



GULF COAST CHAPTER NEWS



Sep 07

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MILITARY COMPTROLLERS

PRESIDENT'S CORNER **APRIL CHAPEL**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for instilling in me the confidence to serve as this year's president.

The executive committee has decided on two goals for the upcoming year and I have outlined them below:

- 1.) Increase the current membership by focusing on our junior FMers (military and civilians). In order to do this, we are starting a "sponsor a non-member" program where current members will contact non-members in the FM career field (and individuals who perform resource advisor or FM duties part-time or as an additional duty) and invite them to a luncheon, which will be paid for by the chapter. We will also be doing a membership drive. The first 25 non-members who would like to join will receive one-year paid dues by the chapter. Additionally, we will be adding 3 new positions to our executive committee. Each of them will be an enlisted advisor, E-6 and below, one from Eglin and one from Hurlburt.
- 2.) Increase our community service, not only externally but internally. We have many ideas on this and we will be asking the membership to choose from a list of ideas to help decide what external community service we will focus on this year. We are planning at least 1 community service event per quarter. For internal community service, here are a few highlights of the things we are planning: sending our deployed FMers care packages, door prizes at each of our luncheons, and sponsoring wing Christmas parties.

By writing to you today, I not only wanted to give you an overview of what we want to accomplish this year, but I am also asking for your help. We have an idea which will take a step in the direction of both goals by holding an ASMC sponsored Closeout Party. This party would be not only for the members we have now but for all who are in the FM career field. It will require volunteers as well as a few hours away from the office to attend the party. Tentatively, we are looking to the 3rd week of October, but this is flexible.

As I'm sure you are aware, volunteers are crucial to making each of these events a success, so I ask once again that if you are interested in helping in any of these events please contact one of the POCs below:

Ways and Means - Jennifer Denega, 883-4787

Membership - Angie Blackwell, 882-0063

Education - John Dininger, 883-3542

CDFM - Vanessa Fuentes, 882-9841

Eglin Enlisted Advisor - TSgt Gina Rodriguez, 882-3574

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

Executive Committee

President	Ms April Chapel	882-3812
VP-Eglin	Ms Leah Hodge	882-3615
VP-Hurlburt	Capt Dan Genest	884-7289
VP-Tenants	Capt Christopher M Hill	883-4040
Secretary	Ms Brenda Dininger	882-3635
Community Relations	Ms Karen Williams	883-3808
	Ms Susie Matthews	883-6454
Education	Mr John Dininger	883-3542
Education (CDFM)	Ms Vanessa Fuentes	882-9841
Education Publicity	Ms Verna McBride	882-3346
Membership	Capt Angie Blackwell	882-0063
Programs	Mr Ken Pickler	883-2193
Publicity	Ms Dedra Hickman	883-6411
Newsletter	Ms Laura Gamble	884-2823
Regional PDI	Dan Harvey	883-0480
	Tim Bozoki	882-4138
	Ms Leah Hodge	882-3615
Treasurer	Ms DeAnna Morales	883-5907
Treasurer-Deputy	Ms Denise Wagner	883-0338
Ways & Means	Ms Jennifer Denega	883-4787
Webmaster	Mr Ken Kennedy	883-0870
	Mr Ron Millis	882-0936
Eglin Enlisted Advisor	TSgt Gina Rodriguez	882-3574
Hurlburt Enl Advisor	A1C Jillian Thompson	884-4110
Corp Vanguard	Mr Ken Bailey	729-5574

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Hurlburt Enlisted Advisor - A1C Jillian Thompson, 579-4110 (DSN)
RPDS Co-Chairs - Dan Harvey, 883-0480 & Tim Bozoki, 882-4138
Programs – Ken Pickler, 883-2193
Newsletter – Laura Gamble, 884-2823
Community Service – Karen Williams, 883-3808 & Susie Matthews, 883-6454
Publicity – Dedra Hickman, 883-6411
Web Site – Ken Kennedy, 883-0870 & Ron Millis, 882-0936

I look forward to working with each of you to achieve our common goal—taking care of the FM community!

Sincerely,
April Chapel, CDFM-A
President

Vice Presidents: Leah Hodge, Capt Chris Hill, Capt Dan Genest

Did you know that ASMC has an organizational chart? It does now! And that org chart is going to help your team of three Vice Presidents focus on the committees doing the work for this great chapter. We also, obviously, support the President and assist in laying out and achieving goals. We'll do this by ensuring the committees are led, manned and marching towards those goals April spoke about in her article. Our goal is to have a closer tie to the work going on throughout the chapter. So, let us introduce ourselves and tell you what our focus will be:

Representing AFMC units here at Eglin is Leah Hodge. She is the Budget Officer for Air Armament Center and she LOVES her job (her boss paid her to say that!). She's held several jobs across the center and has been a member of ASMC since 1994. She has participated in working the Regional Professional Development Seminar for the past three years and is looking forward to the chapter holding another interesting event for us all. The committees she will work with and oversee this year are RPDS, Programs, CDFM Program and Newsletter/Editor/Publisher. RPDS co-chairs will be Dan Harvey, Tim Bozoki and Leah Hodge. Ken Pickler did a great job on our programs last year and has graciously agreed to hold that position again. Additionally, Ken will be a key player on the RPD committee, ensuring our programs are top-notch and offering the training and development needed by our FM community. We'll be throwing out the net soon for other committee chairs, hopefully one of you will see a great opportunity to participate and volunteer! Laura Gamble will be our Newsletter/Editor/Publisher again this year and we appreciate her willingness to continue to do this job. Last, the CDFM committee chair is Vanessa Fuentes. This committee has been instrumental in holding training sessions in the past couple of years to help our folks study and train to obtain their CDFM.

The Eglin tenants are represented by Capt Chris Hill. Chris is the Comptroller of the 33 FW. Chris just completed a career broadening tour as a maintenance officer in the 46 TW and is excited to be back in the FM career field and a part of ASMC. The committees reporting to Chris are Community Service, headed up by Karen Williams and Susie Matthews; Publicity under the able hands of Dedra Hickman; Web Site mastered by Ken Kennedy and Ron Millis; and the Eglin Enlisted Advisor, TSgt Cecilia Rodriguez. The EA is a new position that was created to help achieve the goal of getting more participation and members from our enlisted/military teammates. More about that new important position in a moment. One of the goals we have set for our chapter this year is to actively support both the on-base and local off-base community. To accomplish this we will participate in at least one community service event each quarter of the year. Your executive council met recently and developed a list of worthy community service events that we can participate in. Some of the events include donating time and supplies to the pet shelter on base, participating in the Meals on Wheels program, having a Christmas toy drive for less fortunate children, helping the families of deployed members by cutting their lawns, babysitting, etc., participating in Habitat for Humanity, and doing a fund raiser for the new Fisher House that is coming to Eglin AFB. Keep your eyes open for your opportunity to vote on which of these events the Gulf Coast Chapter should participate in.

Last, but never least, is Capt Dan Genest. Some of you may remember Dan from his Eglin days as a Cost Analyst in the SDB program office but he now represents the Hurlburt

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Vice Presidents: Leah Hodge, Capt Chris Hill, Capt Dan Genest

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FM community. Dan currently works in HQ AFSOC as the Chief of Budget Policy and SOF Investments and has been a member of ASMC since 2000. Dan's committees include Ways and Means, Membership, Education and the Hurlburt Enlisted Advisor. Leading the Ways and Means is Jennifer Denega; Capt Angie Blackwell heads up Membership; Education is chaired by John Dininger; and our Hurlburt EA is A1C Jillian Thompson. As previously mentioned, one of our goals for the upcoming year is to increase membership and participation by targeting our younger military and civilian FMer's. We feel our ASMC chapter could benefit greatly by tapping into this valuable resource and as such, we have added two new positions to our Executive Committee, Enlisted Advisors for Hurlburt and Eglin. The only requirement for these new positions is that they are filled by an enlisted member in the grade of E-6 or below. For the current year, these positions have been filled by TSgt Cecilia Rodriguez for Eglin, and A1C Jillian Thompson for Hurlburt. We look forward to both of them bringing fresh ideas to our chapter as well as generating interest in ASMC in our younger FM counterparts!

We hope you sense our excitement as we begin this new year – each of us sought these positions because we care and want to offer something to a community that has given so much to each of us. You may see messages or get a call asking for volunteers for the various committees – especially the RPDS! Please take the time to get involved, you will find that it is a rewarding experience and a great networking opportunity!

Leah Hodge, Chris Hill, and Dan Genest

Guest Columnist: ASMC Hurlburt Enlisted Advisor

I have always heard wonderful things about ASMC and the opportunities that they have to offer. I was very excited to step up for the enlisted advisor position. I hope that I serve this position well and provide the gateway that my fellow enlisted members need for this wonderful organization. ASMC has so much to offer and many members are not aware of this. I am currently working on my Masters and developing my career. I know that ASMC will help me with the skills that I need through their networking and leadership opportunities. I hope to offer a younger and enlisted point of view on ideas and suggestions. I attended the PDI in March and I learned so much from the different speakers. It is nice to know that there is an organization that cares about the education and development of its members. I hope to show this to other enlisted members, so that they might also be able to take advantage of the opportunities that ASMC has to offer. I know that I don't have a lot of stripes on my sleeves but I hope to show other enlisted members that it is not always about that. I want to show them how to embrace the opportunities and enhance their careers, no matter what level they are at.

*Jillian R Thompson, A1C, USAF
1 SOCPTS, HURLBURT FIELD, FL*

Audio Conference – 20 June 2007

DATE: 20 June 2007

SUBJECT: Briefing Skills Audio Conference

Dr John Kline is an expert on briefing techniques. He has taught at Air War College for years and is currently on the faculty of Troy University.

This audio conference focused on briefing skills, starting with the ABCs: Accuracy, Brevity, and Clarity, and a reminder to always remember your audience. The objective is to know how to Organize, Support, and Deliver a briefing.

Organize. State your objective, write it down. Be audience-centered. Begin with a greeting and identify yourself. Give the topic, mention the main points, and for those of us in the military environment, state the classification. Your key ideas, or main points, provide the framework for your speech – usually people have 3-5 main points.

Common ways to organize a speech are by chronological timeline, cause/effect, problem/solution, pro/con. To end a briefing, remind them what you told them, restate the main points, and conclude and ask for questions or a decision.

Support. Verbal support is critical in a speech. Define acronyms and unfamiliar terms. Use examples, comparisons and contrasts, expert testimony, and meaningful statistics to support your position. Examples should be relevant, clear, short, interesting, and sometimes a cluster of several examples to really make the audience understand.

Visual support should be relevant, large enough to be seen by all, simple and clear. It helps to not have visual obstructions (he had to deal with a pillar at the ASMC 2007 National PDI!)

He stressed we learn by experience but we speak deductively. Give the conclusion or generalization, then support it with facts. Present and support your main points, communicating to the audience so they follow along.

Delivery. You may have it memorized, use a manuscript, speak impromptu, or extemporaneous. Make eye contact with your audience, use your body normally – don't be stiff and uncomfortable, use normal gestures, and use your natural voice – check your grammar and “um” or silent pauses.

Some final tips. Be able to present without your slides – you may have no electricity or no slides. You may be forced to reduce to one summary slide – be prepared to use it. Admit when you're wrong. Consider joining a toastmasters group. Don't use offensive material. Speak to the audience, not the slides. Keep it simple. When asked a question, restate it to ensure you understood the question and that all audience members know the question. Admit it if you don't know the answer. Pause to think and organize your thoughts. Project a positive confident image. Smile. Don't rush. Speak clearly and sincerely.

Tips especially for military briefings. State up front what the purpose is – “this is a decision briefing.” Expect questions and be prepared with answers. Even if making a recommendation, have supporting info for all options. Know your audience – ask for the idiosyncrasies of the senior leadership while building your briefing. Have subject-matter experts in the room for difficult questions.

He says the two biggest mistakes are not knowing the audience and briefing too much information.

If you're interested in his tips and reading his columns, check out his website www.klinespeak.com.

Luncheon Meeting – 12 July 2007

DATE: 12 Jul 07

TIME: 1100

PLACE: Coach and Four Restaurant

SUBJECT: Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony

Annette Beard opened the meeting thanking everyone for coming out for our annual "Free" luncheon. Attendance was 76 individuals, including scholarship winners. Annette turned it over to John Dininger. John introduced each award winner and gave a brief bio on each, and then gave them a recognition certificate. A total of 10 people received scholarships.....6 \$500 awards, 3 \$1000 awards, and a \$1500 award for a total of \$7500. The Scholarship winners are:

\$500

Amy K. Luther

Amanda D. Dearing

Justin E. Vickery

Felisha J. Reyes

Aleha M. Will

Jason D. Guzzardo

\$1000

Kenneth W. Nelson

Laura M. Stockbridge

Jeremy T. Peppler

\$1500

Laura L. Owens

Annette closed the meeting by saying how much she enjoyed being president the last year, she thanked her executive council by name, and wished the scholarship winners best of luck in their future educational endeavors. A group photo was taken of the scholarship winners that attended the meeting – a picture will be sent to the national ASMC headquarters for inclusion in a future Comptroller magazine, and one will also be sent to the local newspaper for publishing.

Meeting was adjourned at 1300.

Brenda J. Dininger

2007-08 Scholarship Winners Announced



The Gulf Coast Chapter of ASMC awarded \$6000.00 in annual scholarships for undergraduates in 2007 plus an additional \$1500.00 for a Chapter member. Recipients of these scholarships are pictured with the chapter president Annette Beard. From left to right Annette Beard (chapter president), Laura Owens (chapter member who received \$1500.00), Kenneth Nelson, Aleha Will, Jason Guzzardo, George Reyes (for his daughter, Felisha Reyes). Also receiving scholarships but not pictured: Amanda Dearing, Amy Luther, Justin Vickery, Jeremy Peppler, Laura Stockbridge.

MEET THE RECIPIENTS:

Our first \$500 scholarship recipient is Amanda Dearing from Jacksonville, Florida. Amanda is a full time student at the University of North Florida where she maintains a 3.11 grade point average in pursuit of a business degree. She is active in her community by donating clothing to a local women's shelter. Amanda aspires to become an officer in the United States Air Force

Our next \$500 recipient is Jason Guzzardo from Shalimar, Florida. Jason is a full time civil service employee in the 96th Comptroller Squadron's JOCAS office. He attends the University of West Florida and is pursuing a computer information systems degree where he maintains a 3.95 grade point average. He volunteers at his church by providing audio/visual support for all church services. Jason was recognized for his work accomplishments by being named the 96th Comptroller squadron civilian of the year for 2006 in category II.

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2007-08 Scholarship Winners – CONTINUED

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Our next \$500 recipient is Amy Luther from Moscow, Idaho. Amy is a full time student at the University of Idaho and is pursuing a finance and accounting degree where she maintains a 3.64 grade point average. She is a member of the Beta Alpha Psi accounting fraternity and also serves as its treasurer. Amy is very involved in the community by mentoring local Girl Scout troops on good money management skills. After graduation, she hopes to gain employment at one of the larger accounting firms in the Pacific Northwest and pass the CPA exam.

Our next \$500 recipient is Felisha Reyes from Tallahassee, Florida. Felisha is a full time student at Florida State University and is pursuing a multinational banking and finance degree where she maintains a 3.00 grade point average. She volunteers at the American Red Cross and the Eglin AFB Family Support Center and has led Hurlburt Field's children's choir for 5 years. After completing her undergraduate degree, Felisha hopes to secure employment as a US Air Force Intern under the Financial Management Career Program.

Our next \$500 recipient is Justin Vickery from Panama City, Florida. Justin is a part time student at Florida State University and is pursuing an accounting degree where he maintains a 3.15 grade point average. He works full time at Nextel Partners as a data support specialist and trainer. Justin spends a lot of his free time volunteering with the Jackson County Association of Retarded Citizens and a local Boy Scout troop. After he completes his accounting degree, he wants to become a CPA and start his own accounting firm.

Our final \$500 recipient is Aleha Will from Fort Walton Beach, Florida. Aleha is a staff sergeant in the 96th Comptroller Squadron where she is a deputy Disbursing Officer. She is a part time student at Okaloosa Walton College and is pursuing an accounting degree where she maintains a 3.25 grade point average. Aleha serves as Eglin's POC for Military Saves and volunteers to assist the Meals on Wheels Program. Attaining an accounting degree will keep her current in her present job, and will also allow her to pursue financial management opportunities in the future.

Our first \$1000 recipient is Jeremy Peppler from Niceville, Florida. Jeremy is a full time student at Florida State University and is pursuing a business and English degree where he maintains a 3.42 grade point average. He works part time at a local cabinet shop. Jeremy helped establish the Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity at FSU, where he served as vice president, and he is active in Sigma Alpha Lambda, a national leadership and honors organization. Jeremy also volunteers with Relay for Life. After completing his undergraduate degrees, he plans to pursue a Master's of Business Administration. His long term goal is to work in the executive operations and financial management of television and motion picture development.

Our next \$1000 recipient is Laura Stockbridge from Shalimar, Florida. Laura is a full time student at the University of Central Florida and is pursuing an international economics degree where she maintains a perfect 4.0 grade point average. She works part-time as a restaurant hostess. Laura is active in the Burnett Honors Congress at UCF where she serves on the social committee. She also volunteers with the local Junior Achievement organization where she teaches 4th grade students the basics of community and economics. After graduating with her bachelor's degree she wants to pursue a master's degree in international relations which will lead to a career in government orchestrating international trade agreements.

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2007-08 Scholarship Winners – CONTINUED

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Our final \$1000 recipient is Kenneth Nelson from Eglin AFB, Florida. Kenneth is a full time student at the University of Florida and is pursuing an economics degree where he maintains a 3.44 grade point average. This past semester he worked as an intern at a medical technology firm and he is presently interning for an advertising firm. Kenneth attends Gators UCO, a student run Christian organization. After graduating with a bachelor's degree, he plans on attending graduate school to pursue a master's in economics or an MBA.

In addition to our scholarship awards to undergraduates, the chapter has also awarded a scholarship to one of our own for 2007. The executive committee set aside \$1500 for member scholarships, and the single recipient this year is Laura Owens. Laura is a palace acquire intern with the Air Force Audit Agency. She earned her bachelors degree in accounting from the University of Kentucky, where she maintained a 3.4 grade point average. She volunteers with the Fort Walton Beach Rotary club and helped to create an artificial oyster reef. She is also an active member of the Institute of Internal Auditors and ASMC. She is currently pursuing her MBA at the University of West Florida.

Job Listing

Management Concepts, Inc., provided the following job listing – if you're interested, contact them.

Management Concepts, Inc. is seeking experienced Finance and Accounting Staff to present courses in the domain of DOD financial management. Provide subject matter expertise for DOD financial management in functions such as appropriations accounting, budget execution, General Funds and Working Capital Funds accounting, finance business operations (commercial pay, travel, people pay), auditing, internal controls, and performance management. Collaborate with instructional design staff to develop, update, and revise off-the-shelf course materials and create, modify, or customize courseware as required to meet client or market requirements. Deliver training facilitation for courses in DOD financial management

Requirements: A minimum of seven years of DOD, preferably DFAS financial management experience. Bachelors degree in business, accounting, or related financial management field; advance degree a plus. Previous teaching/classroom/OJT facilitation experience desired. Strong written and verbal communications skills. Strong interpersonal skills (influencing, relationship building, active listening)

Part time and independent contractor opportunities available
Relocation not required

For more information or to apply please go to our career section at www.managementconcepts.com <<file:///www.managementconcepts.com>> or follow link <http://www.cytiva.com/cejobs/DetailMcon.asp?mconFMGS.8.31.07> <<http://www.cytiva.com/cejobs/DetailMcon.asp?mconFMGS.8.31.07>>

Luncheon Meeting Minutes – 19 July 2007

DATE: 19 Jul 07

TIME: 1100

PLACE: Eglin Conference Center

SPEAKER: Mr. John G. Vonglis, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management and Comptroller

SUBJECT: Town Hall Meeting and Induction of New Gulf Coast Chapter Officers

Mr. Steve Herrera opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and a very special thank you and welcome to Mr. Vonglis. Mr. Herrera also thanked Mr. Ken Pickler who made the meeting possible.

Mr. Vonglis open the forum by saying everyone here today is a warrior. Financial managers here at Eglin have helped with some of the largest GWOT deployment task in the Air Force. Eglin has delivered thousands of air to air and air to ground weapons to our forces in the field. We also have folks from AFSOC and ACC financing the fight through financial management AC-130 units or elements from places like the 33rd Fighter Wing.

Money has always been an intricate part of the war fighting effort. "Money wins wars". Money won the cold war. As financial warriors, we face challenges, make plans to meet them, and we celebrate our successes.

Challenges:

-Aging Aircraft: We have been at war for 16 years. As field and operating forces we are working hard to make ends meet. Today's Air Force has the oldest aircraft inventory in our history. The average age of aircraft in 1979 was 9 years and in 2006 it was 24 years.

-Manpower Reductions: As we work to transform to a smaller, more lethal force, personnel cost continue to rise, up 57% in 10 years. FY07 will go down in history as one of the most challenging budget years. We are required to accomplish manpower cuts while sustaining the Global War on Terrorism.

We have plans to address the challenges but we can't count on money to solve our problems.

Transformation:

In the Air Force, transformation is well underway. We are on target, on schedule, and on budget with our transformation. People are the major reason for the success of our transformation. Training and education is essential to success. In April over 70 web based training courses, 3 instructor led courses, and a training plan/scheduling tools was delivered to the Air Force Financial Services Center. We are developing the FM Distributed Learning Center....a one stop shop for FM relevant, online training.

Successes:

AFSO21:

Mr. Vonglis stated that SECAF is committed to Transformation. SECAF has also place a high priority on AFSO21. FM Transformation embraces AFSO21.

Financial Service Center:

Located at Ellsworth AFB is in the initial testing phase of AFFSC. The center consolidates our transaction processing and routine military pay and travel pay to one location. The center will save the Air Force \$200M over 10 years and reduces manpower by 598 positions. Beginning in Oct 07, the center will be open for transactions and by Oct 08 the call center will be open for business.

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Center of Expertise:

Over the past year, the center has saved the Air Force over \$2 million. The center provides analytical support and specialized financial analysis to major commands, base and installation decision makers. Capitalizes on centralized experts, information technology and emphasis on cutting edge databases and analytical tools. The center is already a success story and has saved scarce AF resources. Some of the studies include: joint family housing, runway closure cost modeling, FEMA and natural disasters, and cost estimates for conversion and transfer of an active base.

Technology:

The introduction of DEAMS (Defense Enterprise Accounting Management System). Includes general ledger and other capabilities that we have never had before. Spiral 1 which was implemented at Scott AFB in Summer 07, gives limited capability to process commitment documents. Spiral 2 will be implemented in the next 12-18 months with full accounting capability at Scott AFB.

Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System (DIMHRS):

Will transform the pay and personnel system and is scheduled for deployment in 2008. It will replace MYPAY and other systems. The center will have all services working together.

FM Suites:

This system provides web enabled visibility of financial metrics. Makes the units more accountable for dollars spent and resource decisions

In conclusion Mr. Vonglis stated that we are all warriors and that the mission comes first. In the Air Force *"we take care of our people and they take care of our mission"*, We have faith in our people and we couldn't be more proud of the sacrifices they make. You are the heart of the Air Force.

At this time Mr. Vonglis took questions from the audience.

Question: In reference to AFSSO21 methodologies are we realizing the savings needed to cover the \$2.2B negative wedge in the FY09 APOM and the projected \$25B in savings across the FYDP (FY10 POM) to pay for recapitalization and modernization? With O&M, ANG and environmental and infrastructure programs being viewed as the possible bill payers, how are the operational commanders reacting? Do they agree with projected AFSSO21 savings?

Response: MAJCOM is on board. MAJCOM commanders are taking a hard look and identifying the manner in which they propose to reach AFSSO21 goals. Their initiatives are expected at the end of August. Once received, identified sources and savings will be vetted corporately to determine viability and achievability.

Question: In 2002, audits of contingency spending (GWOT) indicated that more discipline was needed in reviewing and approving purchases at deployed locations. In response, deployed AAC financial management personnel established a Financial Working Group and Financial Management Board at Al Udeid AB, Qatar that same year. Have you seen any recent audit or inspection results that indicated that management controls at deployed locations are keeping contingency spending under control? Please comment on your assessment of financial managers' effectiveness in contingency

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operations. Also, on a recent project for an Air Traffic Control System, funding was provided in appropriation 3080 and none was provided for facility.

Response: Recently, OSD Senior Leadership initiated a review of current GWOT reporting methods pertaining to the monthly and annual cost of operations. In OSD's review of AF FY06 O&M obligations for GWOT, it was reported that AF was keeping contingency spending under control. Obligations for the GWOT in FY07 and major commands mid-year updates on GWOT funding status are also tracking well against our FY07 budget request. The overall assessment of financial managers' effectiveness in contingency operations is very positive. Concerning the 3080, Mr. Vonglis stated he will send something up to command. Appropriations are written in law and we would have to prove to congress our intent or purpose.

Question: Air Force systems acquisition programs are continually under fire for cost growth. However, cost estimators are often viewed as a "bad guy" by warfighters and program managers when they present high confidence estimates. Is the Air Force willing to budget for new systems at more than a 50% confidence level? If so, how do we convince our warfighters to stop encouraging us to eliminate critical risk dollars from our program budgets?

Response: Since the late 1990's, my folks in SAF/FMC have been at the forefront of arguing that higher quality cost estimates be provided to senior leaders for their decision making. We believe that this includes providing decision makers a complete picture of the probable range of costs for a program, as well as the costs associated with various confidence levels. We do not believe the most important thing is to budget to higher confidence levels, but to ensure the cost estimates are of the highest quality possible. This is because an 80% confidence level provides decision-makers a sense of security they should not have, and does not allow for sound decisions to be made.

Question: Is there an initiative to eliminate Self-Inspection Checklist. A recent inspection had outdated references and materials. I thought we were trying to do processes better/smarter.

Response: Mr Vonglis asked the individual to give an example. The example pertained to a statement required on all commitment documents. The individual thought it was a waste of time and added no value to the process. AFAFO is in the process of updating the checklist and the checklist is being reviewed in accordance with policy and procedure.

Question: Cost estimators are in a separate series, and are increasingly in demand. Is there any plans to expand the career field.

Response: The recruitment of cost estimators has become difficult with approximately 9 months to get hired with civil service. Civil service is losing these individuals to contractors like Boeing who traditionally pay better and eliminate the long hiring process. Mr. Rone also added that the 1980's eliminate cost analysis and it has become increasingly harder to fill positions from within due to lack of individuals with the experience.

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Question: Force Shaping took away many qualified and trained lieutenants. Yet, we are bringing in new lieutenants and having to spend time and money to train. The force shaping doesn't make sense.

Response: CMSgt Banks stated that lieutenants selected for force shaping were selected from different year groups.

Question: The status of civilian deployments.

Response: Mr. Vonglis stated that civilian deployments are encouraged. However, civilians will not be deployed or asked to serve on the frontlines.

Question: NSPS and non-supervisory positions, has this died or are we still anticipated to convert from GS to NSPS?

Response: Leah Hodge provided a separate response via e-mail to all ASMC members.

From: Hodge Leah W CIV USAF AAC/FMA

Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2007 2:28 PM

Subject: FW: NSPS request

A question was raised today at the ASMC Town Hall with Mr. Vonglis regarding NSPS.

This is the Gov Exec report I referred to. Pass to members, please and thanks.

Here's the last article, which includes links to the GAO report and legislative language.

Below are links to additional (earlier) articles.

Report: Defense underestimated cost of personnel overhaul By Brittany

R. Ballenstedt ballenstedt@govexec.com July 17, 2007 The Defense

Department has underestimated the cost of implementing a new personnel system for civilian employees, an issue that could hamper the system's management, according to a new report by the Government Accountability Office.

Defense's November 2005 estimate that it will cost \$158 million through 2008 to implement the National Security Personnel System does not include indirect costs associated with its design and implementation, the report (GAO-07-851

<<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-851>>) said. Items left out include the full salaries for civilian and military personnel charged with implementing the system along with the cost of general administrative services, research and technical support, rent, maintenance costs for buildings, equipment and utilities.

"Without a cost estimate that includes all costs the department expects to incur as a result of implementing the new system, decision-makers -- within DoD and Congress -- will not have the complete cost information they need to make decisions about whether adequate resources are being provided," the report said.

GAO said federal financial accounting standards hold that reliable information on costs of federal programs is essential to effective management. It is also important in helping Congress and executives make informed funding decisions.

But Defense's pervasive financial management deficiencies have been the basis for the designation of this as a high-risk area since 1995, GAO stated.

Auditors recommended that Defense define all direct and indirect costs needed to manage NSPS, prepare a revised estimate of these costs in accordance with federal financial accounting standards, and develop a comprehensive oversight framework to ensure that all funds are fully captured and reported.

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Luncheon Meeting Minutes – 19 July 2007

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Defense concurred with most of GAO's recommendations, but noted that the department already has launched an effort to better identify overall costs -- an effort that is not reflected in the draft report.

Defense agreed, however, to develop a revised estimate of applicable costs for implementing NSPS from fiscal 2008 to 2011. "As is true for the first estimate . . . the revised estimate could be affected by congressional changes to the authorities that govern the system," Defense said.

Congress granted the department authority in the 2004 Defense authorization act to create a new human resources system, based on the notion that the current one was too rigid and outdated to allow an effective response to modern threats of terrorism.

But NSPS has been the subject of much controversy, with critics arguing that the system illegally curtails the collective bargaining rights of employees. An appeals court ruled in May that the 2004 law grants the agency the authority to scale back collective bargaining rights until November 2009. A petition

<http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0707/070307b1.htm>> submitted by federal labor unions for a review of that decision by the full appeals court is pending.

In the meantime, unions have been lobbying Congress to pass language to block aspects of NSPS. In May, the House passed the 2008 Defense authorization bill, which includes language that would repeal the existing authority of Defense to move forward on the labor relations portions of the system. The Senate Armed Services Committee passed similar language <<http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0507/052507b2.htm>> late that month.

Senate panel moves to scale back Pentagon personnel system

/story_page.cfm?filepath=/dailyfed/0507/052507b2.htm> 05/25/2007 Daily Briefing

Senate panel moves to scale back Pentagon personnel system A Senate panel on

Thursday approved language that would significantly limit the implementation of a controversial personnel system at the Defense Department and authorize a 3.5 percent 2008 pay raise for members of the military. In a markup of the fiscal 2008 Defense authorization bill that began Wednesday afternoon, the Senate Armed Services Committee voted to repeal the existing authority of the Defense Department to...

Appeals court allows Pentagon to limit collective bargaining

/story_page.cfm?articleid=36970&ref=relink> 05/18/07 House passes

3.5 percent military pay raise /story_page.cfm?articleid=36958&ref=relink> 05/17/07 Bill would bar contractors from running Defense programs

/story_page.cfm?articleid=36940&ref=relink> 05/16/07 House committee backs 3.5 percent military pay raise /story_page.cfm?articleid=36860&ref=relink> 05/09/07 House

subcommittee votes to roll back parts of Defense personnel system

/story_page.cfm?articleid=36845&ref=relink> 05/08/07

Steve Herrera concluded the question and answer session and proceeded to the Induction of the new ASMC officers. Mr. Vonglis graciously agreed to perform the induction. The new inductees were ask to come forward:

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Ms. April Chapel, AAC/FMA, President

Ms. Leah Hodge, AAC/FMA, Vice President Eglin

Capt Christopher M Hill, 33 FW/FM, Tenant Vice President

Capt Daniel Genest, AFSOC/FM, Hurlburt Vice President

Mr. Vonglis stated that it was his privilege to install the officers of the Gulf Coast Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers for the Chapter year 2007-2008.

The meeting was concluded at approximately 1300.

Recorded by Brenda Dininger, Secretary, Gulf Coast Chapter.



The Honorable John Vonglis, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial management, swears in the new officers for the Gulf Coast Chapter of ASMC. From Left Honorable John Vonglis, April Chapel – Chapter President, Leah Hodge – Eglin Vice President, Capt Christopher M Hill – Tenant Vice President, and Capt Dan Genest – Hurlburt Vice President.

Executive Committee Minutes – 1 August 2007

ASMC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

1 Aug 07

The meeting was called to order at 1400 by April Chapel.

ATTENDEES: April Chapel, Capt Dan Genest, Ken Pickler, Capt Chris Hill, Karen Williams, Brenda Dininger, Dedra Hickman, Ken Kennedy, Jennifer Denega, DeAnna Morales

This is the first meeting of the new executive committee. As the new Chapter President April Chapel began the meeting by having everyone introduce themselves. April then stated her goals for the chapter during the upcoming year:

Leadership

In an effort to increase leadership, the vice presidents have been asked to be leads over committee to make sure that everything is covered

Enlisted Advisors

Established enlisted advisors to represent the enlisted members. One person for Hurlburt and one for Eglin.

Community Service

New ideas for community service that would involve all ASMC members. Some of the current community service and fund raising events were reviewed. Gift wrapping is one of our biggest but it is hard to get volunteers. Belk charity sale.... Belk changed dates and limited our sales and fund raising on bases. Base policy of no fund raisers during CFC. Biggest fund raiser is our Baskets as the Regional PDS. It was suggest that we poll members and ask them to submit their top community service events base on a list of events provided. Some other ideas for community service were:

- Humane Society (Eglin Pet Welfare/PAWS)
- Habitat for Humanity
- Meals on Wheels
- Families of Deployed Members (Provide babysitting, meals, night out, etc)
- Care Packages sent to deployed members (young airmen)

Increase Membership

Membership dues based upon a tiered structure based on rank. Another suggestion was to carve out funding to give a free membership at quarterly awards ceremony.

An open discuss took place that discussed possibly having door prizes at monthly luncheons.

ASMC Closeout Party: Ideas presented for a closeout party included bowling 1st or 2nd week of October. Also, providing food for the night of 30 September. Would need buy in from all chief financial officers.

ASMC website and its upkeep was discussed. Ken Kennedy said that Ron Millis would be our webmaster. It was mentioned that we should update our website and start posting our luncheon and executive committee minutes on the web site.

Our program committee chairman, Ken Pickler, suggested the following events for the upcoming year: Jeopardy, FM Professional Update, 1 or 2 joint meetings, Financial Management Update, Auditors, and possibly "Cost of Weapon Systems"

CDFM: It was suggested that we bring in an instructor to teach Module 4. The cost would be approximately \$5,000.

Brenda J. Dininger

CDFM Module 4 class

An open enrollment class for the optional Module 4 material will be held October 16-17, 2007, in Arlington, Virginia. The location is the Holiday Inn – Rosslyn, just a few short blocks from the METRO's Rosslyn stop (Blue Line). The class will last a day a half and CDFMs and CDFM candidates will have an opportunity to purchase and complete a paper version of the optional Module 4 exam on the afternoon of the second day. The cost for the class is \$295 (member or non-member the same) and it includes a copy of the Module 4 textbook material. For this event only the optional Module 4 exam will be offered at a special discount price of \$50 (a \$45 savings). Enrollment is accomplished on-line. Registration will open soon after Labor Day so Keep checking the website (www.asmconline.org) for an announcement.

Vanessa E. Fuentes –CDFM chair

Education Committee

I would again like to recognize the team of ASMC members that helped on this years' scholarship awards:

Scholarship Publicity Chairperson: Verna McBride

Scholarship Evaluation Team: Annette Beard, Susan Reidel, Laurie Smith, John Straughn, Mike Napoli, Nancy Elliott, Mary Ann Brocketto, Laura Gamble, and Patti Galvan

Logistics Support: Deanna Morales and Dewey Hale

The evaluation team had its work cut out for them as they had to wade through 16 scholarship applications. The process is tedious but rewarding as it gives our chapter a chance to recognize the most deserving applicants. Verna McBride did an outstanding job in getting the word out to the colleges in our region, and this was reflected in the numerous applications that we received.

Thanks to the entire chapter membership in supporting our outstanding scholarship program. This year we were able to increase our total scholarship award from \$6,000 to \$7,500 by introducing a new scholarship program for Gulf Coast chapter members. Our program awards 3 \$1000 scholarships and 6 \$500 scholarships to undergraduates, and now has also set aside \$1500 to award to chapter members. Since 1996, our chapter has awarded \$40,000 in scholarships! Thanks to each and every one of you!

John Dininger, Education Chairperson
883-3542



TREASURER'S REPORT

DeAnna Morales

Current Chapter Funds Balance: \$16,407.36

As of 31 August 2007, the Chapter has a balance of \$16,407.36 in available funds. I still need a few committee budget inputs for the new year starting 1 Oct 2007 and I am taking all members inputs for budget requests. Member inputs will be directed to the most suitable committee to consider OR I will present them to the Executive Committee at the next meeting.

Membership Report – Capt Angie Blackwell

All,

This is my first article as your membership chair and I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you how excited I am about the upcoming year! We have set a hefty goal of 50 new members for this year! In order to meet this goal, we will be giving away 25 free memberships at various events through out the year. The first event will be the close-out party that will be held in early October. I encourage everyone to bring a non-member to this event as we will be giving away 10 free memberships.

Also, I know that recruiting new members may not always be easy so I've included a list of membership benefits for you to reference when approaching someone.....

Why Join?

Enhance Your Professional Skills

ASMC activities provide you with the latest in current issues. Each year an ASMC chapter hosts the National PDI that provides professional development training. In addition, most local chapters host their own mini-PDIs and luncheons throughout the year.

Networking

Our more than 17,000 members worldwide represent a wide base of defense resource management personnel. As an ASMC member, you build your professional network through participation in ASMC activities, whether they be social or professional. Learn from your colleagues in our network of 140 chapters.

Leadership Opportunities

ASMC provides many opportunities for you to demonstrate leadership. Although ASMC is not officially part of your chain of command, your demonstrated leadership abilities will not go unnoticed. Simply step forward and...

- Serve as a Chapter President or other Chapter officer.
- Serve as the Program chairperson and develop a dynamic and innovative program.
- Write articles for the Armed Forces Comptroller and/or the essay contest.
- Serve on a chapter committee to share ideas and expand your circle of friends and contacts.
- Develop or contribute to a unique and informative chapter newsletter.
- Recruit new members to participate in ASMC activities.

Save Money

Being a member entitles you to discounts on registration fees for the national conference, as well as local training events and monthly luncheons. After two years of membership you qualify to submit for the Members' Continuing Education Grant.

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Membership Report – Capt Angie Blackwell

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Car Rentals

Car rental discounts, class upgrades and other specials are available to ASMC members through Hertz, National and Alamo.

Pentagon Federal Credit Union

As a member of ASMC, you and your family are eligible for membership in Pentagon Federal Credit Union, one of the best values offered to the Army, Air Force, and DoD communities. They've been providing financial services specially designed to meet the unique needs of the military community for almost 70 years. No matter where you are in the world, you can access your account at Pentagon Federal and conduct transactions 24 hours a day via live-agent, toll-free telephone, or Internet service, through traditional branch offices, fax, mail, and more than 530,000 ATMs worldwide.

University of Phoenix Online

Members may now receive a significant discount on tuition with the University of Phoenix Online. For more information or to register, call 800-366-9699, ask to be transferred to the military team, and identify yourself as an ASMC member. More information can be found on-line at: www.asmconline.org

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call me at 882-0063.
Capt Angie Blackwell, Membership Chair

Ways & Means

Ms. Jennifer Denega



Happy Fall,

We have a special project for the Ways and Means Committee for this year.

Ways and Means Defined: Methods and means of accomplishing or paying for something -- Dictionary.com (Random House, Inc. 2006)

We will utilize the Ways and Means committee to focus on accomplishing some extra special care for our deployed FMers. Starting Sep 07, we will send care packages from our Chapter to FMers deployed from Eglin and Hurlburt.

Thank you to all who have already volunteered to help with this new project.

Fundraising Opportunities

Although we do raise some funding from participation in the two annual Charity Sales at Belk and at gift-wrapping at the Eglin BX, I need to see how many within the Chapter are interested in continuing these activities. Please e-mail me if you want to participate in either event.

Your suggestions are always welcome for the Ways and Mean Committee. Please send ideas for future fundraisers and/or projects to me at: jennifer.denega@eglin.af.mil or at 883-4787 (DSN 875)

Many Blessings for a Beautiful new Fiscal Year!

Jennifer Denega, Gulf Coast Chapter, ASMC Ways and Means Chairperson

Programs – Ken Pickler

We kicked off our Fall program lineup with Commander Jeffrey Bohler, a Navy faculty member of the Defense Financial Managers' Course at Maxwell AFB AL. Many thanks to Maj Kevin McKinley, my programs committee teammate and a recent DFMC grad, for inviting Commander Bohler to speak about Decision Analysis.

Back by popular demand on 18 Oct is Comptrollership Jeopardy! at the Eglin Conference Center. Plan to come test your knowledge of financial management tools, policy, and processes.

On 8 Nov, we have our annual FM Professional Development Update with Mr Bill Rone, SES, HQ AFSOC/FM. I'm working to line up one of our area military Chief Financial Officers to join him. This event will be at the Eglin Officers' Club. We want your ideas for other topics this chapter year!

On 6 Dec, we will have our holiday potluck. Come celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, or just good camaraderie among fellow financial/business managers. As we did last year, we plan to keep food prep/serving to a minimum, with the chapter providing everything except dessert. Send me your ideas for tasty but simple to serve foods. If you want barbeque again, tell me that, too!

This year, we'll have a collection box for care package items we can ship to our deployed teammates. During my deployment, nothing got the troops more excited than a box of snacks & goodies from home. (OK, we did get really excited when we received the box of keyboards Joan Horn—my other programs teammate—sent, saving us from typing on gritty, sticky keyboards!) Soooo—bring things you want to send, and names/addresses of those we can ship them to.

We'll also have door prizes at all luncheons. We'll mix up the selection method to keep it interesting. For example, the Oct prizes will go to the winning team in the Jeopardy! game. If you have a creative idea for distributing prizes at a particular luncheon, bring it on!

Finally, I'm looking for people who want to help deliver a fabulous program at our 2008 Regional Professional Development Seminar. Contact me if you're interested in this great opportunity to help sharpen our collective skills!

Ken Pickler, Programs Committee Chairman
883-2193
kenneth.pickler@eglin.af.mil

Current & Next Meetings and other ASMC events

UPCOMING ASMC LUNCHEONS - Mark your calendars:

- 13 Sept Cmdr Jeffrey Bohler, Deputy Director, Defense Financial Management & Comptroller School, Two Trees Restaurant, Fort Walton Beach (11am)
- 18 Oct 07 Comptrollership "Jeopardy" luncheon w/ SCEA chapter, Eglin Conf Center - adjacent to golf course, Niceville (11:30am)

Please contact our Program Chair, Ken Pickler (x3-2193), 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 webmaster, Ron Millis at 850-882-0936 or Ken Kennedy at 850-883-0870 if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions on chapter website issues.

National News

The DoD bill was the last FY 2008 appropriations bill considered on the House floor. The House provided \$463.1 billion, \$3.5 billion less than the President's request. However, the House deferred action until September on the president's request for FY 2008 war funding. The House and Senate reconvene on Tuesday, September 4, 2007. The first item on the Senate's floor schedule is the FY 2008 Military Construction and Veteran's Affairs Appropriations Bill.

GSA will increase per diem rates on Oct. 1, 2007. The General Services Administration (GSA) has announced an increase in the standard per diem lodging rate within the continental United States (CONUS). The new rate will be \$70 (up from \$60, which had been in effect since 2005) and be effective from October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008. This rate applies to smaller, less-traveled places. For 393 locations, GSA sets specific rates, mostly higher. The standard rate for reimbursement of meals remains at \$39, with many nonstandard rates higher.

Remember our local website is <http://www.gulfcoastasmc.org/>

And ASMC national is <http://www.asmconline.org/>

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