

Data Mining – Change to Recommended Action Options

Background:

Any mis-use of DoD Purchase Cards detracts from the integrity of our Procurement Operations in DoD. The Data Mining application suite helps to detect such mis-use by “flagging” transactions which potentially reveal mis-use. All “flagged” Data Mining at-risk transactions are required to be adjudicated (closed) by the cognizant Authorizing/Billing Official (A/BO). Through the use of the Data Mining Case Manager, the A/BO answers a series of questions regarding the transaction that are recorded within DM. In order to close the case, the A/BO must select a Case Disposition based on the replies to the questions. The following Case Disposition options are available for the A/BO to successfully close the case:

- Contract Payment – No Recommended Disciplinary Action Required.
- Under A/BO Review – No Recommended Disciplinary Action Required.
- Valid Transaction – No Recommended Disciplinary Action Required.
- Administrative Discrepancy – Disciplinary Action Required.
- Misuse – Disciplinary Action Required.
- Suspected Fraud – Disciplinary Action Required.
- Abuse – Disciplinary Action Required.
- Lost – No Recommended Disciplinary Action Required.
- Stolen – No Recommended Disciplinary Action Required.

For Case Dispositions which reveal the need for personnel action (i.e., requiring a recommended disciplinary action), the following choices are available to the A/BO to close the case:

- Counseling,
- Refresher Training,
- Admonishment,
- Reprimand,
- Non-judicial Punishment (Military Only),
- Court Martial (Military Only),
- Administrative Separation,
- Suspension,
- Removal from Federal Service, and
- Other.

The Purchase Card Policy Office, under DPAP, conducted an analysis of the purchase card closed cases. The focus of this analysis was to determine the frequency that closed cases were dispositioned with a recommended disciplinary action of “Other”. The findings from this analysis indicated that “Other” was being used disproportionately. Card mis-use flags should always trigger comprehensive fact-finding. The “other” category is therefore not sufficient to our need for specific facts regarding potentially questionable activity with the Purchase Card, and specific evidence that the cases have been thoroughly vetted. The findings of this analysis coupled with the recent Purchase Card legislation, prompt the elimination of the “other” category in order to induce more precision in the matters requiring personnel action, and to focus on the need for auditable reviews of purchase card case disposition. Accordingly, the “Other” choice will be eliminated from the Data Mining Case Manager User Interface.

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Application Update:

The Data Mining application will be modified to eliminate the “Other” option from the drop down menu of Recommended Actions. No other user interface changes to the application will be made with this release. The following partial screen shot of the Case Disposition section of the Data Mining Case Manager Case Details screen shows how the application is configured today. The red arrow points to the drop down menu option that will be eliminated with this release. Users will be required to select one of the other available options.

The screenshot shows a window titled "Case Disposition" with two main sections: "Case Disposition" and "Notes". In the "Case Disposition" section, there are two dropdown menus. The first is labeled "Misuse" and the second is labeled "Recommended Disciplinary Action". The "Recommended Disciplinary Action" dropdown is open, showing a list of options: Recommended Disciplinary Action, Counseling, Refresher Training, Admonishment, Reprimand, Nonjudicial Punishment(military only), Court Martial(military only), Administrative Separation, Suspension, Removal from Federal Service, and Other. A red arrow points to the "Other" option, which is highlighted in blue. To the left of the arrow, the text "To be eliminated:" is written in red. The "Notes" section contains the text "Example prior to the elimination of 'Other' option". At the bottom of the window, there are "Save" and "Cancel" buttons.