
FASAB

Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board

**Amendments to Accounting for
Property, Plant, and Equipment**

- Definitional Changes -

**Amending SFFAS No. 6 and SFFAS No. 8
*Accounting for Property, Plant, and Equipment
and
Supplementary Stewardship Reporting***

Statement of Federal Financial Accounting Standards No. 11

October 1998

*[Point of Contact: Rick Wascak, 202-512-7363, FAX 202-512-7366, email
wascakr.fasab@gao.gov.]*

THE FEDERAL ACCOUNTING STANDARDS ADVISORY BOARD

The Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB or "the Board") was established in October 1990 by the Secretary of the Treasury, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and the Comptroller General. The nine-member Board was created to consider and recommend accounting principles for the Federal Government.

The Board communicates its recommendations by publishing recommended accounting standards after considering the financial and budgetary information needs of congressional oversight groups, executive agencies, and other users of Federal financial information. The Board also considers comments from the public on its proposed recommendations, which are published for comments as "exposure drafts." The Board's sponsors then decide whether to adopt the recommendations. If they do, the standard is published by OMB and GAO and then becomes effective.

The following documents related to the establishment and mission of the Board are available from the FASAB:

- *"Memorandum of Understanding among the General Accounting Office, the Department of the Treasury, and the Office of Management and Budget, on Federal Government Accounting Standards and a Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board"*
- *"Mission Statement: Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board"*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- a The purpose of this Statement is to amend certain standards in Statement of Federal Financial Accounting Standards No. 6, Accounting for Property, Plant, and Equipment, (SFFAS No. 6), which was issued in November 1995; and, Statement of Federal Financial Accounting Standards No. 8, Supplementary Stewardship Reporting, (SFFAS No. 8), which was issued in June 1996. The amendments specifically affect the definition in the standards for Federal mission property, plant, and equipment (PP&E) and the classification of space exploration equipment as general PP&E in these two Statements.
- b Rather than specifying types of PP&E, the original standards defined Federal mission PP&E with a set of criteria. PP&E items that met those criteria would be reported as Federal mission PP&E. Those criteria, however, were subject to inconsistent interpretations and appeared to be resulting in a broader application of Federal mission PP&E than originally intended.
- c To resolve this problem, the amendments eliminated the category of Federal mission PP&E and created a new category for national defense PP&E, which consists of: (1) the PP&E components of weapons systems and support PP&E owned by the Department of Defense or its component entities for use in the performance of military missions, and (2) the vessels held in a preservation status by the Maritime Administration's National Defense Reserve Fleet. As a result space exploration equipment shall be treated as general PP&E.

This page intentionally blank

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	i
INTRODUCTION	1
Purpose	1
Background.....	1
Effective date	2
AMENDMENTS TO SFFAS No. 6	3
Introduction	3
National Defense	
PP&E	3
AMENDMENTS TO SFFAS No. 8	8
Introduction.....	8
National Defense	
PP&E.....	8
APPENDIX A: BASIS FOR CONCLUSIONS.....	9
APPENDIX B: CROSS REFERENCES.....	17
APPENDIX C: GLOSSARY	19

This page intentionally blank.

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

1 The purpose of this Statement is to amend certain standards contained in Statement of Federal Financial Accounting Standards Number 6 (SFFAS No. 6), Accounting for Property, Plant, and Equipment, and Statement of Federal Financial Accounting Standards Number 8 (SFFAS No. 8), Supplementary Stewardship Reporting.

2 The amendments specifically affect the standards for:

- Federal mission property, plant, and equipment (PP&E) in SFFAS No. 6, paragraphs 21 and 46 through 52, and in SFFAS No. 8, paragraphs 52 through 59.

Background

3 In SFFAS No. 6, Federal mission PP&E are defined as PP&E having at least one characteristic from the group of characteristics related to "use" and one characteristic from the group of characteristics related to "useful life."

The "use" characteristics are:

- has no expected nongovernmental alternative uses; or
- is held for use in emergency, war, or natural disaster; or
- is specially designed for use in a program for which there is no other program or entity (Federal or non-federal, governmental or nongovernmental) using similar PP&E with which to compare costs.

The "useful life" characteristics are:

- has an indeterminate or unpredictable useful life due to the manner in which it is used, improved, retired, modified, or maintained; or
- is at a very high risk of being destroyed during use or premature obsolescence.

The Board specifically identified two types of PP&E that met the Federal mission PP&E definition: (1) the PP&E components of national defense weapons systems, and (2) space exploration equipment.

4 Since SFFAS No. 6 was issued, however, many agencies have raised questions about the applicability of the Federal mission PP&E standard. Those questions indicate that the characteristics could be interpreted by agencies in various ways and the resultant applications could be either inconsistent or far broader than originally intended. Some agencies held the view that the characteristics are ineffectual as they would depend on subjective judgment by financial statement preparers and auditors. To prevent confusion, inconsistency, and unintended application, the amendments replace the definition of Federal mission PP&E with the definition of national defense PP&E and require that space exploration equipment be accounted for and reported as general PP&E.

Effective date

5 The amending accounting standards in this statement are effective for periods beginning after September 30, 1998, with earlier implementation encouraged.

AMENDMENTS TO SFFAS No. 6

Introduction

6 Accounting standards for national defense PP&E are presented in paragraphs 8 through 14 that follow. The standards presented in these paragraphs supersede designated paragraphs in SFFAS No. 6 as they relate to Federal mission PP&E. Other paragraphs in SFFAS No. 6, which are not amended by this document, remain in effect.

7 Paragraphs 46 through 52 of SFFAS No. 6 are rescinded and replaced by paragraphs 8 through 13 below. In addition, paragraphs 21, 53 and 55 of SFFAS No. 6 are amended by replacing the category name "Federal mission property, plant, and equipment" with "national defense property, plant and equipment." Paragraph 14 provides implementation guidance.

National Defense PP&E

DEFINITION

8 National defense property, plant, and equipment (PP&E) are (1) the PP&E components of weapons systems and support PP&E owned by the Department of Defense or its component entities for use in the performance of military missions and (2) vessels held in a preservation status by the Maritime Administration's National Defense Reserve Fleet.

- a "Weapons systems" are a combination of one or more weapons¹ with all related property, plant, equipment, materials, services, personnel and means of delivery and deployment required for self-sufficiency.²
- b "Military missions" are defined as the functions performed by the

¹ Weapons are instruments of combat used to destroy, injure, defeat or threaten an enemy. Adapted from *Dictionary of Weapons and Military Terms*.

² *Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms*, Joint Publication 1-02, March 23, 1994.

Department of Defense or its component entities to prepare for the effective pursuit of war and military operations short of war; to conduct combat, peacekeeping, and humanitarian military operations; and to support civilian authorities during civil emergencies.

- 9 National defense PP&E components include: (a) Weapons Systems PP&E, (b) Weapons Systems Support Principal End Items, (c) Weapons Systems Support Real Property, and (d) Mission Support PP&E. These components are intended to provide guidance in identifying assets to be included in the overall national defense PP&E category. There is no requirement to report on the assets by component.
- a Weapons Systems PP&E. Weapons systems PP&E is equipment that launches, releases, carries, or fires a particular piece of ordnance³ and/or carries weapons systems-related property, equipment, materials, or personnel. Examples of weapons systems PP&E include aircraft, ships, tracked combat vehicles, and missiles.⁴ Ammunition and other types of munitions (i.e., small and large caliber ammunition, rockets, grenades, mines, and other explosives) should be excluded from this category.
- b Weapons Systems Support Principal End Items. These are end items⁵ and replacement assemblies⁶. These items are acquired to support weapons systems and may ultimately be incorporated in weapons systems. Examples of these items include aircraft

³ Ordnance is defined as explosives, chemicals, pyrotechnics, and similar stores, e.g., bombs, guns and ammunition, flares, smoke, napalm. *Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms*, Joint Publication 1-02, March 23, 1994.

⁴ Missiles are unmanned, expendable, self-propelled flying vehicles with some form of guidance system that allows it to steer towards, rather than be aimed at, the target. Included are surface-to-air, air-to-air, air-to-surface, and surface to surface missiles.

⁵ An end item is defined as a final combination of end products, component parts, and/or materials that is ready for its intended use, e.g., on a ship, tank, or aircraft. Adapted from *Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms*, Joint Publication 1-02, March 23, 1994.

⁶ Replacement assembly is defined as an item forming a portion of an equipment, that can be provisioned and replaced as an entity and which normally incorporates replaceable parts or groups of parts. Adapted from *Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms*, Joint Publication 1-02, March 23, 1994.

engines, tank engines, aircraft radars, ship sonar, uninstalled missile motors, missile control panels, gun mounts, gun turrets, and guidance systems.

- c. Weapons Systems Support Real Property. Weapons Systems Support Real Property is facilities and structures affixed to the land that are integral to a weapons system. Weapons Systems Support Real Property must be:
- i. Of a permanent/fixed nature;
 - ii. Essential to the effective operation of a weapons system; and
 - iii. Currently utilized to support an active weapons system.

Examples include ammunition bunkers in active use and missile silos in active use.

The land associated with Weapons Systems Support Real Property shall not be included in this category. Land shall either be classified as general PP&E or Stewardship land and accounted for accordingly.

- d. Mission Support PP&E. Mission support PP&E is deployable⁷ PP&E that:
- i. Is essential to the effective operation of a weapons system or is used by the Department of Defense or its component entities to effectively perform their military missions;
 - ii. Has an indeterminate or unpredictable useful life⁸ due to the manner in which it is used, improved, retired, modified, or maintained; and

⁷ Possessing the characteristic of being positioned and ready for use in battle. Adapted from the *Dictionary of the Modern United States Military*.

⁸ This may be evidenced by the ability (1) to retire the PP&E and later return it to service or (2) to continually upgrade the PP&E to maintain its usefulness.

- iii. Is at a very high risk of being destroyed during use or of premature obsolescence.

Examples of mission support PP&E include: surveillance unmanned air vehicles (UAVs), non-tactical vehicles (e.g., fuel tanker, combat operations center, mess vehicles), field meteorological systems, crypto systems, and field security systems.

- 10 Government Property in the Possession of Contractors. Property and equipment in the possession of or acquired directly by the Government and delivered or otherwise made available to a contractor for use in accomplishing a contract is collectively referred to as "Government property." Government property should be accounted for based on the nature of the item regardless of possession. For example, operating materials and supplies remain operating materials and supplies subject to SFFAS No. 3 standards; and general PP&E remains general PP&E subject to SFFAS No. 6 standards.
- 11 National defense PP&E items may be delivered or otherwise made available to a contractor either for repair or for other uses, such as testing. These items are not to be excluded from national defense PP&E simply because they are in the hands of the contractors and are not being used directly by the Department of Defense or its component entities.
- 12 Property Excluded. There are types of Government property that generally do not meet the definition of national defense PP&E and, therefore, are excluded. Examples of these types include: **Government Material** - material which will become part of a deliverable end item; **Special Tooling** - equipment and manufacturing aids which are used in the development or production of particular supplies or parts, or in the performance of particular services; and **Specialized Test Equipment** - test equipment which is used to accomplish special testing in performing a contract.
- 13 Other Items Excluded. Other items that do not meet the PP&E definition (pars. 17 through 20, SFFAS No. 6) are also excluded
-

from this category. For example, operating materials and supplies and stockpiled materials should be accounted for in accordance with SFFAS No. 3, Accounting for Inventory and Related Supplies.

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

- 14 For entities that implemented SFFAS No. 6 in prior years, any adjustments caused by these amendments should be reflected through a prior period adjustment.⁹

⁹SFFAS No.7, *Accounting for Revenue and Other Financing Sources and Concepts for Reconciling Budgetary and Financial Accounting*, paragraph 76.

AMENDMENTS TO SFFAS No. 8

Introduction

- 15 Accounting standards for national defense PP&E are presented in paragraphs 16 through 18 that follow. The proposed standards presented in these paragraphs supersede designated paragraphs in SFFAS No. 8 as they relate to Federal mission PP&E. Other paragraphs in SFFAS No. 8, which are not amended by this document, remain in effect.

National Defense PP&E

- 16 The category "Federal mission property, plant, and equipment" referred to in paragraph 17, SFFAS No. 8 is replaced with "national defense property, plant, and equipment."
- 17 The Standard inside the box on page 21 of SFFAS No. 8 is amended by replacing the category name "Federal mission property, plant, and equipment" with "national defense property, plant and equipment." Paragraphs 52 through 59 of SFFAS No. 8 are rescinded.

DEFINITION

- 18 Refer to paragraphs 8 through 13 of this document.

<p>The provisions of this statement need not be applied to immaterial items.</p>
--

APPENDIX A: BASIS FOR CONCLUSIONS

- 19 This appendix summarizes the Board's considerations in recommending modifications to amend SFFAS No. 6, *Accounting for Property, Plant, and Equipment*, and SFFAS No. 8, *Supplementary Stewardship Reporting*, as they relate to Federal mission property, plant, and equipment (PP&E).

Background

- 20 The Board initially considered amendments to the definition of Federal mission PP&E due to numerous requests for interpretations to permit classifying certain property, plant, and equipment as Federal mission PP&E.
- 21 Based on review, presentations from affected entities, and multiple deliberations by the Board, it decided to redefine and rename Federal mission PP&E. This resulted in the elimination of the characteristics related to the "use" and the "useful life" of Federal mission PP&E and the classification of space exploration equipment as general PP&E. The decisions by the Board to redefine and rename Federal mission PP&E are discussed in the following paragraphs.

Definition

SFFAS Nos. 6 and 8 Standards

- 22 The Board developed the Federal mission PP&E category for "specific PP&E acquired to provide a unique good or service for which there is not necessarily a periodic output against which to match costs."¹⁰ The Board specifically identified the PP&E components of weapons systems and space exploration equipment for this category. However, the Board believed it desirable to have "characteristics of Federal mission PP&E because it recognizes that there are other types of PP&E, or PP&E may be developed in the future that are similar to these two

¹⁰ SFFAS No. 6, *Accounting for Property, Plant, and Equipment*, paragraph 128.

items."¹¹ The characteristics related to the "use" of the PP&E and to the "useful life" when used as intended.

- 23 Experience with the characteristics, however, revealed that they were creating confusion as to the appropriate use of the Federal mission PP&E category. Therefore, through this amendment, the Board strives to clarify which PP&E would be appropriate to include in this category. Recognizing the limitation of criteria, the Board sought more explicit means to limit the PP&E assignable to the category. Since the type of activity in which the PP&E was used would determine "whether there was a periodic output against which to match costs", the Board specifically identified the departments engaged in this type of activity. Thus, the new definition of Federal mission PP&E should limit the category to the PP&E components used in national defense.

Exposure Draft

- 24 In the development of a new definition for this classification of PP&E, the definition was crafted to include only the PP&E components of weapons systems and support PP&E owned by the Department of Defense or its component entities¹² for use in the performance of military missions. The DOD Board member and DOD staff assisted the Board in shaping the proposed definition by presenting DOD's definitions of specific types of assets that might be weapons systems components and/or support PP&E. The Board used the definitions provided by the DOD as the foundation for amending the definition of Federal mission PP&E. This was intended to assist in clarifying the definition and ease implementation of the standards by using existing DOD terminology where possible. Based on the new definition, the title "Federal mission PP&E" was changed to "national defense PP&E" to be more descriptive of what the standard was addressing.

¹¹SFFAS No. 6., paragraph 129.

¹²The terminology "Department of Defense or its component entities" was deliberately chosen by the Board because many other departments and agencies provide some support to national defense. However, as explained in later paragraphs, the Board determined that predominant use should be considered and that cost accounting would support allocation of cost among multiple missions.

Appendix A: Basis for Conclusions

11

- 25 In connection with the Board's deliberations, the Department of Transportation (DOT) request for interpretation was addressed. DOT had requested that the Maritime Administration's National Defense Reserve Fleet (NDRF) and certain US Coast Guard vessels and aircraft also be considered national defense PP&E. The NDRF consists of ships held in a preservation status. They are activated only during a military crisis or national emergency. Their predominant use is to provide supplemental shipping capacity that the United States can rely on during a military crisis or national emergency.
- 26 The Board deliberated this issue and agreed that because of the NDRF's preservation status and predominant use (i.e., to provide additional shipping capacity only during military missions such as a military crisis or national emergency), that depreciation of the cost of the ships was not meaningful. Therefore, the Board believes the NDRF ships should also be considered national defense PP&E.
- 27 The US Coast Guard presented very difficult issues for the Board and considerable time was devoted to discussion of appropriate treatment. The Coast Guard has an important role in National defense readiness. By law, the Coast Guard may be called on to participate in times of war or national emergency and is thus considered in military strategic planning. In fact,, one of Coast Guard's four missions is "military preparedness." However, the Coast Guard has substantial ongoing responsibilities for three non-defense missions: maritime law enforcement, maritime safety, and maritime environmental protection for which operating performance is the primary reporting objective.
- 28 The Board believed that, conceptually, an allocation of the acquisition cost of vessels (over 65 feet) and aircraft between national defense PP&E and general PP&E would be appropriate given their multiple uses. However, based on information provided by Coast Guard, the Board determined that it would not be cost-beneficial to allocate acquisition costs between the two categories of PP&E. Ultimately, the definition of national defense PP&E was written to exclude Coast Guard's vessels and aircraft.
- 29 The Board based this exclusion on the need to have cost

information to support assessment of operating performance for the three non-defense missions. The exclusion provides consistency with the full cost standards provided in SFFAS No. 4, *Managerial Cost Accounting Concepts and Standards for the Federal Government*, and with the treatment of multi-use heritage assets discussed in later paragraphs. The Board indicated that meaningful information would result if the depreciation expense on these multi-use Coast Guard assets was allocated to each of the missions served by the PP&E. This approach would be consistent with requirements in SFFAS No. 4 and OMB's Form and Content for cost information by responsibility segments and programs.

- 30 Also, during the discussions on national defense PP&E, the Board agreed to a request made by National Aeronautics and Space Administration to remove space exploration equipment from this category for the following reasons: 1) NASA needs cost information in performing joint missions with other countries and in billing both government and non-government entities for reimbursable services performed by NASA, and 2) The function performed by NASA with its space exploration equipment is not a unique Government function similar to defense.

Board Decision on the Definition

- 31 Respondents to the ED were very supportive of the revised definition. Recommended changes were few.
- One respondent suggested that the Board add a category for National defense PP&E held for destruction, sale or abandonment. The Board did not adopt this recommendation because it believes DOD has the flexibility to identify this as a major class if separate reporting is desired.
 - Responses to a question posed on the appropriateness of including ammunition and munitions in this PP&E category were mixed. The Board decided to exclude it from the definition. This decision is explained more fully in a later section of this appendix.
 - The Board did not receive any responses from departments or agencies that believed the definition should be broadened

to include additional PP&E.

The Board adopted the definition largely as it was presented in the ED.

AMMUNITION AND MUNITIONS

Background

- 32 In discussions relating to national defense PP&E, it was suggested that ammunition and munitions are not currently addressed in the Federal financial accounting standards. Therefore, questions were posed in the ED's **QUESTIONS FOR RESPONDENTS** asking how ammunition and munitions should be categorized for accounting and reporting purposes. Definitions for these items were presented in the ED and are presented below. No comments from respondents to the ED were received which disputed or challenged their accuracy.
- 33 **Ammunition.** "Ammunition" is defined as a "device charged with explosives, propellants, pyrotechnics, initiating composition, or nuclear, biological or chemical material for use in connection with defense or offense, including demolition." (from the *Encyclopedia of the U.S. Military*)
- 34 Ammunition is portrayed as having the following characteristics:
- It is not held for sale at ammunition depots (unlike DoD inventory, which is held for sale).
 - It is held for use in a normal operating cycle or in reserve for future use.
 - It is not long-lived, it can be used or consumed only once.
- 35 Projectiles fired from a gun are the principal form of modern ammunition. Projectiles are usually in the form of bullets or artillery. Items commonly designated as ammunition include small/medium caliber ammunition, mortar ammunition, tank

ammunition, artillery ammunition, explosive mines, bombs, torpedoes, and missiles. It should be noted that, while missiles may be commonly designated as ammunition, they have been included in the Weapons System PP&E (e.g., aircraft, ships, tracked combat vehicles, and missiles. Paragraph 9 a) component of national defense PP&E.

36 **Munitions.** "Munition" (singular) is defined as "a complete device charged with explosives, propellants, pyrotechnics, initiating composition, or nuclear, biological, or chemical material for use in military operations, including demolitions." (from the *Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms*) This definition is almost exactly the same as the definition for ammunition. Also, ammunition is referred to as munition (singular.)

37 Whereas, "munitions" (the plural of munition), is used in a broad sense to refer to any and all supplies and equipment required to conduct offensive and defensive war, including guns, machines, ammunition, transport and fuel; but, excluding personnel and any supplies and equipment used for purposes other than direct military operations. In common usage, "munitions" (plural) can be military weapons, ammunition, and equipment. (from the *Dictionary of Military Terms, A Guide to the Language of Warfare and Military Institutions*)

38 Based on feedback in comment letters for the ED, four options for accounting and reporting ammunition and munitions were considered by the Board. They were:

- Categorize it as operating materials for accounting and reporting purposes.
- Categorize it so that it would be included in one of the components of national defense PP&E.
- Categorize it so that it would be a separate and unique component of national defense PP&E.
- Categorize it as a separate and unique asset recognized on the balance sheet for accounting and reporting purposes.

- 39 During deliberations by the Board, it was noted that ammunition and munitions, although not specifically identified in the standard, were considered an item of operating materials and supplies in the development of SFFAS No. 3. SFFAS No. 3 was developed through full due process and considered some unique operating requirements of DOD. Included were provisions to categorize operating materials and supplies between those used in a normal operating cycle, those held in reserve for future use, and excess and obsolete items. Provisions to use the purchases method of accounting, instead of the consumption method of accounting, were also included in the standards. That is, if the items are not significant amounts, they are in the hands of the end user for use in normal operations, or it is not cost-beneficial to apply the consumption method.
- 40 Those respondents to the ED who addressed the issue were generally more in favor of categorizing ammunition and munitions as some component of national defense PP&E. Their argument was that ammunition and munitions are essential to the operations of or an integral part of weapons systems. Therefore, it seemed to these respondents that the information provided about national defense PP&E and ammunition and munitions should be the same.
- 41 The Board, however, did not agree with this argument and decided that ammunition and munitions should be categorized as operating materials and supplies. By categorizing ammunition and munitions as operating materials and supplies, the cost of these items would be recognized in the period they were consumed unless the conditions described in paragraph 40 of SFFAS No. 3 were met. The Board also noted that by following SFFAS No. 3 for ammunition and munitions, entities would provide similar treatment for the consumable items used each period such as training supplies and fuel.

This page intentionally left blank

**APPENDIX B: CROSS REFERENCES
FROM PARAGRAPHS IN SFFAS NO. 6 AND NO. 8
TO PARAGRAPHS IN THESE AMENDMENTS**

Table I: References Related to Standards in SFFAS No. 6

PAR. NUMBERS IN SFFAS NO 6	STATUS AND REFERENCE TO PARAGRAPHS IN THESE AMENDMENTS
PP&E categories, par. 21, 53 and 55	Par. 7
Federal mission PP&E, par. 46 through 52	Par. 8 through 13
All other paragraphs in SFFAS No. 6	Not changed

Table II: References Related to Standards in SFFAS No. 8

PAR. NUMBERS IN SFFAS NO 8	STATUS AND REFERENCE TO PARAGRAPHS IN THESE AMENDMENTS
The category name "Federal mission property, plant, and equipment" in paragraph 17 is replaced with "national defense property, plant, and equipment."	Par. 16
The Standard inside the box on page 21 of SFFAS No. 8 is amended by replacing the category name "Federal mission property, plant, and equipment" with "national defense property, plant and equipment."	Par. 17
All other paragraphs in SFFAS No. 8	Not changed

This page intentionally blank

APPENDIX C: GLOSSARY

AMMUNITION - A generic term that includes a great variety of devices designed and constructed to inflict damage upon enemy personnel or material by action of an explosive, pyrotechnic, or chemical agent.

ASSETS - Tangible or intangible items owned by the federal government which would have probable economic benefits that can be obtained or controlled by a federal government entity. (Adapted from Financial Accounting Standards Board, Statement of Concepts No. 6, *Elements of Financial Statements*, and *Kohler's Dictionary for Accountants*.)

GENERAL PROPERTY, PLANT, AND EQUIPMENT (PP&E)- PP&E used to provide government services or goods. The cost of general PP&E is capitalized, i. e. recorded as assets on the balance sheet. For detailed characteristics of and accounting for general PP&E, see paragraphs 23 through 34, SFFAS No. 6.

MILITARY MISSIONS - Functions performed by the Department of Defense or its component entities to prepare for the effective pursuit of war and military operations short of war; to conduct combat, peacekeeping, and humanitarian military operations; and to support civilian authorities during civil emergencies.

NATIONAL DEFENSE PROPERTY, PLANT, AND EQUIPMENT (PP&E)- The PP&E components of weapons systems and support PP&E owned by the Department of Defense or its component entities for use in the performance of military missions, and vessels held in a preservation status by the Maritime Administration's National Defense Reserve Fleet.

PRINCIPAL END ITEMS - End Items and replacement assemblies acquired to support weapons delivery systems and may ultimately be incorporated as integral parts in a weapons delivery system. An end item is a final combination of end products, component parts, and/or materials that is ready for its intended use. Replacement assembly is an item forming a portion of an equipment that can be provisioned and replaced as an entity and which normally incorporates replaceable parts or groups of parts.

SPACE EXPLORATION EQUIPMENT - Items that are intended to operate above the atmosphere to explore space and any specially designed equipment to aid, service or operate other equipment engaged in exploring space.

STEWARDSHIP - The Federal Government's responsibility for the general welfare of the nation in perpetuity.

USEFUL LIFE - The normal operating life in terms of utility to the owner.

WEAPONS - Instruments of combat used to destroy, injure, defeat or threaten an enemy.
(adapted from *Dictionary of Weapons and Military Terms*)

WEAPONS SYSTEMS - A combination of one or more weapons with all related property, plant, equipment, materials, services, personnel and means of delivery and deployment required for self-sufficiency. (Joint Chiefs of Staff, *Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms*, Joint Publication 1-02, Mar. 23, 1994.)

FASAB Board Members

David Mosso, Chairman

Dr. Linda J. Blessing

James L. Blum

Philip T. Calder

Donald H. Chapin

Norwood J. Jackson

Gerald Murphy, through September 3, 1998

Donald Hammond, from September 4, 1998

James E. Reid

Nelson E. Toye

Wendy M. Comes, Executive Director

*Project Staff:
Rick Wascak
Richard Mayo
Andrea Palmer*

Special Assistance Provided by Steve Tabone, Department of Defense

Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board

441 G Street N.W.

Suite 3B18

Washington, DC 20548

Telephone (202) 512-7350

FAX (202) 512-7366

www.financenet.gov/fasab.htm
