

Kelly's Corner

April 5, 2013



New Travel Contractor

The Department of Energy's electronic travel system, GovTrip, is currently managed by Northrop Grumman. Northrop Grumman recently decided to discontinue providing this service after the current contract expires. As a result, a new system called Concur Government Edition (CGE) will replace GovTrip.

CGE is a new subsidiary created under the parent company Concur Technologies, Inc. Concur Technologies offers electronic solutions for business travel and expense management and currently serves 60 percent of the Fortune 500 companies and operates in more than 100 countries.

GSA is working with Concur to customize its current software to fit the government's needs. For example, the Federal Travel Regulations were incorporated into the system to notify management of any violations. GSA and CGE signed the task order for the new contract in March 2012.

HQ expects one year for full implementation with a target date of April 2014. The STARS team at HQ's will work with CGE to create all of the system interfaces for the entire agency, and Oak Ridge will be responsible for modifying the system to fit the needs and preferences of Oak Ridge management. This will include user profiles, available functionality, levels of access, funding codes, and custom reports.

CGE offers many new features that are not available in GovTrip such as embedded TMC's, automatically created vouchers, and electronic receipts. CGE also offers enhanced reporting and transparency. Online booking will be available, but access to this feature is limited to the travel arrangers. The new system allows smart phone access to itineraries and the ability to manage and track expenses.

As implementation progresses, training and reference material will be provided.

Science Management System Annual Statistics

I wanted to take a moment to recognize the annual Science Management System (SCMS) statistics that were compiled last week.

I am very proud to announce that the system recorded high usage across the Science complex.

During the past 13 months, SCMS recorded 129,118 hits, 520 employees accessed it monthly, 185 products were edited, 489 reviews were completed by Management

System Owners, and 112 SC-personnel facilitated revisions. Currently, SCMS maintains 1,309 products.

The recent reviews of Building 3019 and the draft corrective actions plan noted the importance of SCMS and the crucial need to keep it current to reflect the reorganization, along with any changed roles and responsibilities. If regularly updated, SCMS is a great tool to ensure formality and clarity in our processes and procedures as we accomplish the agency's missions.

"Excellence is not a skill. It is an attitude."

~Ralph Marston



New Faces

Michael Wilson

Michael joined ORO's Training and Development Group in April 2013. He grew up in the small eastern New Mexico town of Clovis. After graduating high school, he joined the U.S. Navy serving 23 years before retiring in 2008. During his naval career, he worked as a stationary engineer operating and maintaining steam plants and as a career counselor helping others to advance their careers. He was deployed to the Persian Gulf for both Gulf Wars as well as working for the NATO command supporting operations in Bosnia. Michael went to work for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation as a human resource development specialist in October 2008 in Sacramento, CA.

He earned a bachelor's degree in business management and two master's degrees, one in human resources management and a second in career counseling. Michael is married and has two grown children and a granddaughter. He enjoys landscape photography and travel, particularly national parks across the country.



Pam Dodd



Pam joined the ORO Procurement and Contracts Division's Acquisition Services Branch in March 2013. She was born in Murfreesboro, TN. Pam began her federal career while serving full time in the Tennessee Army National Guard in 1985. She attended Nashville State Community College (receiving an associate's degree in computer accounting); Troy University (receiving a bachelor's degree in resources management), and American Graduate University (receiving a master's degree in acquisition management). Previously, she worked for the Department of the Army, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Defense Intelligence Agency.

Pam is married and has a furry son named Jack (cat - Savannah breed). Her family enjoys camping and fishing and is looking forward to fishing for trout in the Clinch River.

Sandy Smith

I've mentioned Sandy Smith's work with ORO several times and offered employees the opportunity to talk with him.

If anyone has not spoken with him, but would like to do so, please contact Adolphus Brown by COB April 12 to get on the schedule.

DOE Ombudsman

As I said at Wednesday's all-hands meeting, DOE Ombudsman Rita Franklin will be in Oak Ridge May 1.

As soon as she advises us how she wants to schedule discussions with employees, I will let you know. I am working on logistics to set up meeting rooms off site for employees to have open and frank discussions. Again, I encourage all interested employees to speak with her.

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On the Horizon

Strategic Integrated Procurement Enterprise System (STRIPES) Version 6 Testing

As part of the testing team for the rollout of STRIPES 6, ORO participated in a demonstration on March 25, which discussed the scenarios that are to be tested and the process for providing feedback.

Testing will begin on April 1, and continues through May 8, with bi-weekly progress meetings.

Target date for implementation of Version 6 is scheduled for May.

FYI

Science-Wide Directives Point of Contact Conference Call Set

A Science (SC)-wide Directives Point of Contact (DPC) conference call is set for April 17 and an agenda is being developed along with a RevCom Survey.

SC has at least one annual SC-DPC conference call.

All DPC's should hold the date and plan to be on the call.

Additional information will be provided closer to the date.

Safety Tips

- Always use handrails going up or down stairs.
- Distracted walking can be as dangerous as distracted driving. Keep your focus.
- Housekeeping is an integral part of our safety program. Good housekeeping reduces the potential for mishaps, injuries, and accidents, improves morale, and makes operations more efficient.
- Watch for wet spots on the floor - spilled food or liquids, rainwater drips, etc., on the floor should be reported and/or cleaned up on the spot.

Continuing Resolution

The U.S House of Representatives has passed the continuing resolution bill, and the bill has been sent to the president for signature. The bill will fund the government for the next six months. Also, the House and U.S. Senate will likely make significant headway in establishing funding priorities for the coming year by adopting their FY 2014 budget resolutions this week before they recess. The House and Senate are both in recess March 25 through April 8, 2013. The House is expected to reconvene on April 9, and the Senate is expected to reconvene on April 8. HQ continues to work on releasing partial funding for the rest of the year, and we should be in pretty good shape in the Program Direction account, which contains federal salaries.

Federal Building Update

I'd like to provide a quick follow-up to our All-Hands meeting earlier this week at which GSA talked about the federal building. I felt it was important for GSA to be there even though we learned the night before that they still had some work to do in the Federal Building. I wanted them to be able to answer any questions you had, regardless of the state of their project's completion. As we said, when they are finished with the abatement work, we will have them back to address any questions or concerns you might have. I want you to know that your safety and well-being remain my top priority and that I will hold GSA accountable for their contractor's performance. Rest assured, we will not take the building back under our control until GSA has demonstrated that the work is complete and the building is safe.