



ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter Newsletter

Feb
2024

ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter

P.O. Box 1756

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www.asmcnline.org



Ms. Mika Gellinger

President's Corner

Written by Ms. Mika Gellinger, Hurlburt Vice President
Hello Gulf Coast Chapter Members!

I cannot believe we are already one month into 2024! For those of you who missed the January luncheon, Mr. Jeff DeCocker's Professional Development brief was very informative and generated a lot of questions/discussions. I recommend civilians reference the "What FM Values" and the FM Civilian Force Development Roadmaps to determine the appropriate development for yourself. Don't forget to meet with your immediate supervisor to ensure you agree on the short and/or long-term training goals and if you both are not on the same page, your supervisor will provide a different perspective on why you should pursue a different training course.

The Regional Professional Development Institute (RPDI) committee is busy working to provide another in-person event at the Hurlburt Field Soundside on 17 April 2024. If anyone is interested in joining the RPDI committee, please contact Max Miller and Michael Bricker. If anyone has contacts with local businesses interested in donating to the 2024 RPDI, please let me and Marcella Miller (Ways & Means) know so we can email or drop off the solicitation request. If Eglin Private Organization Office approves the RPDI fundraiser request, we are also considering having an open auction with donated merchandise so please stay tuned.

President's Message Continued Next Page...

Retiree Update

As you firm up your goals for 2024, I encourage you to consider connecting with one of our Chapter Retiree mentors. If you know of a financial manager that's been looking for one, or that you recommend doing so, take a look at the mentor biographies I've asked Mandy to attach to this newsletter (see next page).

Each person has served in numerous official and unofficial financial positions, including service as ASMC chapter presidents. Anyone interested can zip me a note via the chapter mailbox, gulfcoast.asmc@gmail.com. Use "Mentor" in the subject line and I will know to reach out to you. Our chapter President and Vice Presidents will be actively engaged in the mentor matching process.

In closing, if you are in touch with FM retirees that may not be getting chapter newsletters, etc., encourage them to zip me a note to our chapter mailbox, using "Retiree" in the subject line. There are numerous ways we can support our chapter & members, "Paying It Forward" to the chapter and active comptroller force.

RETIREMENT
only means...
...it is time for a new
ADVENTURE



The Education Committee is working to release the ASMC Gulf Coast Scholarship application. As you welcome new FMers into your organizations, please encourage them to join our chapter or transfer their membership. The monthly luncheons and various community events are great opportunities to network and build professional and personal relationships. See you at the February's luncheon!



MENTOR BIOGRAPHIES

ASMC GULF COAST CHAPTER RETIREE MENTOR CORPS

Ken Pickler:

- Retired Oct '22 after 42+ years of uniformed and civilian service
- Assignments: Cost, Budget, Test, Program Management, USAF Academy Econ Faculty
- Programs: Aerial Targets, ICBMs, B61-12 Tailkit Assembly, Long Range Standoff cruise missile
- Bases: Eglin (Test, PM, FM), USAFA, Norton AFB CA (FM, PM), Kirtland AFB NM (AFRL FM)
- Joined ASMC 1990: GC Chapter-2x President, Eglin VP, Programs, Newsletter Editor (Norton)
- Other: 5 children, 7 grandchildren. Administrator & FM chair-Anchor Church at Portland

Luvenia Shuman:

- Retired Mar '23 after 39+ years of uniformed and civilian service
- Assignments: Auditor, Audit Manager, Audit Team Chief, and Office Chief
- Programs: Installation and USAF systems, logistics, acquisition, and operations
- Bases: Eglin AFB FL (EGAAO), Robins AFB GA (RBAAO), Wright-Patt AFB OH (AFAA/QL), Maxwell-Gunter AFB AL (MGAAO)
- Joined ASMC 1984: Chapter President, Robins; Chapter Treasurer (3X) Maxwell-Gunter
- Other: 2 children, 3 grandchildren

Denise Wagner:

- Retired Feb 2023 after 33+ years of USAF civilian service
- Assignments and Programs:
 - Financial Management Analyst for the Air Force Services Agency at Randolph Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas
 - 18-month career broadening opportunity as a Financial Analyst at United States Air Force Europe Command, Sembach Air Base, Germany
 - Non-appropriated Air Force Financial Analyst at Eglin Air Force Base
 - Numerous organizations within the Air Armament Center, including a career broadening position as a Cost Analyst for the Weapons System Program Office
 - Financial Management Officer and supervisor for the Advanced Medium-Range Air-to Air Missile Wing
 - Chief of Financial Management Division for the Munitions Directorate, Air Force Research Laboratory
- Joined ASMC in 1989 at Randolph AFB, served as President of Gulf Coast Chapter as well as numerous committees over 33 years
- Currently involved in several community service activities and pursuing a new passion in pickleball

MENTOR BIOGRAPHIES

Continued

James Pitts:

- Retired 3 Jan 2009 – 36 years – combined uniformed and civilian civil service.
- Assignments:
 - Active-Duty Air Force (Bomb Loader & Photographic Systems repairperson)
 - Federal Correctional Officer
 - Job Order Cost Accounting (JOCAS)
 - Cost Performance Measurement Team Analyst
 - Chief, Financial Management Division, Munitions Directorate, AFRL
 - Budget Chief, AMRAAM Program Office
 - Chief, Financial Management, 3246th/46th Test Wing
 - Chief Resources Division, 46th Test Wing
 - Budget Officer, Armament Center
 - Chief, Plans Office, 46th Test Wing
- Schools & Certifications
 - Bachelor's Degree – Accounting – The University of West Florida
 - Master's Degree – Business Admin & Mgt – The University of West Florida
 - Professional Military Comptrollers School
 - APDP Level III Certification – Bus/Cost Est/Fin Mgt
 - APDP Level III Certification – Test & Eval Engineering Mgt
- Joined ASMC 1982, Eglin AFB serving two terms as Gulf Coast Chapter President
- Serving as a volunteer official of Eglin Federal Credit Union since 1986
 - Member, Supervisory Committee – 10 years with an extended term as Chairperson
 - Member, Board of Directors – 27 years, with three terms as Chairperson
- Serving as a volunteer official with Opportunity Place, Inc. (homeless shelter for women & families)
 - Member, Finance Committee – 2 years with one year as Chairperson
 - Member, Board of Directors – 3 years as Treasurer
- Senior Pastor, New Zion Tabernacle Ministries – 25 years



Program News

Past Meeting Summary

Our last chapter meeting was held at the Club House Grill in Fort Walton Beach, FL on 11 Jan 2024 at 1100. Mr. Jeff DeCocker reviewed a slide presentation on the importance of professional development opportunities available to the civilian workforce. He touched on various areas concerning who, what and why. He reviewed the FY22-FY26 DAF FM Strategic Plan explaining the vision, mission & goals and how they are related. He explained the 3 goals and went over the importance of each and how they play into keys to success. He demonstrated the values/growth for all in the FM career field as well as instructed us on how to establish a MyVector acct. He completed the briefing giving some important tips to remember and resources that could be utilized by the workforce.



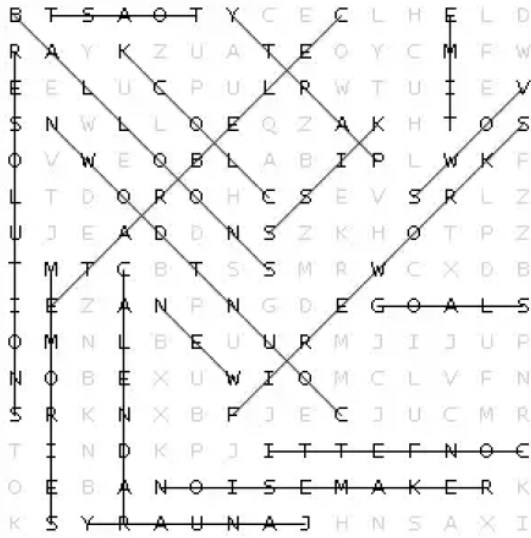
Future Meeting Announcement

The next meeting will take place at Luke's Place on Eglin AFB, FL on 22 Feb 2024 at 1100. We are honored to have Col Stephen Gray as our guest speaker. Col Gray will reflect on his career and present the "Top 5 Things I've Learned." Look out for the meeting invitation coming soon.

Community News

Answers to January's word search

New Year, New You



Care Packages

Be on the lookout for an email from community service asking for any new deployed FMers to add to the list. If you would like to donate to care packages that go to our deployed FM members, please contact Patrick DeWitt.

*Thank you for being the reason
someone smiled!*



Valentines Day Dance at AMVETS Post
35 106 John King Road, Crestview Fl.
32539

Date & Time

Sat Feb 10 2024 at 07:30 pm to 11:30 pm
UTC-06:00

Location

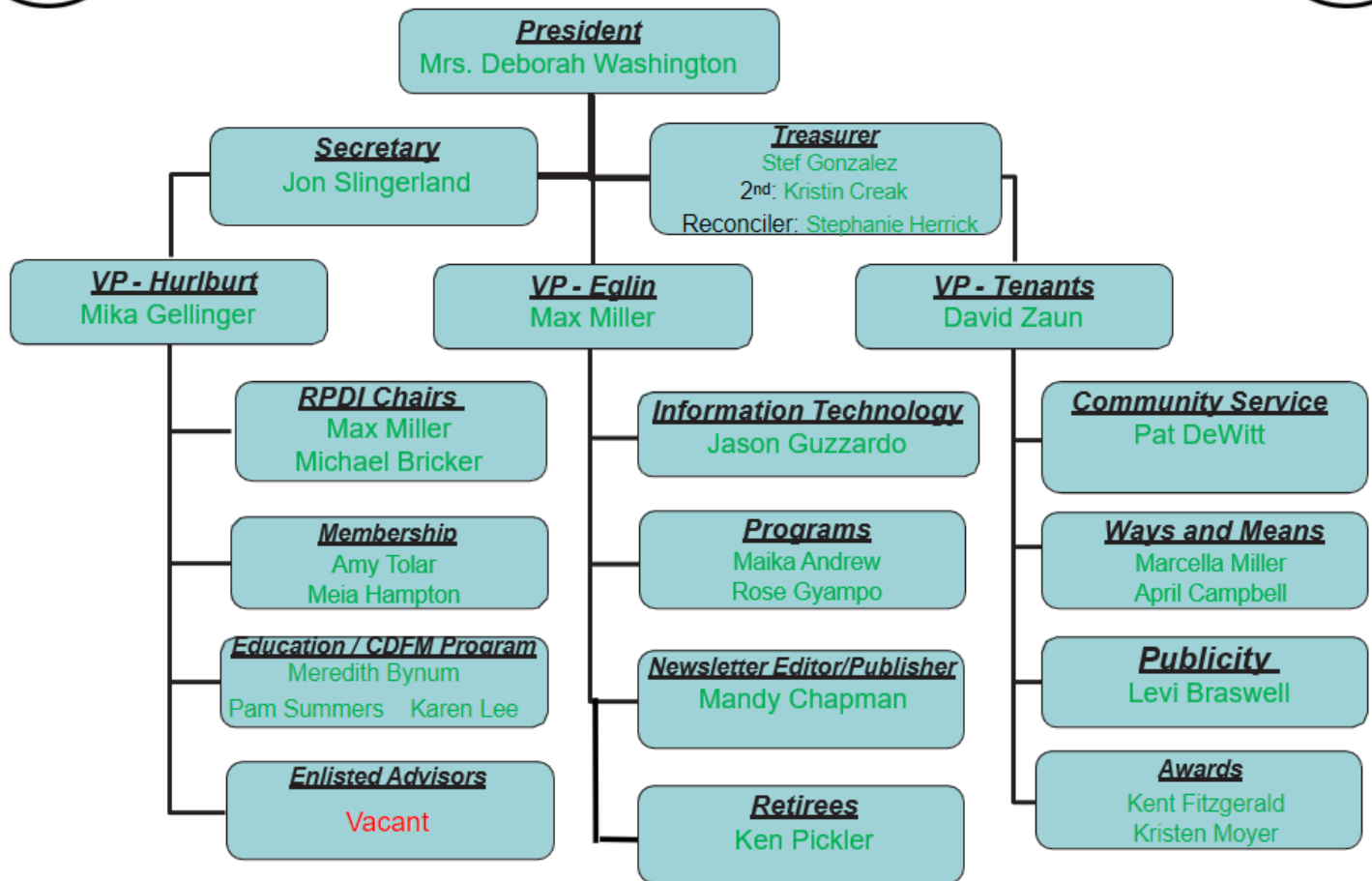
AMVETS Post 35 106 John King Road Crestview FL | Crestview, FL



Org Chart



2023-2024 Gulf Coast Chapter



As of September 2023

Love a Latte

D I P U C Q A S E B L H F S E
 A N H C Y D N A C V V P E H N
 N R I B M O E C D I O S Y E I
 E A U I O B T P I A O L T A T
 L N R L W O A B P R T A R R N
 J E L M C R L O E I L E Y T E
 H A T C H H O J Y M K D E S L
 B R S Q W T C R A E I B N H A
 B F Q J E T O O P N J N O A V
 C A R D C R H G N K G U E I N
 H U N V E A C E E A Q M E P G
 C X N Z P E R R R R V I K M D
 T I W B J H T R P M A N I Q W
 N J Z O F L O W E R S C S W K
 X T E W J W X X L S L I S D H

Directions:

Find the word in the puzzle.

Words can go in any direction.

Words can share letters as they cross over each other.

Admire
 Be Mine
 Care
 Date
 Hearts
 Love

Arrow
 Candy
 Chocolate
 Dinner
 Heartthrob
 Roses

Balloons
 Card
 Cupid
 Flowers
 Kiss
 Valentine

The Power of Integrated Product Teams

By Kristen Moyer and John Johnson

The Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), Munitions Directorate (RW), a diverse assembly of experts totaling over 900+ personnel, formed Integrated Product Teams (IPTs) aimed at breaking down institutionalize norms and cultures that kept personnel confined to their functional disciplines. The Financial Management Division identified a lack of teamwork and a breakdown of communication between functional areas that plagued the Directorate and change was needed. In a pivotal move, the Financial Management Division acted and embedded over 20 financial managers (FM) within the branches, decentralizing them from their peers, supervisors, Organizational Senior Functional (OSF), and physical location. Despite geographic separation, this shift ensured Financial Management had a strategic role in key budget decisions for the \$1.4B+ Science & Technology (S&T) RDT&E portfolio. This integration guaranteed financial managers had a seat at the table and provided technical advice to leadership prior to making critical funding decisions. In addition, FM now can take the lead concerning critical budget decisions including INV-001, Program Decision Memorandum (PDM), Congressional marks and AFRL Headquarters (HQ) cut drills.

FM has the ability to provide vital funding/budget information in support of organizational decisions, but we must provide this information before decisions are made. It is our job to ensure funding availability, fiscal responsibility of taxpayer dollars, capture of financial implications/risks, establishment of customer alliances, and fulfillment of customer needs. *Continue next page...*

FM Article Continued...

We must do all this while also executing our organization's mission and goals. Our financial team needs to be clear and concise when communicating our objectives to the organization. One way to do this is by having a seat at the table within IPTs. This allows us to accurately predict customers current and future needs while ensuring leadership utilizes up-to-date financial data necessary to make accurate strategic decisions. Upfront FM involvement enhanced RW's ability to execute its mission, "To develop superior weapons technologies that are effective and affordable for our warfighter and the mission."

The IPT's synergy is leading to groundbreaking outcomes, including realistic FY24 Execution Plans, 1537s, Spruill Charts, and more. We have realized a 960% increase in obligation rates in 1QFY24 from 1QFY23 which has accentuated success. However, the true measure of success has been the cultural transformation that is happening within RW. Regular cross-functional meetings has allowed for each functional perspective to be valued, accelerated problem-solving, and enhanced innovation. The power of the cross-functional IPT is transforming the previously stove-piped organizational culture of RW into a collaborative environment, fostering a sense of unity, and a shared purpose among team members.

The incredible success of the integrated product teams is not a story without adversity. The Munitions Directorate had to overcome and are still working to overcome institutional and cultural norms.

Continue next page...

FM Article Continued...

However, the Financial Management division's proactive approach is breaking down communication and cultural barriers. The FM team is reestablishing their budget/cost analyst credibility and eliminating false perceptions about the Financial Management roles, responsibilities, and mission.

The Integrated Product Team continues to be a model for success within the organization, demonstrating the incredible impact of collaboration across disciplines. Its influence directly and swiftly benefitted S&T capabilities for the Warfighter, exemplifying the immediate positive effect of the IPT's power. One Team, One Fight!





Program/Speaker Lineup

Future Meetings

“Top 5 Things I’ve Learned”

22 Feb 2024

With Col Stephen Gray

1100 @ Luke’s Place

Mar 2024
ASMC Committee Updates & 5-star Chapter Status
Location TBA

Past Meetings

“FM DT”

11 Jan 2024

With Mr. Jeff Decocker

1100 @ Clubhouse Grill, FWB

National ASMC Events/News



Fiscal Law

April 23-25 8AM - 4PM ET Virtual

[<https://asmconline.org/event/24156/>]

PDI 2024

May 29 - 31 Phoenix, AZ

[<https://asmconline.org/event/pdi-2024/>]

News

ASMC’s Certified Defense Financial Manager (CDFM) exam is undergoing a comprehensive update, that will be released late spring of this year. [<https://asmconline.org/news/certified-defense-financial-manager-exams-set-to-receive-updates-in-spring-2024/>]

Have you contributed to ASMC’s initiative to support updates to the CDFM and CDFM-A exams yet? There’s still time and more phases that require expertise from defense financial managers, like yourself. Contribute to This Important Initiative at [<https://asmconline.org/cdfm/cdfm-exam-development/>]

How does one compare federal contracting to baseball? Listen to the latest Business of Defense podcast, where ASMC CEO Rich Brady speaks with Patrick Lynch of Lynch Consultants for a little “inside baseball” and more. Listen to The Business of Defense at [<https://asmconline.org/news/business-of-defense-podcast-with-patrick-lynch-of-lynch-consultants/>]

Member News



RPDI News

The 2024 April RPDI is in the works. Max Miller and Michael Bricker are our RPDI chairs. The RPDI will take place on 17 Apr 2024 from 0700-1630 at Hurlburt Field Soundside. See the save the date below. If you have any questions or suggestions, Please contact Max Miller at max.miller.2@us.af.mil or Michael Bricker at michael.bricker@us.af.mil

Did you or someone you know recently move to another organization at Eglin? If so, you or someone you know may have dropped off the ASMC distro. Be sure to send an email to aac.asmcgulfcoast@us.af.mil so you don't miss any future communication and announcements.

A "Save the date" graphic for the 2024 RPDI. It features a green and white color scheme. On the left is the ASMC logo. In the center, the text reads: "Save the date 2024 RPDI 17 Apr 2024 @ Hurlburt field Soundside (0700-1630 tentative)". Below this, it lists speakers: "Ms. Kim Keck HQ AFMC/FM" and "Mr. Panarisi TSP and Financial Planning". At the bottom, it lists "Future of AI and the DoD" and "Mr. Eugene Bassham Comedian". On the right is the Gulf Coast Chapter logo. A note at the bottom right states: "More to follow for the final speakers list and registration information. Breakfast snack and lunch will be provided."



Ways and Means

We will start collecting and soliciting for donations in Feb in support of the RPDI. Please contact Marcella Miller will any questions or suggestions.

Retiree Mentoring Program

Now is the time to connect with a mentor. Anyone interested send an email to the chapter mailbox, gulfcoast.asmc@gmail.com. Use "Mentor" in the subject line.

Membership

Please encourage new FM coworkers and other nonmembers to join our chapter. We offer great opportunities to network, mentor, and build professional and personal relationships. Instructions on how to enroll are on the right side of this page.

New to the Eglin AFB FM team? Visit the link below to enroll to be an ASMC member. Select Gulf Coast Chapter or log into your account to transfer to our chapter.

Contact Jameia Hampton, membership chair.
<https://asmconline.org/membership/>

Membership

American Society of Military Comptrollers

Join Today



ASMC is your trusted resource, committed to the professional development of our global network of defense financial managers.

Who Should Join?

Persons who are, or have been, employed within the defense FM field of the federal government or associated with it. The individual fee is \$50 for one year or \$120 for three years. Corporate Membership is available for private sector companies in defense financial management.



**Learn more at
asmconline.org**



Make an Immediate Impact on Your Career



**STAY CONNECTED
AND INFORMED**



**ADVANCE YOUR
FM KNOWLEDGE**



**BUILD YOUR
COMMUNITY**

“

I have been an ASMC member for a 'long time' and the Society was a principal mainstay in my DoD career and professional development, culminating as the Principal Deputy ASN/FM.

Charles E. Cook III, SES, Retired

”

National ASMC Article

ASMC Newsroom

News, Defense Financial Highlights

ASMC Welcomes Caroline Smith as Vice President, Education and Professional Development

By Heather Ireland

January 29, 2024

ASMC is pleased to announce that Caroline Smith has joined the American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) as Vice President of Education and Professional Development effective February 1, 2024. Caroline is located at ASMC's national headquarters in Alexandria, VA.

She will play an integral role in the implementation of ASMC's defense financial management training and professional development programs including the organization's preeminent event, the National Professional Development Institute (PDI), as well as the burgeoning Program/Budget Summit and Data Analytics & Decision Support Conference (DA/DS).

"Caroline is a passionate advocate for professional development and is committed to ensuring that ASMC members have the skills and knowledge they need to excel in their careers," said ASMC's President & CEO Rich Brady. "We're thrilled that she's on the team."

Caroline is an experienced professional learning advocate with over 25 years' experience providing learning programs, project management, and performance improvement solutions to private schools and associations. She brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to this vital role. Prior to joining ASMC, Caroline was the Director of Professional Development at the National Association of Tax Professionals (NATP) where she was responsible for the development and delivery of the association's education programs and annual conferences.



Caroline can be reached at 571-482-4462 or csmith@asmconline.org

DefenseScoop

Experts give 2024 NDAA positive marks on quantum provisions

By Brandi Vincent

January 8, 2024

The fiscal 2024 National Defense Authorization Act includes multiple provisions that will push the Pentagon to use in-the-making and likely disruptive quantum computing capabilities to support emerging U.S. national security missions.

Broadly, quantum information science (QIS) and related technologies encompass the investigation and application of complex phenomena happening at atomic and subatomic levels to process and transmit data and information. Scientists and experts expect the still-evolving field will enable transformational science, engineering and communication assets as early as this decade — particularly for the Department of Defense.

DefenseScoop recently asked Pentagon observers with quantum expertise to weigh in on the significance of the QIS inclusions that did (and did not) make it into the 2024 NDAA.

“Would we have liked to have seen more? Of course — a bigger overall quantum budget with more quantum computing purchases to increase DOD’s exposure to the technology and send a stronger demand signal would have been great,” Paul Stimers, an attorney and member of Holland & Knight’s Public Policy and Regulation Group who also leads a coalition of quantum computing, communications and cryptography companies working to advance U.S. leadership in the space, told DefenseScoop.

“But this is a very good next step and we understand the tremendous budgetary pressures on the NDAA this year (two wars, inflation/interest rates, recruiting challenges, shipbuilding, etc. etc. etc.),” Stimers added in an interview over email.

According to a fact sheet from the Senate Armed Services Committee, Congress’ bipartisan, bicameral agreement on the defense policy bill “authorizes increased funding for a number of initiatives, including a distributed quantum networking testbed, [and the] development of a next-generation ion trap quantum computer at the Air Force Research Laboratory.”

“The quantum networking testbed is a relatively small investment that will help prove out quantum networking, an area where China has led,” Stimers noted.

The more than 1,700-page legislative text also approves a provision that requires the Pentagon to set up a new pilot program geared specifically toward quantum computing capabilities that hold a lot of promise to be developed and deployed in the next two years or less.

“The quantum pilot program will provide a dedicated focus on use case identification for near-term application development, something not included in any other NDAA,” Allison Schwartz, global government relations leader at quantum computing systems producer D-Wave, told DefenseScoop.

The company and its customers have a “long history working with the DOD on quantum applications” and hardware, she confirmed.

In Schwartz’s view, the newly directed quantum pilot program will push the Pentagon to expand “its historically narrow focus beyond gate-model quantum computing and consider all viable quantum computing systems, including annealing quantum computing and quantum-hybrid applications” when developing demonstrations, proof of concepts, and pilots.

While “gate-model” and “annealing” refer to different types of quantum computer designs, “quantum-hybrid applications” essentially combine quantum and classical computing systems.

Continue next page...

National News

“The U.S. government must consider all quantum technologies to meet the needs of the military, including logistics and transportation challenges, optimizing autonomous and robotic vehicles, tracking space debris, and emergency response. This program will help accelerate use of near-term quantum technologies by the U.S. government which is important because other global leaders are already building applications that benefit defense and national security such as the Australian Army for emergency response re-supply, and tsunami evacuation routes in Japan. In the private sector, examples include the SavantX application for optimizing a cargo pier at Port of Los Angeles and Davidson Technologies for threat detection,” Schwartz told DefenseScoop.

Down the line, this new pilot may require additional funding via defense appropriations processes.

“The pilot program will be directed through [a federally funded research-and-development center], and should incorporate small companies and non-traditional government contractors, as much of the advancement in quantum application development is coming from those entities,” Schwartz said.

“Now we must ensure the DOD begins the important process of identifying problems that could benefit from today’s quantum computing. D-Wave and the rest of the quantum industry stand ready to partner with the DOD by helping to identify and prioritize the best use cases for today’s quantum technology, so we may accelerate the benefits to help achieve mission objectives,” she added.

In a letter to the chairs and ranking members of the congressional armed services committees, the Quantum Industry Coalition — led by Stimers — noted the need for the type of pilot program that was included in the NDAA.

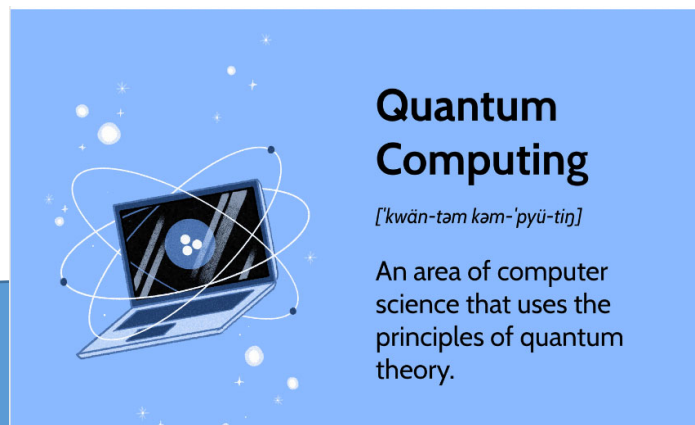
“A focus on near-term applications will help avoid the natural tendency toward long-term and theoretical research,” Stimers told DefenseScoop.









The group’s letter also spotlighted the coalition’s backing of other quantum topics for the policy bill, including but not limited to: support for developing the quantum workforce; quantum computer acquisition; development and deployment of post-quantum cryptography; and investment in a distributed quantum networking testbed.

“Workforce development is a critical factor for the quantum industry across the board. It’s important that DOD begins acquiring quantum computers both to send a demand signal to the private sector (unlocking further private investment and leveraging taxpayer funding) and to enable experimentation and use-case development within DOD. Post-quantum cryptography is an immediate need, as adversaries are currently stealing encrypted data for future decryption by quantum computers,” Stimers explained.

Overall though, he said the coalition is pleased with the provisions that made it into the NDAA.

“We appreciate that Congress is helping ensure that DOD invests in potentially game-changing quantum technologies that will help us win, and thus not have to fight, the next war,” Stimers said.



Quantum Computing	Vs.	Classical Computing
 Calculates with qubits, which can represent 0 and 1 at the same time		 Calculates with transistors, which can represent either 0 or 1
 Power increases exponentially in proportion to the number of qubits		 Power increases in a 1:1 relationship with the number of transistors
 Quantum computers have high error rates and need to be kept ultracold		 Classical computers have low error rates and can operate at room temp
 Well suited for tasks like optimization problems, data analysis, and simulations		 Most everyday processing is best handled by classical computers