa/training.html.