

**Inside the Air Force - 09/07/2012**

*System switch still on track for Sept. 2013 completion*

## **AFNet Techs Finding Ways to Boost Efficiency of System Migration**

---

Posted on InsideDefense.com: September 6, 2012

---

Air Force technicians have recently implemented a tool that is making the service's switch to a robust new computer system more efficient.

As the Air Force continues its service-wide migration to the Air Force Network (AFNet), Air Force Network Integration Center (AFNIC) technicians have found that a process called Remote User Connection allows migration teams to move a larger batch of accounts at one time.

In a Sept. 4 email to *Inside the Air Force*, Lt. Col. James Cunningham of Air Force Space Command, said that while the Air Force used to migrate email accounts overnight or on weekends in blocks of 1,200 to 1,500 users, RUC allows up to 5,000 user accounts to be switched at a time. He said the tool has increased the success rate of these account switches from 85 percent to 97 percent.

"Our console teams can 'copy and switch' a larger volume of user accounts, whereas the original method required a challenging process to continuously synchronize email in the legacy network with email in the AFNet for many weeks at a time . . ." Cunningham said. "Our goal is to be as transparent to the users as possible with the least operational impact and we are pleased with the improvement in our success rates with the RUC process."

The Air Force, as of Sept. 4, has migrated 261,000 of its 845,000 users spread across 418 locations, which include main operating bases and geographically separated units. Those 261,000 users are from 105 different locations including Air Mobility Command, Air Force Reserve Command and Pacific Air Forces. Air Force Global Strike Command should be completed by the end of this month and Cunningham said the Air Force is on track to complete migration by September 2013.

Still, Cunningham said there have been some obstacles to the migration process, including the challenge to keep pace with infrastructure support as the migration moves forward. Delays in design and acquisition and other technical issues have slowed some of the work, he said.

"As a result, we have maintained a tremendous amount of flexibility with our base migration schedule and have received wonderful support from the [major commands] and bases," Cunningham said.

The goal of the AFNet implementation is to improve communication and visibility between Air Force installations. Once the migration is finished, Air Force cyber personnel will have greater ability to pinpoint threats and gauge their seriousness. It will also allow for simpler information-sharing with other military services facing similar threats and with intelligence agencies.

The Air Force asked for \$125 million to fund the AFNet migration in its fiscal year 2013 budget request. The House approved the request, as did the Senate Appropriations Committee in its review of the FY-13 defense spending bill. All four congressional defense committees have completed their mark-ups and the House has passed both its authorization and appropriation bills. The Senate has not yet taken action on either bill. -- *Courtney Albon*