

ASMC GULF COAST CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2016



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Executive Committee:

President	Ms Leah Hodge	883-3384
VP-Eglin	Mr Ray Graber	882-8097
VP-Hurlburt	Mr Rick Figueroa	884-2802
VP-Tenant	Ms Rachael Peoples	883-0832
Secretary	Ms Lindsey Stephan	883-4925
Treasurer	Ms Michelle Woolgar	882-6700 x 7800
2 nd Treasurer	Ms Mandy Chapman	882-5754
Reconciler	Ms Angela Gilbert	883-3412
Programs	Ms Connie Clay	883-2890
	Ms Gayle Thomas	883-2897
	Ms Kimberly Sypher	882-7682
Publicity	Ms Susan Ashworth	883-0177
Mini-PDI	Ms Kaci Harris	884-7643
Membership	Ms Heather Long	884-2806
Education/CDFM	Ms Lisa Gamon	883-5336
	Ms Edwina Freeman	883-5317
Enlisted Advisors:		
Hurlburt	TSgt Steven Coover	884-1548
Eglin	TSgt Kimberly Holen	882-2001
Ways & Means	Mika Gellinger	882-8650
	Ms Jennifer Miller	882-0283
Community Service	Mr Robert Turpin	883-5332
	Ms Kaci Harris	884-7643
Awards	Mr George Joseph	883-2123
	Ms Kristen Pedro	883-2152
Webmaster	Mr Jason Guzzardo	882-7595
Newsletter	Ms Brianna Hoppel	883-4238



President's Corner



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ASMC Gulf Coast Members,

This year one of my goals is to read at least 4 non-fiction books, and I started the year with the Power of Professionalism by Bill Wiersma. The used copy I bought (through Amazon Smile of course, make sure your purchases count toward our bottom line – go to Amazon Smile, add a charity, search for “Gulf Coast Chapter of Amer”, or bookmark <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-2139423>) fortuitously had an inspirational message on the inner cover by Robin Rand, General, USAF, Commander of AF Global Strike Command.

One of the first takeaways from the book is the message that anyone, at any level, in any organization can be a professional, and starts with a walk through of why professionalism matters. He then identifies the seven mind-sets of trusted professionals:

- 1. Professionals have a bias for results*
- 2. Professionals realize (and act) like they are part of something bigger than themselves*
- 3. Professionals know things get better when they get better*
- 4. Professionals have personal standards that often transcend organizational ones*
- 5. Professionals know that personal integrity is all they have*
- 6. Professionals aspire to be masters of their emotions, not enslaved by them*
- 7. Professionals aspire to reveal value in others*

For me, many of these can be tied back to this key tenet - take responsibility for your actions. Your actions have the potential to influence your own success, the success of those around you, and the greater organization that you are a part of. It is as important to be responsible for your actions, and your professionalism, when it is easy to do as when it becomes more difficult. Perhaps it falters when we're facing adversity, disagreement, or even disillusionment of ourselves or others. Perhaps ...

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President's Corner



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we've had good intentions but had them overshadowed by process and bureaucracy enough to be detrimental to our fortitude to take responsibility for our actions. Don't let it be.

In the AF, there is a rigid structure within which we operate, and for good reason. The AF FY16 PB is \$167 billion. (<http://www.saffm.hq.af.mil/budget/pbfy16.asp>) As part of the financial management community, we are responsible for the planning, programming, budgeting, and executing of those funds. Managing those funds requires a good amount of structure and process, discipline and good stewardship. Each one of us has an important role regardless of our specific position or organization; we are part of that bigger picture. We are part of that bigger picture where the, "AF is facing a modernization bow wave in critical...programs over the next ten years that...we simply cannot afford." (<http://www.saffm.hq.af.mil/budget/>) We will be faced with defending larger budgets while facing budget cuts, and where that necessary structure and process in some cases seems to delay information and decision making.

So, be diligent, and don't let those same processes keep you from being a professional when it matters most, when maybe something we're doing doesn't make sense or a process is outdated or inefficient. Be the one to take notice, and take action. Represent our profession well, professionally, by not becoming blind to the process but allowing yourself to look for ways to be better, to make positive impacts, and to embark on paths that make us better professionals, and by so doing, better programs, divisions, directorates, and ultimately a better AF.

*Rachael Peoples
ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter, VP-Tenant*

MINUTES: Executive Council

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

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



Upcoming Events



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MARCH LUNCHEON

When: 30 Mar 2016 at 11:00am
Where: Fudpuckers, Okaloosa Island
What: Awards Luncheon

<https://cs3.eis.af.mil/sites/OO-ED-AA-A2/AQ/Registration/Registration/Registration.aspx>

RPDI

The RPDI will be held at the **Emerald Coast Convention Center on 14 Apr 16**. We look forward to hosting a variety of speakers and topics to include Maj Gen Martin, SAF-FM, and retired 96 ABW Commander, Sal Nodjomian. The RPDI Programs Committee is hard at work finding & securing speakers. Some of the great topics they have come up with include: A PEM Perspective, Comptroller Perspective, AFAFO Policy, SOCOM, FM Career Field Mentoring and more! If you have any questions regarding the RPDI please contact Kaci Harris and Kristen Pedro.

WAYS and MEANS

We are soliciting members' interest in upcoming volunteer opportunities at future luncheons. Be sure to provide your contact info, interest, and availability on our sign-up clipboard. Near future opportunities include:

- Annual ASMC Golf Tournament – **Apr 8th, 2016 @ 1200**

POC: Mika Gellinger, 882-8650



Community Service



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Fisher House:

The ASMC Community Service committee has scheduled bi-monthly dinners at our local Fisher House here on Eglin AFB. The ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter started preparing meals in July, and is scheduled every other Tuesday through the Month of March. We are still looking for volunteers for the following dates:

- Tuesday, 8 Mar 16
- Tuesday, 22 Mar 16
- Tuesday, 5 Apr 16
- Tuesday, 19 Apr 16
- Tuesday, 3 May 16
- Tuesday, 17 May 16
- Tuesday, 7 Jun 16
- Tuesday, 21 Jun 16

If anyone is interested in volunteering to provide a dinner with the Fisher House, you may call Maika Andrew at 850-420-8893 or she may be reached by email at maika.andrew.1@us.af.mil.

Pictured below: SSgt Matthew Harris, 2d Lt Vincent Colletti, and Dorothy Goring-Briley





Community Service



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Relay for Life

The "Color's for a Cause" Niceville Relay for Life Event is May 6-7th, 6 p.m. at Niceville High School football stadium. The ASMC team Comptrollers for a Cause is looking for volunteers to help out in all areas for the event.

Current fund raisers: The team is currently selling the Fund Ray's coupon books for \$15. Please contact Amy Tolar, Nicole Smith, Maika Andrew, Kristen Pedro, Pretrece Richards, or Dedra Hickman to get yours today. These books can save you up to \$1000 on food and entertainment in the Okaloosa and Walton Counties. There are also a limited supply of Santa Rosa County books available.

Plans for a April Origami Owl jewelry party are in development. Please let one of the team members know if you would like to attend so we can include you when the invite goes out.

If you have not become a team member this year but would like to help support this great cause by joining the Comptrollers for a Cause team please sign up at the website below:

http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLCY15National?pg=informational&fr_id=72044&type=fr_informational&sid=128433&headerlogin=true

Thanks to all who came out to support ASMC's RFL fundraising efforts at Clemenza's (pictured to the right)



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Education/CDFM



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- To view a list of Gulf Coast Chapter CDFM awarded go to <http://www.asmconline.org/certification/cdfm-information/cdfm-awarded/> and search by chapter.
- CDFM Reimbursement: <http://www.gulfcoastasmc.org/cdfm.html>
(New rules and form dated 13 May 2015)
- Purchasing a CDFM Test Module: <http://www.asmconline.org/certification/cdfm-information/testing-resources/>
- Forgot your CDFM Candidate number: <http://www.asmconline.org/certification/get-my-candidate-id/>
- EDFMT Course Details/Schedule:
<http://www.asmconline.org/educationtraining/classroom-training/enhanced-defense-financial-management-training-course/>
- We have Module 4 Acquisition Business Management training guides available, contact POCs listed below:

Education POC: Lisa Gamon, lisa.gamon.1@us.af.mil, 883-5336

CDFM POC: Edwina Freeman, edwina.freeman.1@us.af.mil, 883-5317

MEMBERSHIP

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 those who don't 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. To register to become a new member, please visit the ASMC Website (Pg 8).

Chair: Heather Long, 884-2806, heather.long.7@us.af.mil



Websites

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We're on FACEBOOK!

We are pleased to announce that our Chapter's **Facebook** page is up and running! We will utilize this venue to share announcements of events and praises going on throughout our chapter. If you would like to submit a picture to share on the Chapter Facebook page, please email it to, gulfcoast.asmc@gmail.com, and be sure to include a caption. Pictures must be related to Chapter members/events. Be sure to like our page! <https://m.facebook.com/gulfcoast.asmc>.

ASMC WEBSITES

ASMC National Headquarters website is: <http://www.asmconline.org/>
Gulf Coast Chapter website is: <http://www.gulfcoastasmc.org/>

We are looking for new ideas to include on our webpage. Please contact our webmasters Jason Guzzardo (882-7595) if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions on chapter website issues.

NATIONAL NEWS

National PDI 2016 - held in Orlando, FL.

Please take advantage of other opportunities to fulfill your required CDFM CPEs to include local chapter training events, programs offered through the Online Learning Center, PDI 2011- 2015 recorded sessions, and Armed Forces Comptroller journal articles.

Use the link found on www.asmconline.org to register and take tests as applicable to get your credit.



The Real Winners of the Air Force Bomber Contest

by Marcus Weisgerber, Feb. 17th, govexec.com



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In a ruling Tuesday, government auditors upheld the U.S. Air Force's decision to award an \$80 billion classified contract to Northrop Grumman for a new long-range stealth bomber.

While their rejection of a protest filed by Boeing and Lockheed Martin -- the world's two largest defense firms -- is being touted as a financial boon for Northrop, the unseen winners are the Air Force's arms buyers who worked behind the scenes evaluating the bids.

"We're pleased with the decision and we're anxious to get started on the program," Frank Kendall, the Defense Department's top arms buyer, said in a statement provided by a spokesman.

For the past nine years, the Air Force's acquisition corps has been living in the shadows of two huge contracts the Government Accountability Office said it bungled: a \$15 billion deal in 2007 to buy a new fleet of search-and-rescue helicopters and a \$35 billion award in 2008 to buy a new aerial tanker that could refuel planes in flight. Both contracts were canceled. When DoD rebid them, neither of the two had to undergo the kind of scrutiny just given to Northrop's bomber contract win. When Boeing won the tanker contract in 2011, the loser, Airbus, did not contest the deal. For the search-and-rescue helicopters in 2014, Sikorsky was the only bidder.

The stealth bomber competition is the first real high-profile test for Air Force arms buyers, who had to evaluate two competing bids from the world's largest defense firms. They chose Northrop Grumman to build the new plane in October. Days later, the Boeing-Lockheed team filed a protest with the Government Accountability Office, which audits contract awards.

"GAO reviewed the challenges to the selection decision raised by Boeing and has found no basis to sustain or uphold the protest," the office said in a statement today. "In denying Boeing's protest, GAO concluded that the technical evaluation, and the evaluation of costs, was reasonable, consistent with the terms of the solicitation, and in accordance with procurement laws and regulations."

Since the program is highly classified, the Air Force has not said why the Northrop bid stood out compared to Boeing and Lockheed, just that it "was the best value for the warfighter and the taxpayer," in the words of Lt. Gen. Arnold Bunch, the service's top uniformed procurement official.

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Since the collapse of the Air Force helicopter and tanker competitions in 2007 and 2008, Kendall and his predecessor, Ash Carter, who is now defense secretary, have ordered significant acquisition reforms for Pentagon arms buyers which seem to have paid off.

"The GAO decision suggests that [Defense Department] assessment of major program bid submissions may have improved," Byron Callan, an analyst with investment research firm Capital Alpha Partners, wrote in a note to investors.

Tuesday's ruling may not be the final chapter for the bomber award. Following the ruling, Boeing issued a sternly worded statement that didn't rule out taking the Pentagon to court.

"We continue to believe that our offering represents the best solution for the Air Force and the nation, and that the government's selection process was fundamentally and irreparably flawed," the company said. "We will carefully review the GAO's decision and decide upon our next steps with regard to the protest in the coming days."

Boeing has reason to want to protest. Winning the bomber would have injected new life into the firm's combat aircraft business. While the company has stability — Boeing produces the Air Force's KC-46 tanker, the Navy's P-8 submarine-hunting plane, as well as Army helicopter projects — its two fighter jets, the F/A-18 Super Hornet and F-15 Eagle, could see a production freeze at the end of the decade without additional Pentagon or overseas orders. The two fighter projects "will need lifelines from U.S. and foreign sales," Roman Schweizer, an analyst with Guggenheim, said in his own note to investors.

"For Boeing, this places more pressure on the company to secure an F/A-18 sale to Kuwait and another of F-15s to Qatar," Callan said. "Israeli opposition in both instances may be a factor complicating these deals."

The U.S. Navy and Australia's military are still buying Super Hornets and Boeing has been actively pitching the warplane on the international market. Boeing also is still making new Eagles for Saudi Arabia.

The stealth bomber contract loss is less of a big deal for Boeing's partner in the bid, Lockheed, which is expecting to see an increase in orders for its F-35 fighter in the coming years.

"We believe Lockheed Martin will continue to benefit from the F-35 ramp up, missile defense, munitions and other lines of business," Schweizer said.



Info from Becker Professional Education



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Becker is adding new courses constantly and many of them apply to the Government. They have both Yellow book and Green Book courses as well as soft skills that everyone needs. Below is information on CPA and CPE courses:

Becker's CPA and CPE courses are aligned to fulfill DoD FM Certification competencies.



Becker Professional Education is proud to announce that select Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Continuing Professional Education (CPE) courses offered by Becker are now aligned with the Department of Defense (DoD) Financial Management (FM) certification program.

DoD FM employees may take advantage of Becker courses to earn credits toward their level one, two, or three requirements for certification. Those interested can choose to enroll in the four-part CPA Exam Review course or select individual CPA Exam Review parts or CPE courses to earn credit towards their competencies. Becker's CPA Exam Review and CPE courses align with 15 of the 17 DoD FM competencies*.

Prepare for the CPA Exam while meeting the DoD FM competencies.

Over the past 50 years, Becker has helped over 400,000 candidates successfully prepare for the CPA Exam. Federal Government employees can take advantage of the following pricing:

- Enroll in one CPA Exam Review part: \$910 (list price \$1,120)
- Enroll in two CPA Exam Review parts: \$1,820 (list price \$2,240)
- Enroll in all four CPA Exam Review parts: \$1,930 (list price \$3,360)
- 0% Financing is also available. For more information, visit becker.com/financing.

Enroll today: becker.com/dodfm

Earn CPE credits while meeting the DoD FM competencies.

Now DoD FM employees can obtain their CET credits through Becker's comprehensive online CPE course catalog. Our courses cover pertinent topics that address issues critical to today's accounting professionals, plus:

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- Try before you buy. Sample a CPE course with our complimentary demo at becker.com.

For more details and pricing: Visit becker.com/dodfm or call 877.BPE.8238

*These courses have been aligned by the DoD, Office of the Under Secretary of Comptroller, to the DoD approved Financial Management and Leadership competencies for the specific area of study. The DoD course alignments serve neither as an advertisement, endorsement, or a recommendation of any privately developed and maintained courses for continuing education.

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