



ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter Newsletter

Mar
2024

ASMC Gulf Coast
Chapter

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This issue:

President's Corner	1
President's Corner Cont.	2
Past Meeting Summary	3
Education News	4
Community News	5
Org Chart	6
FM Article	7
National ASMC Events	9
Member News	10
National ASMC Article	11
National News	13

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www.asmconline.org



Mr. Max Miller

President's Corner

Written by Mr. Max Miller, Eglin Vice President

Good afternoon, Teammates!

As we gear up for the RPDI next month I was asked to write an article promoting the RPDI, which will feature a session on artificial intelligence, so I thought what better way than to have Chat GPT write it for me, so I give you The RDPI by Chat GPT.

Unlock Your Professional Potential with ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter's RPDI: Recharging the Work Force!

Are you ready to embark on a transformative journey towards professional excellence? Join us at the Regional Professional Development Institute (RPDI) for an unparalleled experience designed to empower and inspire professionals like you.

Event Highlights:

- 1. Keynote Address by Ms. Kimberly Keck:**
Prepare to be inspired by Ms. Kimberly Keck, a renowned leader in AFMC Financial Management. With her wealth of experience and insightful perspective, Ms. Keck will deliver a keynote address that promises to ignite your passion and drive for success.
- 2. AI and the Department of Defense (DoD) Session:** Dive into the fascinating world of artificial intelligence and its applications within the Department of Defense. Gain valuable insights into cutting-edge technologies and strategies shaping the future of defense and national security.

President's Corner Continued

3. **Panel Discussion on Career Progression:** Learn from the best as our esteemed panel of experts share invaluable advice and strategies for navigating your career path, both military and civilian. From overcoming obstacles to seizing opportunities, this interactive session will provide you with actionable insights to propel your career forward.
4. **Comedy Performance by Eugene Bassham:** Take a break from the seriousness of professional development and enjoy a hilarious comedy performance by the talented Eugene Bassham. Laughter is guaranteed as Eugene entertains and delights the audience with his unique comedic style.
5. **Session on Retirement Planning:** Prepare for the future with our comprehensive session on retirement planning and your TSP. Whether you're just starting your career or nearing retirement age, this session will equip you with the knowledge and tools necessary to achieve financial security and peace of mind.
6. **AND MORE!**

Registration Coming Soon! Be Sure to Reserve Your Spot!

Event Details:

- **Date:** April 17th
- **Time:** 7:30 AM
- **Location:** Soundside Club on Hurlburt Field
- **Cost:** \$75 for members \$100 for non-members



Regional Professional Development Institute 2024



Program News

Past Meeting Summary

Our last chapter meeting was held at the West Gate Chapel on Eglin AFB, FL on 22 Feb 2024 at 1130. Col Stephen Gray presented the “Top 5 Things I’ve Learned.” He went into details about the top 5 things he has learned during his 31-year career. His presentation focused on respect, relationships, results, responsiveness, and having fun/core values. Col Gray also took the time to visit some of the acquisition programs under the EB directorate and the 96 CPTS/FM office. We appreciate Col Gray for taking time out of his busy TDY schedule to educate the ASMC GC workforce. Thank you to all members who attended. This event had one of the highest participation rates this year for our chapter.



Future Meeting Announcement

The next meeting will take place on 28 March. We will have a March Madness FM Tournament. All our FM teammates in EB, NWC, 96 TW, CPTS, LRS, MEDGP, AFRL, 53WG, 350WG, and AFSOC are welcome. The winning team will earn bragging rights and a uniquely designed T-shirt. Please stay tuned for more information on how to register your team and participate in the tournament.

Education News

ASMC Gulf Coast Scholarships



The Gulf Coast Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers is pleased to announce that we are in the process of awarding our annual academic scholarship. Seniors at Crestview, Niceville, Choctawhatchee, Navarre, Baker, Laurel Hill, Destin and Fort Walton Beach High Schools who will be seeking undergraduate degrees in academic disciplines relating to financial/resource management such as business administration, economics, public administration, accounting, or finance are eligible to apply. Additionally, undergraduate students at Northwest Florida State College, Pensacola State College, and the University of West Florida majoring in the afore mentioned academic disciplines are also eligible for this scholarship.

The scholarship applications are located at the link below. Please distribute this information to students who meet the eligibility criteria and have them complete and submit the application no later than April 15, 2024, to the point of contact listed on the application.

<http://www.gulfcoastasmc.org/education.html>

For more information, please contact:

Karen Lee (850-883-0972 or karen.lee.14@us.af.mil), or

Pamela Summers (850-883-5391 or pamela.summers.4@us.af.mil)

Community News

Answers to February's word search

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 T 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 F G
 C X N Z P E R R R P 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

Care Packages

If you would like to donate to care packages that go to our deployed FM members, please contact Patrick DeWitt.

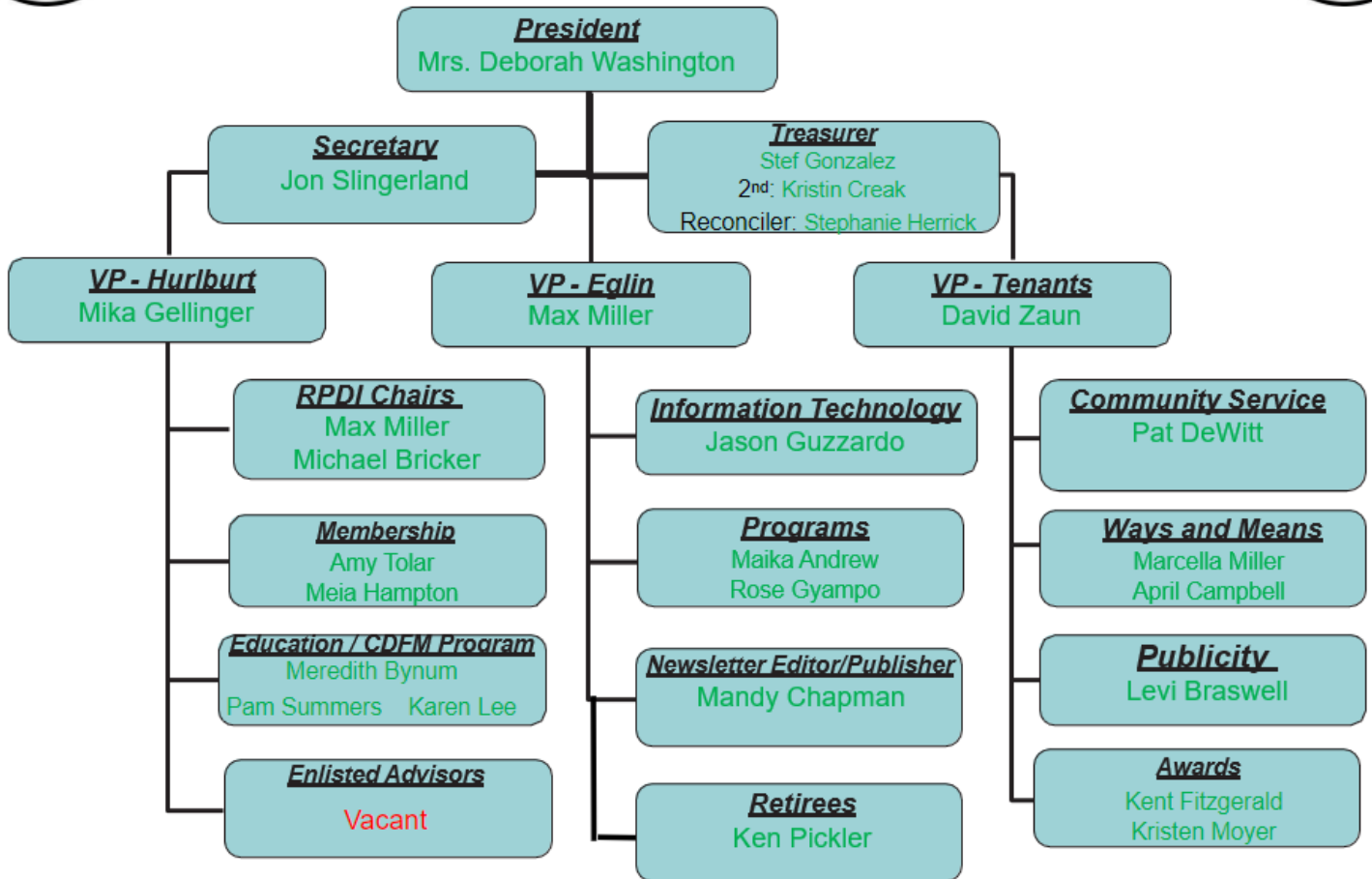
*Thank you for being the reason
someone smiled!*



Org Chart



2023-2024 Gulf Coast Chapter



As of September 2023

Water you doing spring break?

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

Directions:

Find the word in the puzzle.

Words can go in any direction.

Words can share letters as they cross over each other.

Activities
 Camping
 Enjoy
 Fun
 Laughter
 Time Off

Beach
 Decisions
 Explore
 Games
 Memories
 Trips

Boating
 Downtime
 Family
 Hotels
 Theme Parks
 Vacation

Legacy to DEAMS Update

By Mr. Ray Graber, 96 CPTS/FMA

Earlier this month I had the opportunity to listen to a briefing about the Legacy to DEAMS (L2D) update from AFMC and SAF. Both GAFS and IAPS are costly to maintain and there is a sunset plan for both already in motion. From a Comptroller perspective, the sooner we can get down to one accounting system the better. Not only is it not cost effective for the Air Force, but having a workforce who understand both accounting systems is getting more difficult. Very few of the active-duty Airmen have ever worked in the legacy systems.

The current schedule shows AFMC migrating sometime in FY25 to FY26. However, SAF would like to move this to an early date, so the DEAMS contractors and commands are looking to see how we make that happen. This includes not only the units on Eglin not using DEAMS like LCMC, AFRL, NWC, and the T&E side of the 96 TW, but also, migrating any of the residual contracts still in legacy for those units already using DEAMS. There are still some systems interface issues with CCAR and JOCAS to DEAMS, and those must be fixed before the migration will work.

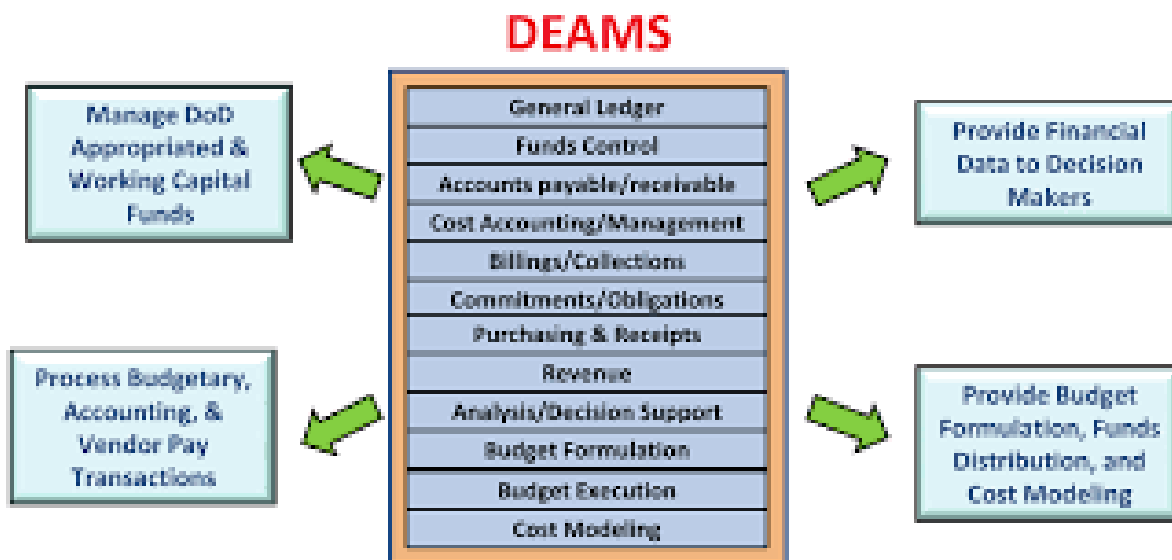
DEAMS will send a team out to help train all the organizations moving to DEAMS for the first time. Also, we use a 3-prong approach to clean up the legacy database. First, every new transaction will go in DEAMS. Second, a massive action to scrub all the old obligations in the legacy systems to liquidate or de-obligate the documents, and finally, manually move any remaining obligations to DEAMS. This final step will require a lot of communication and teamwork between, CPTS, contracting, the owning organization, and DFAS to get the obligations moved correctly.

Continue next page...

FM Article Continued...

Right now, there are still some issues with migrating everything to DEAMS. There is no timeline for Supply transactions (SBSS) other than fuel to move to DEAMS. In addition, any reimbursement transactions tied to SBSS will not move to DEAMS. Also, even though TW's O&M OAC/OBAN moved to DEAMS, the civilian pay transactions have not. AFMC is slowly migrating a Wing at a time and there is no schedule when we will move.

As we get closer to an actual migration date, more information and training opportunities will be advertised, and we will certainly share as soon as we hear anything.





Program/Speaker Lineup

Future Meetings

March Madness
FM Tournament
28 Mar 2024
Time/Location
TBA

GC RPD
17 Apr 2024
0700-1630
Hurlburt Field
Soundside

Past Meetings

“Top 5 Things I’ve
Learned”
22 Feb 2024
With Col Stephen
Gray
1100 @ Luke’s
Place

National ASMC Events



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/>]

CDFM Module 1 Refresher 2024

May 28-29, 2024
[<https://asmconline.org/event/cdfm-module-1-refresher-course-may-28-29-2024/>]

CDFM Module 2 Refresher 2024

May 30-31, 2024
[<https://asmconline.org/event/cdfm-module-2-refresher-course-may-30-31-2024/>]

CDFM Module 3 Refresher 2024

June 3-4, 2024
[<https://asmconline.org/event/cdfm-module-3-refresher-course-june-3-4-2024/>]



Member News



ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter Elections

We are now accepting nominations for 2024-2025 ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter President and Vice Presidents. Nominations must be submitted by 15 March to Brianna Hoppel.

The four positions available are:

President

VP – Eglin Units

VP – Eglin Tenants

VP – Hurlburt

If you are interested or you know someone you believe would do a phenomenal job, please submit the name and preferred position no later than 15 Mar to Brianna Hoppel at brianna.hoppel.1@us.af.mil.

**** Please note: for VP nominations, those who fall under the 96th TW are Eglin Units, all others are considered Eglin Tenants.**

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.

ASMC Gulf Coast Scholarship Application

It's Scholarship Time!!

The scholarship applications are located at <http://www.gulfcoastasmc.org/education.html>.

Please distribute this information to students who meet the eligibility criteria and have them complete and submit the application no later than April 15, 2024, to the point of contact listed on the application.



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/>



**Save the date
2024 RPD**

**17 Apr 2024 @ Hurlburt field Soundside
(0730-1630 tentative)**

**Ms. Kim Keck
HQ AFMC/FM**

**Mr. Panarisi
TSP and Financial Planning**

Future of AI and the DoD

**Career Progression
Panel Discussion**

**Mr. Eugene Bassham
Comedian**

**More to follow for
registration information.
Breakfast, snack and
lunch will be provided.**



National ASMC Article

ASMC Newsroom

News, Defense Financial Highlights

On The Fast Lane to PPBE 2.0

By Heather Ireland

February 27, 2024

The Agile Future of Defense Planning and Budgeting

Provided by Decision Lens

On January 18th, members of the PPBE Reform Commission presented at the American Society of Military Comptroller's Program and Budget Summit in advance of their final report being published on March 6.

One objective stood out, as highlighted by Commissioner Hale, "The last thing I'm going to mention in terms of important principles where improvement is needed, is agility, that is being able to adapt and change while the process is going on."

Agility must be delivered through reliance on near real-time data, which can account for current spend levels and allow for immediate action to put the money where the mission is.

Ensuring actions are mission aligned requires a re-engineered process combined with modern software. Together, these elements deliver on a strategic imperative of reform, again highlighted by Commissioner Hale, "It's important to an effective PPBE system that it introduces and assesses tradeoffs in major areas for major decisions, and then brings analytic information to bear both on costs and benefits to allow decision makers to make informed decisions that in turn lead to an effective national security at a reasonable price."

However, making these changes will be perilous due to systemic inertia and fear of change. To succeed, the Commission in conjunction with Congress and the Department of Defense must first address several issues, including:

- 1. Lack of data standardization.** Organizations must be able to effectively compare subordinate groups to most effectively allocate funds and make mission aligned decisions. Today's lack of standardization leads to an inability to compare and contrast, which delays decision-making and results in investments that may be duplicative or not aligned to the mission.
- 2. Limited transparency.** Tools which provide insight into why decisions were made and how the budget connects to and supports the defense strategy will be necessary for Congress and leadership to provide FMers the autonomy to make decisions across all echelons.
- 3. Unempowered front-line financial managers.** Other countries have found ways to better empower front-line financial analysts while maintaining oversight. Empowering these individuals requires better processes and modern technology which will allow analysts to spend less time on manual tasks and more time on data analysis.

It will not be easy to introduce a more agile, data-driven PPBE system without addressing the areas outlined below.

Improving PPBE business systems and data analytics by introducing modern technology & a unified decision framework

Defense business system transformation is critical to reforming, accelerating, and providing agility to the PPBE process. However, many PPBE systems and communication approaches remain antiquated, such as transmitting PDF documents and hard copies without an emphasis on using more efficient technology.

This type of information transfer is not only inefficient, but it also leads to slow decisions made on out-of-date data. To overcome this, leaders at all levels must have access to standardized data and tools which rely on increased automation to enable better apples-to-apples comparison across the enterprise to make decisions with full understanding of their impact.

The result will be leaders who can address changing conditions at speed and scale.

Updating the PPBE processes to enable innovation and adaptability to deliver needed agility

The rigidity of the current PPBE process limits rapid course changes. The Commission highlighted how Program Managers did not have the agility in the year of execution to ingest new technology and innovation or pivot effectively to an unplanned requirement.

Continue next page...

National ASMC Article

The result has been a rush toward year-end funding for use or lose dollars, leading to less-than-optimal year-end spending decisions and not enough time to create quality contracts. Reprogramming is helpful in that it allows for money to be moved, but unhelpful in that it is excessively time-consuming. One recommendation is to change re-programming limits, which would add agility during the year of execution.

However, a system which better tracks spend and obligation rates throughout the year coupled with flexibility in reallocating money is the ideal situation. At Decision Lens, we are proud to offer software designed to allow the DoD to understand current spend trends and use that data to develop various scenario plans. This proactive approach eliminates the end of year rush to 'just spend' and ensures investments are aligned to the mission.

Upleveling the capability of the DoD PPBE programming and budgeting workforce to drive decisions across all echelons

Departments are understaffed but still required to continue working as if they are fully staffed. According to the Commission – at CAPE – 12 to 18 percent of their positions currently remain unfilled as of the first quarter of FY 2023.

The considerable stress on the workforce means there is little downtime for training, leave, and a reasonable work-life balance, leading to recruiting and retention challenges. Further, being mired in the minutiae is not the reason many individuals chose a career in the public sector.

However, integrating automation removes some of the manual tasks allowing frontline workers to better focus on supporting the warfighter. Technology that is transparent and collaborative will allow these financial experts to invest time saved from automation into data analysis and making recommendations to meet the mission.

Conclusion

There is real momentum behind reform, and the time for change is now. As Lara Sayer commented during the panel, “You know, Decision Lens is here, I think Definitive Logic, all these great new tools and data analytics, and is there enough training so that the folks that are used to using the old school methods, right, how do they use these tools?”

Adopting and training on new tools is the essential next step. Commercial software such as Decision Lens was developed for rapid implementation and broad adoption. This is achieved through embedded best practices, on-demand training, and an experienced implementation team.

As we look towards the final PPBE report, Congress, the Department of Defense, and the Commission must work together to make reform reality. With technology quickly advancing, the time to identify, adopt, and deploy commercial software will power the future of PPBE.

Already, Decision Lens is transforming how commands in the Army, Navy, and Air Force are planning and programming. If you're ready to make reform reality, learn more on their website or reach out directly.



National News

Air & Space Forces Magazine

All Options on the Table to Cover \$35 Billion Gap on Sentinel ICBM

By John A. Tirpak

February 13, 2024

The Air Force isn't sure yet how it will fill the \$35 billion gap between what the Sentinel intercontinental ballistic missile was supposed to cost and the recently revised estimate, but no approach is yet being ruled out, senior service leaders told reporters at the AFA Warfare Symposium.

"I can't take anything off the table right now," Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall said of how to fund the overrun on Sentinel, which came to light in January when the Air Force notified Congress of a Nunn-McCurdy breach on the program. Under the Nunn-McCurdy Act, the Pentagon must inform lawmakers if a program incurs a cost or schedule overrun of more than 15 percent—Sentinel experienced both.

Kendall said he thinks the Air Force has a good handle on the amount of the overrun—37 percent over the \$96 billion baseline cost of the program—and that the delay is likely to be about two years.

Asked where the Air Force will find the money—the \$35 billion gap is comparable to the service's entire procurement budget request for fiscal 2024—Kendall said it would not be funded from elsewhere in the strategic modernization portfolio.

"It's a discussion we haven't had," but one which will have to happen soon, and outside the "normal deliberative process about formulating the overall budget for DOD," Kendall said.

The tradeoffs may not be direct, he said, and if the Air Force has to fund it out of expected budgets, "that will limit the amount of money we have for everything else." He said he hoped it could be found from the larger Pentagon pool of funds.

"It's of strategic importance. And I think ... it would be very difficult to pay for out of just the Air Force's budget. So I think we're going to take a look at the totality of the budget," Kendall said.

When a Nunn-McCurdy breach occurs, the program can only continue if the Secretary of Defense certifies that it is critical and that no alternative exists. Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III is expected to make such a certification.

Air Force officials have said privately the service may ask Congress for a special appropriation, given that the service bears the expense of two of the three legs of the nuclear triad and has had to trade off tactical programs in the past to cover nuclear expenses that the Army and Marine Corps do not have.

The military services have at times turned to cuts in readiness or personnel to pay for large programs that have gone over budget but were still deemed crucial.

There's no alternative to the Sentinel or anything else in the Air Force's nuclear modernization program, Kendall said. He specifically said there can be no cuts to the B-21, but he did not mention the nuclear Long Range Stand-Off missile, which will initially equip the B-52 and later the B-21.

"The primacy of the mission I think, says a lot," Kendall said, adding the Sentinel is "essential."

Kristyn Jones, acting Air Force undersecretary, said the "missile aspect of the program is not where we're seeing a sizable amount of cost. It's primarily in the civil works aspects of the program," meaning the construction of new silos, launch control capsules, and rights-of-way for cabling and other ground elements.

Jones said the Sentinel civil engineering effort is larger even than the "Big Dig" in Boston; an infamous 16-year, \$7.4 billion highway relocation in the downtown area involving large tunnels and massive re-routing of utilities.

Air Force acquisition executive Andre Hunter has noted that the service hasn't attempted a project on the scale of the Sentinel in over 50 years—when the Minuteman ICBM was deployed—and the full scope of the project couldn't be known until an assessment was made of the existing facilities.

Continue next page... **13**

National News

The Sentinel program replaces much of the Minuteman ground infrastructure as well as the nuclear command and control system, which is still based on analog circuitry.

Jones noted that in initial program estimates, it was assumed that some elements of the Minuteman infrastructure could be re-used for Sentinel, “but now it looks like they can’t.” Inflation, supply chain issues, and labor costs have also contributed to the Sentinel overrun, Jones said.

The Pentagon is conducting an assessment of the Sentinel program to nail down the root causes of the overages, as required by law.

Kendall, having performed work for Sentinel prime contractor Northrop Grumman, is recused from making programmatic decisions about Northrop programs like Sentinel or B-21. Those decisions will fall to the undersecretary or Hunter, but Kendall will still be in charge of deciding where to find budget offsets.



LGM-35A SENTINEL
THE NEXT GENERATION MINUTEMAN III