



DFAS St. Louis

**American Federation of Government
Employees
(AFGE) Local 905**

President

Mr. Blair M. Weller

AFGE Local 905



- AFGE Local 905 represents over 300 bargaining unit employees.
- AFGE Local 905 is the exclusive representative organization for DFAS St. Louis, and also represents U.S. Army Security Assistance Command (USASAC) co-located within DFAS St. Louis.
- AFGE Local 905 has over 50% voluntary dues paying members through payroll deduction.
- AFGE Local 905 has been in existence since the field site opened in 1996 and is a partner with management in the operation of DFAS St. Louis.

AFGE Points or Concerns



- AFGE Local 905 supports reasonable efforts to economize and increase efficiency.
- The Union has partnered with management to reduce the floor space used in Bldg. 110 by moving out of the basement and consolidating virtually all of the Accounting Business Line on the second floor.
- We have further worked to cut costs with the reduction of paper by use of the scanning documents initiative.
- AFGE Local 905 works hard to support our men and women in military service and the War on Terror.

AFGE Points or Concerns (cont)



- Standard Operation and Maintenance Army Research & Development Systems (SOMARDS), is the primary accounting system and is unique to the Army Materiel Command (AMC) which we support.
- “If a soldier eats it, wears it, rides in it, flies in it or shoots it, it came from AMC” quote from General Paul J. Kern, former commander of AMC.
- SOMARDS requires highly specialized training. We have years of expertise that would be lost if this site is closed.
- Because SOMARDS requires unique talents to make it function the Centralized Directorate of Information Management (CDOIM) office was created. Once again, this expertise will be lost if this site is closed.
- SOMARDS requires natural language mark ups to make changes which is the responsibility of our systems accountants. These positions require a year in order to be fully trained.

AFGE Points or Concerns (cont)



- While there are plans to modify SOMARDS there is no realistic near term plan to make this happen. General Funds Enterprise Business System (GFEBS) is scheduled to replace SOMARDS, however, best estimates are more than two years away.
- While we support system upgrades we must be cautious with SOMARDS. We should have learned from our experience with the Logistics Modernization Program (LMP) and the Defense Procurement Payment System (DPPS). LMP has been in the making for five (5) years and still has enough flaws that our customers do not want to use it. DPPS had to be scrapped altogether after spending \$16 million dollars in testing.
- Disruption of these processes may create great turmoil in the near future, a time when we can least afford it because of the current war efforts. Closing this site before SOMARDS is replaced is putting the cart before the horse.

AFGE Points or Concerns (cont)



- Counting USASAC and contractor employees from Kelly and Bearing Point, we have close to 400 people directly affected by closure of this field site.
- Over 2,000 DoD Jobs are being closed out within a ten (10) mile radius of DFAS St. Louis.
- Under the last BRAC, four thousand five hundred (4,500) DoD jobs were lost within the Federal Center complex. The Aviation and Transportation Command (ATCOM) moved to Alabama. There will be virtually no DoD jobs left in the St. Louis area after this BRAC.
- St. Louis is still recovering from the last BRAC with ATCOM because of the economic impact and loss of jobs.

AFGE Points or Concerns (cont)



- We have spent a great deal of time, not to mention money in making LMP function properly. Again, LMP is a one of a kind system where expertise will be lost with closure.
- After winning the A-76 contractor vs. government job competition for Foreign Military Sales (FMS) the field site established a Most Efficient Organization (MEO) which will no longer be feasible with our closure.
- We have a successful working partnership with the U. S. Army Security Assistance Command (USASAC), which is co-located with us. This relationship will no longer exist if this site is closed.
- Our Vendor Pay and Travel sections are second to none.

AFGE Points or Concerns (cont)



- We are concerned about strategic redundancy when consolidating into too few sites. While we may not need over twenty sites, is three too few?
- Are the cost savings what we anticipate? Because of the aging workforce, there will be many more retirements than anticipated.
- We know from the experience of the ATCOM closing that the expense far exceeded expectations by as much as three times.
- Does the taxpayer save money because we move from a GSA building to a DoD building? The cost simply shifts from DoD to GSA. The buildings in this complex will still have to be maintained.
- AMC does have, and needs, a more complex accounting system SOMARDS because of the detail of their records.

AFGE Points or Concerns (cont)



- We have an experienced, educated and dedicated work force which continues to meet virtually all goals, many of which at first glance seem quite impossible to achieve.
- If all our expertise is lost, who will train those who are left?
- It seems as if St. Louis is being hit particularly hard. Should the BRAC be delayed 2 to 3 years because of the war?
- Could the Human Resources Command (HRC) be consolidated at the Federal Center on Goodfellow? High security and 650,000 sq. ft. of available space.
- If closed, should DFAS St. Louis be at the end of the timeline rather than the beginning?

AFGE Points or Concerns (cont)



- Recommendation: Reconsider DFAS St. Louis during a future BRAC.