

FEB 2012

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MILITARY COMPTROLLERS

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

February holds two dates I hope you will mark on your calendar. Wednesday, February 15th we've invited Retired VADM Lou Crenshaw of Grant Thornton to come and talk with us at our luncheon about the ASMC Annual Survey of Defense and Military Department FM Executives and what it tells us about our workforce's thoughts on what it will take for DoD to effectively deliver the mission in these austere fiscal times as well as our concerns for the workforce to include culture changes we face. Please read this newsletter further to get the details of the luncheon and I hope to see you there!

On Thursday, February 16th, we've booked the ASMC National audio offering of the Budget Panel discussion. This is always informative and will be even more so in these unusual times. Watch for the details to place this on your calendar!

ASMC Awards program – I am thrilled to say we had multiple submissions for the ASMC Award categories and our Awards committee is busy as I write to work with the Vice Presidents to evaluate, score and select our chapter's representatives for each category! We will announce our winners at the RPDS on 8 March. I greatly appreciate the supervisors who took the time to submit their employees for these awards.



Executive Committee		
President	Ms Leah Hodge	883-3384
VP-Eglin	Ms Lynn Becker	882-4400
VP-Hurlburt	Ms Rebecca Ostrander	884-6030
VP-Tenants	Mr David Herndon	882-4070
Secretary	Ms Sharon Pedersen	882-3812
Treasurer	Ms Amy Tolar	882-2001
	Ms April Chapel	882-6768
Regional PDS	Ms Dedra Hickman	882-4851
	Ms Alyce Frederick	884-7377
	Ms Ivonne Caridi-Anderson 882-9839	
Membership	Mr Kent Fitzgerald	883-3809
Education	Ms Sandra Telemacque	882-3511
	Ms Donna Schulist	882-4538
Eglin Enlisted Advisor	MSgt Robert Laufer	882-2055
Hurlburt Enl Advisor	SSgt Thomas Rutherford	884-3377 (until mid-2012)
Programs	Mr Jon Slingerland	882-3301
	Ms Jenna Colon	883-0356
	Ms Kaci Harris	882-1525
CDFM	Mr Ron Millis	882-1896
	Ms Lisa Gamon	883-3465
Ways & Means	Ms Jennifer Denega	883-0158
	Ms Cleo Battle	883-0371
Publicity	Ms Melinda Gagnon	882-2087
	Ms Denise Wagner	882-6835
Community Service	Ms Nicole Smith	882-2001
	Ms Brianna Hoppel	883-3411
	Ms Maika Andrew	882-7211
Awards	Maj Yolanda Glenn	884-2804
Newsletter	Ms Laura Gamble	884-6869
Webmaster	Mr Jason Guzzardo	882-0055
	Mr David Locht	882-0057
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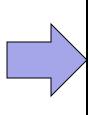
President's Column – Continued

Professional Developments events – National ASMC is going to offer a virtual PDI this year because of the lean fiscal times and emphasis on reduced travel. Our chapter hopes to be able to buy several 'blocks' of access for local member attendance. We have a lot more to work out on this one but for those of you who know attending National is out of the question, this will be great news. One thing our chapter decision is dependent upon is our own fiscal situation ... which is dependent on our Regional PDS and other fund raising. So be sure and look at the RPDS schedule line-up, talk with your supervisors about what this training offers you and get registered! (I know you were all wondering how I would work my 'go to RPDS' into the message!)

Have a great month and see you at the luncheon!

Leah

February Luncheon



Join us for the February 15 luncheon at the Boathouse Landing Restaurant, Valparaiso, 11AM - 1PM.

VAdm (Ret) Lou Crenshaw, of Grant Thornton, will be discussing the results of the 2011 Defense FM Survey.

Contact Jon Slingerland, Kaci Harris, or Jenna Colon for sign-up, or see flyer at the end of this newsletter.

Survey link is attached on the flyer, or you can find the survey on our website at <u>www.gulfcoastasmc.org/programs.html</u>

ASMC Awards

The National Scholarship Program runs from Jan-Mar 2012.

The ASMC National Scholarship Program is accepting applications from graduating HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS entering a field of study related to financial/resource management 1 Jan-21 Mar 2012.

For eligibility criteria, go to:

http://www.asmconline.org,

- Click "Scholarship Awards" (in a black colored box near the top)
- Click (Dropdown) "National Scholarship Program"
- Click "Download Full Criteria"

For an APPLICATION, see the Education tab on our local website.

PLEASE MAIL YOUR PACKAGES NOT LATER THAN MARCH 21, 2012 to:

Ms. Sandra Telemacque/Donna Schulist Gulf Coast Chapter Education Chair P.O. Box 1756 Eglin AFB, FL 32542 Phone: 850-882-3511 or 882-4538 Email: <u>Sandra.Telemacque@Eglin.af.mil</u> Email: <u>Donna.Schulist@Eglin.af.mil</u>

Our local Gulf Coast Chapter Scholarship Program will be advertised approximately April 1, 2012. This program is limited to high school seniors and college students that will have 60 semester hours of college completed by the end of their Spring 2012 semester.

2012 Regional Professional Development Seminar

The 2012 Regional Professional Development Seminar (RPDS) will be held on Thursday, March 8, 2012, at the Emerald Coast Conference Center. Registration is now open. In accordance with current fiscal demands, this year's event will cost only \$110.00 providing an outstanding day of training both beneficial and economical. We offer a one stop shop to get 6.0 CPE's and valuable job related training to support our daily mission.

A first this year will be the offering of the proctored Certified Defense Financial Management (CDFM) testing at the RPDS. This is a great opportunity for those who still need one or two tests to be awarded their CDFM to sit for the test. You can pick from the four modules, depending on need. Additionally, contact Ron Millis if interested in trying to obtain a seat, with supervisor's approval of course, to the February EDFMT coming to Eglin – perfect opportunity to complete those tests if you are attending that course! Also, please remember these tests are \$95.00 each. When you register, Ron Millis will contact you prior to the RPDS to get the payment as these must be paid for in advance. So if you need to test, please make sure to choose the CDFM-testing in Session 3 or 4 when registering.

Registration is now open and attached is the program schedule showing subjects for each session. We have been committed throughout the program building process to keeping this as valuable, viable training--at a very low cost.

Follow this link to register today <u>http://www.gulfcoastasmc.org/rpds/</u>. Cutoff date for registration is 1 March 2012 and no refunds will be made for cancellations after this date. We are looking forward to seeing you in March!

RPDS Co-Chairs, Dedra Hickman, Ivonne Caridi-Anderson, Alyce Frederick, Dana Alexander

Minutes: Executive Council & Regular Meetings

The ASMC Luncheon Meeting minutes and the Executive committee meeting minutes are now posted on the Gulf Coast Chapter webpage. To review them, please go to the website <u>http://www.gulfcoastasmc.org/</u> and click on the tab marked "Minutes" along the top.

2012 Regional Professional Development Seminar

0800 to 0930 Opening speaker Major General Joseph Ward, Commandant, Joint Forces Staff College, National Defense University

8:30 to 9:45 Break/Move to Session 1

9:45 to 10:35 Session 1

Microsoft Excel Tips and TricksDeployed Panel – Experiences from the FrontFinancial PlanningDEAMS - What is it and how does it affect FMs?EVM - Importance to Program MgtContractor's Perspective of Gov't ContractingChanges in Cost EstimatingDefense Contract Audit AgencyFinancial Improvement Audit ReadinessSmall Business PerspectiveCertified Defense Financial Management—Why it's Important

10:35 to 10:45 Break/Move to Session 2 10:45 to 11:35 Session 2

Financial PlanningDEAMS - What is it and how does it affect FMs?EVM - Importance to Program MgtAir Force Center of Excellence – What They OfferDefense Contract Audit AgencyDeployed Panel – Experiences from the FrontChanges in Cost EstimatingContractor's Perspective of Gov't ContractingSmall Business PerspectiveFinancial Improvement Audit ReadinessCertified Defense Financial Management—Why it's Important

11:35 to 1:00 Luncheon with Speaker Peg Drummond: Super Meetings – Making Teams Work!

1:00 to 1:15 Break/Move to Session 3

1:15 to 2:05 Session 3

EVM - Importance to Program MgtAir FordChanges in Cost EstimatingDeployDefense Contract Audit AgencyDEAMSStanding up the JSF FM officeContractSmall Business PerspectiveFinanciCertified Defense Financial Management -- Testing

Air Force Center of Excellence – What They Offer Deployed Panel – Experiences from the Front DEAMS - What is it and how does it affect FMs? Contractor's Perspective of Gov't Contracting Financial Improvement Audit Readiness

2:05 to 2:15 Move to General Session

2:15 to 2:45 General Session for Awards and Recognition 2:45 to 3:00 Snack/Break/Move to Session 4

3:00 to 3:50 Session 4

EVM - Importance to Program Mgt Changes in Cost Estimating Standing up the JSF FM office Defense Contract Audit Agency Small Business Perspective Deployed Panel – Experiences from the Front DEAMS - What is it and how does it affect FMs? Contractor's Perspective of Gov't Contracting Financial Improvement Audit Readiness Certified Defense Financial Management -- Testing

CDFM

Congratulations to Janeen Ness, AAC/XR. She has completed all requirements for CDFM.

CDFM Testing (All MODs) will be available during the RPDS 8 March 2012 and 2 sessions (0800-1000/1000-1200 hrs) 9 March 2012. Please contact Ron Millis or Lisa Gamon for details.

The five day Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Course is scheduled for 13-17 Feb 2012 on Eglin AFB. Although there is a waitlist, often registrants drop-out prior to the class start date. The course is provided by the Department of Defense and is licensed and copyrighted by the American Society of Military Comptrollers. If you are interested in attending this course please register using the EDFMT Registration link below. Attendees will be expected to complete CDFM certification within a reasonable timeframe after course completion.

Training Date: 13-17 Feb 12 Time: 0800-1630 Location: Bldg 871 Rm 1, Eglin AFB EDFMT Registration: <u>https://www.atrrs.army.mil/edfmt/</u>

Module 1: <u>http://www.asmconline.org/certification/cdfm-modules/module-1-</u> resource-management-environment/

Module 2: <u>http://www.asmconline.org/certification/cdfm-modules/module-2-budget-cost-analysis/</u>

Module 3: <u>http://www.asmconline.org/certification/cdfm-modules/module-3-accounting-finance/</u>

CDFM Renewal

You must renew your certification with ASMC every two years. To do this, you must complete 80 hours of Continuing Professional Education (CPE) in every two year period following the issuance of your certification. The anniversary date for measuring the CPE qualification is two years from the date your CDFM certification is issued. One unit of CPE is awarded for each 50 minutes of contact time engaged in activities listed below. You may

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CDFM

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be asked, as part of the renewal, to provide evidence of your CPE. Renewal cost is \$20.00 for active ASMC members and \$40.00 for nonmembers. The renewal fee is charged biennially starting 90 days before your renewal date. <u>http://www.asmconline.org/certification/cdfm-</u> <u>forms/renewal/</u>

Any questions call Ron Millis 883-1896 or Lisa Gamon 883-3465.

Ways & Means – Jennifer Denega, Cleo Battle

Recent Fundraising Results: \$65.00 Belk Charity Sale (proceeds from Belk Corporation)

Upcoming Events Feb 15: 50/50 and Raffle at February Luncheon Apr 12: Spring Bake Sale Thank you to all our volunteers. Have a Blessed New Year!

The committee is always looking for members and volunteers to help with our fundraising events. POCs are <u>aurelia.battle@eglin.af.mil</u> (883-0371) and <u>jennifer.denega@eglin.af.mil</u> (883-0158). Your ideas are always welcome!

Membership

Chair, Kent Fitzgerald

Membership is available to individuals who are actively employed in military comptrollership, as active duty or civilian personnel for DoD or USCG. Associate membership is available for persons who do not meet the qualifications but are currently employed in a defense related financial management field. Employees of private sector companies who are interested in ASMC membership may join under the corporate membership program.

New military members E1-E4 and civilian GS1-GS7 can be reimbursed for half of their yearly membership fee. *New members only.* I will be providing information about upcoming membership drives and other activities as they are planned.

If you have any questions, call me, 883-3809.

UPDATES:

A big thank you to our volunteers who assisted at the Destin Charity Wine Auction Festival and the Shelter House WAM conference. Your willingness to help makes these events a huge success!

UP-COMING EVENTS:

RELAY FOR LIFE: Our ASMC Gulf Coast team met on 24 January to begin planning our participation in this year's Relay on May 4th and 5th. Honoring this year's Vegas theme, we will host Texas Hold'em tournaments that evening. To raise funds before the Relay, we'd like to hold an off-base yard sale and need help making it happen. We will also need volunteers in other fundraisers before the Relay, tent setup and clean up, and activities on the day of the Relay. We will meet on Tuesday, 21 February, at 1300, in the 96 CPTS Conference Room, Bldg 260, on Eglin AFB. If you would like to help or need additional information, please contact Maika at <u>Maika.Andrew@eglin.af.mil</u>.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: Our chapter has an opportunity to help build the next Habitat for Humanity Home in Fort Walton Beach! Construction is planned to begin in the upcoming month, although specific dates have not been scheduled yet. If interested in assisting, please forward name to Maika at Maika.Andrew@eglin.af.mil.

SHELTER HOUSE: For those of you who loved the Purses with a Purpose event, there will be another weekend scheduled at the end of March. More information to follow, or contact <u>Sara.Bennett@eglin.af.mil</u>. Shelter House is also in need of your old cell phones. If you have any or know of anyone who is about to upgrade their cell phone, please contact Sara Bennett.

PET WELFARE ANIMAL SHELTER (EGLIN): In the March timeframe, ASMC volunteers will have another opportunity to take care of projects the staff is not able to complete on a daily basis as they care for the animals. More information to follow; if interested, please email Maika at <u>Maika.Andrew@eglin.af.mil</u>.

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Community Service

ON-GOING EVENTS:

DEPLOYABLE CARE PACKAGES: Items requested include reading materials (sports, fitness/health, car/motorcycle magazines), snacks (nuts, crackers, cookies ect.), toiletries (travel size, shower gel, shampoo, tooth paste, and foot powder/spray ect) and 3 in 1 laundry/dryer sheets. Continue to send names of FM troops that are deployed. POC:

Patrick.Dewitt@eglin.af.mil and Gabi at Gabriella.geier-dureitz@eglin.af.mil.

FISHER HOUSE: The Eglin Fisher House is in need of bottled water and sodas for the occupants. Monetary donations towards the cost of the cable bill are also welcome. If interested in donating, please contact Brianna at Brianna.hoppel@eglin.af.mil.

PROGRAMS SUPPORTED:

- 1. Emerald Coast Children Advocacy (ECCAC)
- 2. Habitat for Humanity creating affordable housing opportunities
- 3. Relay for Life fight against cancer
- 4. Fisher House providing home away from home that enables family members to be close to a love one during stressful times
- 5. Blankets of Hope handmade blankets supporting wounded soldiers/vets
- 6. Shelter House survivors of domestic violence
- 7. Opportunity Inc helping the homeless
- 8. Deployable Care Packages sent to FM (deployed) troops
- 9. Give a Child a Christmas

Finally, help us keep track of your volunteer hours – email us. As always your suggestions welcomed!

<u>POCs</u>: Brianna Hoppel, <u>Brianna.hoppel@eglin.af.mil</u>, 883-4787 Maika Andrew, <u>Maika.andrew@eglin.af.mil</u>, 882-0088

Transparency

Ms Lori Tetla, the Chief of Financial Services, AFSOC/FMAS, prepared a paper on Transparency in Financial Management. Her paper is presented in a threepart series. Here is the first installment, which focuses on technological changes since the 1970s, specifically automated systems. The second part will focus on the proliferation of information.

Transparency is the new buzzword throughout the federal government. In fact, the current President ran on a platform of change, touting transparency to achieve change across the government. The dictionary describes transparency as "easily seen through, recognized, detected, or obvious." So what does this emphasis on transparency mean to the financial management career field? Transparency can be viewed as "full and open disclosure," the ability to view information at and across many levels. Technological leaps in automation provided new tools and methods for financial managers to access and manipulate data, key to achieving financial transparency. This paper attempts to study some of the impacts of transparency on financial management.

In the late 1970's, financial analysts performed intensive manual drills to reconcile and prepare reports. Think pencils and erasers, adding machines, and large pads of yellow ledger paper. Today, we use computers and electronic spreadsheets. Automation eliminates manual calculation errors and allows us to compile massive volumes of data quickly. Performing financial analysis no longer requires hours of manual research and extraction from "hard coded" paper reports. With automation, financial data produces a multitude of reports with minimal user input.

While I have an undergraduate degree in computer programming languages, I am not "technologically savvy." I enjoy user friendly software – I don't care how software works, I simply want programs to work with little effort on my part so I can concentrate my efforts on the output, the financial information. Technology and automation enable us to use our time more efficiently. However, analysts may not understand the big picture because the manipulation of financial management data and report generation are "behind the scenes." For example, tools like MicroBAS and Commanders' Resource Integration System (CRIS) provide financial managers the capability to query and manipulate data in countless ways. The challenge is to be knowledgeable of systems capabilities to produce reliable, timely, and accurate reports.

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Transparency - continued

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Certainly no one would advocate returning to the days of manual scheduling "canned" reports using keypunched cards, but we may have something to learn from this process. Historically, to produce the reports analysts needed, one first had to learn and understand the database and system's construct. Financial managers needed to learn the different data elements contained in the General Accounting and Finance System in order to schedule and extract the specific data required. Today, this basic knowledge appears lacking as systems provide "generic" query formats. Yet, something as simple as knowing to include or exclude a specific fund type in researching cancelled year open documents can lead to inaccurate reporting if the proper code is omitted.

Canned reports gave us a basic frame of reference, a common method for relating and for understanding the reported data. The Operating Budget and Allotment Ledger reports prepared by Data Automate represented an organization's fund status in a clear and organized manner. First, the annual and quarterly budget authority was displayed, followed by unfilled orders outstanding, accrued expenditures unpaid, accrued expenditures paid, gross obligations, commitments, and gross commitments. Uncommitted and unobligated balances were displayed in detail, by line item. Finally, reports were prepared in order of direct, reimbursements, and total obligation authority fund status. The report format enabled analysts to learn the stages of accounting associated with the process of fund distribution and execution, and the relationship between total obligation and direct authority. Another bonus, fund status reports reflected a fund holder's entire account, providing analysts useful insight into how their programs fit into the overall mission.

These observations do not discount in any manner the benefits gained from the power, speed, and flexibility associated with current automated systems; they simply stress the importance of understanding basic coding and systems structures when employing automation tools. It is somewhat ironic that although today's automation gives analysts capability to obtain information well beyond a single fund holder's accounts, the reality is this process often results in the opposite effect. Programs are designed to drill down and allow easy inquiry of specific *** continued next page ***

Transparency - continued

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programs, but in doing so bypass an important stage that provides an understanding of program relationships to the entire mission/organization.

This provides an unintended impact of "transparency." Simply put, our day-to-day processes have changed, but the basic data systems are the same. The critical thing is for analysts to learn and understand each stage of funds status and the criticality of each data element in the database systems.

The second part of this paper (next month) will focus on the proliferation of information.

ASMC Annual Awards

Reminder -

National Scholarship Program nominations are due <u>31 March 2012</u>; Members Continuing Education Grant nominations are due <u>31 March 2012</u>; and nominations for Chapter Competition Program are due <u>31 March 2012</u>. All nominations must be submitted through the National ASMC Awards Online website at <u>http://awards.asmconline.org</u>.

2011 Financial Services Office of the Year

Dr Jamie Morin, SAF/FM, announced the winners of the FY2011 Air Force Financial Management and Comptroller Annual Awards. The winners will be publicly recognized at this year's National PDI on 30 May 2012.

Congratulations to Gulf Coast Chapter members for earning a big award this year!

We're proud to announce the 1 SOCPTS/FMF at Hurlburt Field (AFSOC) is the Air Force's FY2011 Financial Services Office of the Year!

Current & Next Meetings and other ASMC events

UPCOMING ASMC LUNCHEON – Mark your calendars:

- Feb 15: 2011 Defense FM Survey, Boathouse Landing restaurant, Valparaiso, 11AM-1PM
- Mar 8: Annual RPDS, 0700-1600, Emerald Coast Conference Center.

Please contact our Program Chairs Jon Slingerland, Kaci Harris, or Jenna Colon if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions on program issues.

ASMC Websites

ASMC National Headquarters website is http://www.asmconline.org/

Our chapter website is http://www.gulfcoastasmc.org/

We are looking for new ideas to include on our webpage. Please contact our webmasters Jason Guzzardo (882-0055) or David Locht (882-0057) if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions on chapter website issues.

National News

For more details, see <u>www.asmconline.org</u>.

The ASMC Online Learning Center currently offers recorded sessions from the past two PDIs as well as access to quarterly ASMC Journals and a short exam associated with them. PDI workshops and the Journal exams offer Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credit and a certificate to validate user participation.

http://www.asmconline.org/educationtraining/online-education/pdi-online/

Some of the PDI 2011 workshops and the keynote speaker address (Hon Robert Hale, DoD Comptroller) may be accessed from this website, too.

Remember our local website is <u>http://www.gulfcoastasmc.org/</u> and ASMC national is http://www.asmconline.org/

ASMC, P.O. Box 1756, Eglin AFB FL 32542



Professional Development Luncheon Presents 2011 Defense FM Survey (by Grant Thornton) Speaker: Retired Vice When: Wednesday, 15 Feb 2012, 11:00am-

Loto Orenshaw <u>Where:</u> Boathouse Landing in Valparaiso (downstairs area) <u>Lunch selection:</u> Coconut Shrimp Salad \$13, Blackened Chicken Alfredo \$13.50, Grilled Mahi Mahi \$13.50 Double-Click below icon to view survey:



If survey doesn't open, go to http://www.gulfcoastasmc.org/programs.html Registration via A3 web site:

> <u>https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil/ASPs/Reg/Register.asp?Filter=00-ED-AA-</u> <u>A2&Eventid=189&Groupid=243&Class=309688&TypeName=Class</u> **POCs: Jon Slingerland, Kaci Harris or Jenna Colon**