

New Software Helps Commanders Track VISA Cards

WASHINGTON (AFP) — In much the same way the speed of electronic checking eliminated the practice of writing a "hot" check, the Electronic Account Government Ledger System, known as EAGLS, is predicted to stop the practice of using the government travel card for seemingly innocent, yet unofficial purchases.

Initiated by NationsBank for the government travel card program, EAGLS is an online, real-time Internet-capable, point-and-click software program that can provide commanders immediate access to individual accounts. It also allows them to track transactions on an almost daily basis.

This is light-years ahead of the former paper-based system that provided a monthly print-out of each cardholder's activities, according to Michael Weber, program manager for the Air Force travel card program.

"EAGLS can provide information on transactions less than 24 hours after a card is used," he said.

According to Weber, eliminating abuse through better tracking is just one of the many ways

EAGLS is going to help commanders, agency program coordinators and cardholders better manage the government travel card program. The ability to perform immediate, online maintenance is another.

"For example," he said, "if a card holder's ATM limit needs to be raised or lowered, the change will be effective overnight after the agency program coordinator types in the information." In much the same way, the commander can also limit spending by card abusers and turn cards off and on electronically.

While EAGLS is currently only available to commanders and their agency program coordinators, Weber said it ultimately would be available to every cardholder.

This will give cardholders the convenience of accessing NationsBank newsletters, checking their balance, and even printing out a copy of the monthly statement before it arrives in the mail.

Editor's Note: This information, originally published by American Forces Information Service, is in the public domain at <http://www.af.mil/news> on the World Wide Web.