



ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter Newsletter

Sept
2023

ASMC Gulf Coast
Chapter

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32542

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President's Corner

Written by Mr. Max Miller, Eglin Vice President

Hello Fellow ASMC members,

For those of you that don't know me, I started my FM career here on Eglin back in September 2010 in the 46th Test Wing (now the 96th) working in the JOCAS office as a GS-04 SCEP. I didn't even know what professionals dressed like; I came to work in slacks and a hoodie every day. From there, I was rotated to AFRL/RWF where I spent three years before coming back to the Test Wing to work on Staff. After a few years in the Staff office, I moved to AFLCMC/EB where I worked in the JASSM program office before rotating to the Direct Attack program office. I am currently back at the Test Wing working for the Cyberspace Test Group.

As we get ready to close out another fiscal year, I think back to the different close outs I've completed. My very first one was back in 2010 where I worked on DAU classes as I waited for my clearance to come in and watched my coworkers in the JOCAS office scramble to make sure the last-minute customer documents got loaded and sent to DFAS. Next, when I worked in EB, 30 September was normally just a regular day. Lastly, I reminisce about working at the Test Wing Staff office and having to come in on a Saturday to ensure close out ran smoothly. With that being said, just remember to be kind and stay humble when interacting with your fellow FM (and PK) counterparts as there is no telling the kind of close out their organization is having.

President's Message Continued Next Page...



Mr. Max Miller

Program News

Written by

Jon Slingerland
&
Mandy Chapman



Past Meeting Summary

The meeting was held at the Clubhouse Grill on July 27, 2023, at 1130. The four mentoring panel speakers were introduced, and they gave a brief description of their organizations. The panel members were asked a series of questions in order to share their knowledge on keys to success in the FM career field.

Ms. Woolgar from the 53rd leads the Strategic Plans and Comptroller shop. The key attributes she looks for in a team member is team player, professionalism, ability to learn, positive attitude, and a hard worker.

Mr. Ray Graber, 96 CPTS/FMA Chief spoke about his customer service-oriented office. They rely heavily on making sure the warfighter is taking care of from cradle to grave. The attributes he highlighted was teamwork, attitude, learning, and the ability to research the data for the customer.

Mr. Justin Neece, AFCAA Cost Chief for Weapons at Eglin AFB agreed with all the other examples and highlighted that he really wants his team to think “Team First” and to gain confidence in achieving goals by learning from mistakes. He wants to give his team the individual responsibility to achieve their goals.

Ms. Washington, CFO AFLCMC/EBJ also added that team members have fresh ideas and should be open minded. Team members should show initiative, work hard, and clearly communicate to ensure the goal to deliver end items to the warfighter is always met.

An additional ASMC Professional Development Luncheon was held on 28 Aug at 1100 at Luke’s Place. Ms. Christine Wasdin from the 96 CPTS/FMAO discussed Hot FM Topics. Meeting summary details will be provided in the next newsletter, please stay tuned.

Future Meeting Announcement

Be on the lookout for an upcoming luncheon in September.



President’s Corner continued...

I am looking forward to the start of the new fiscal year and the different opportunities and challenges that lie ahead for my team, ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter, and myself. I encourage anyone reading this to come out to the next ASMC luncheon or look for other ways to get involved in our chapter as we work our way back to our 5-star chapter status.

V/R

Max Miller

Community News

Upcoming Sales Tax Holidays

- **Disaster Preparedness: 26 Aug-8 Sept 2023**

During the 2023 Florida Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday, you may purchase qualifying items related to disaster preparedness exempt from sales tax.

These items include: Portable generators, tarpaulin, flexible waterproof sheeting, smoke detectors/alarms, fire extinguishers, carbon monoxide detector, nonelectric food storage cooler, portable power banks, gas or diesel fuel tanks, radios, batteries, self-powered light sources, Common household consumable items with a sales price of \$30 or less & Supplies necessary for the evacuation of household pets.

- **Tool Time: 2-8 Sept 2023**

During the 2023 Florida Tool Time Sales Tax Holiday, you may purchase qualifying items commonly used by skilled trade workers, such as power tools, work boots, and toolboxes, exempt from sales tax on retail sales.

These items include: Duffle bags or tote bags, Electrical voltage and testing equipment, Fuel cans, Handheld pipe cutters, drain opening tools, and plumbing inspection equipment, Hand tools, Hard hats and other head protection, Hearing protection items, High-visibility safety vests, Industry textbooks and code books, Ladders, LED flashlights, Power tool batteries, Power tools, Protective coveralls, Rakes, Safety glasses, Shop lights, Shovels, Toolboxes, Toolboxes for vehicles, Tool belts, Work boots, & Work gloves.

For more information, please visit <https://floridarevenue.com/pages/salestaxholidays.aspx>

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!*

Hurricane Season Reminders:

The peak of the Atlantic hurricane season is September 10, with most activity occurring between mid-August and mid-October. Make sure to review your family evacuation plan and resupply/stock up on your emergency kits.

Resources:

[NOAA Hurricane](#)

[Florida Disaster](#)

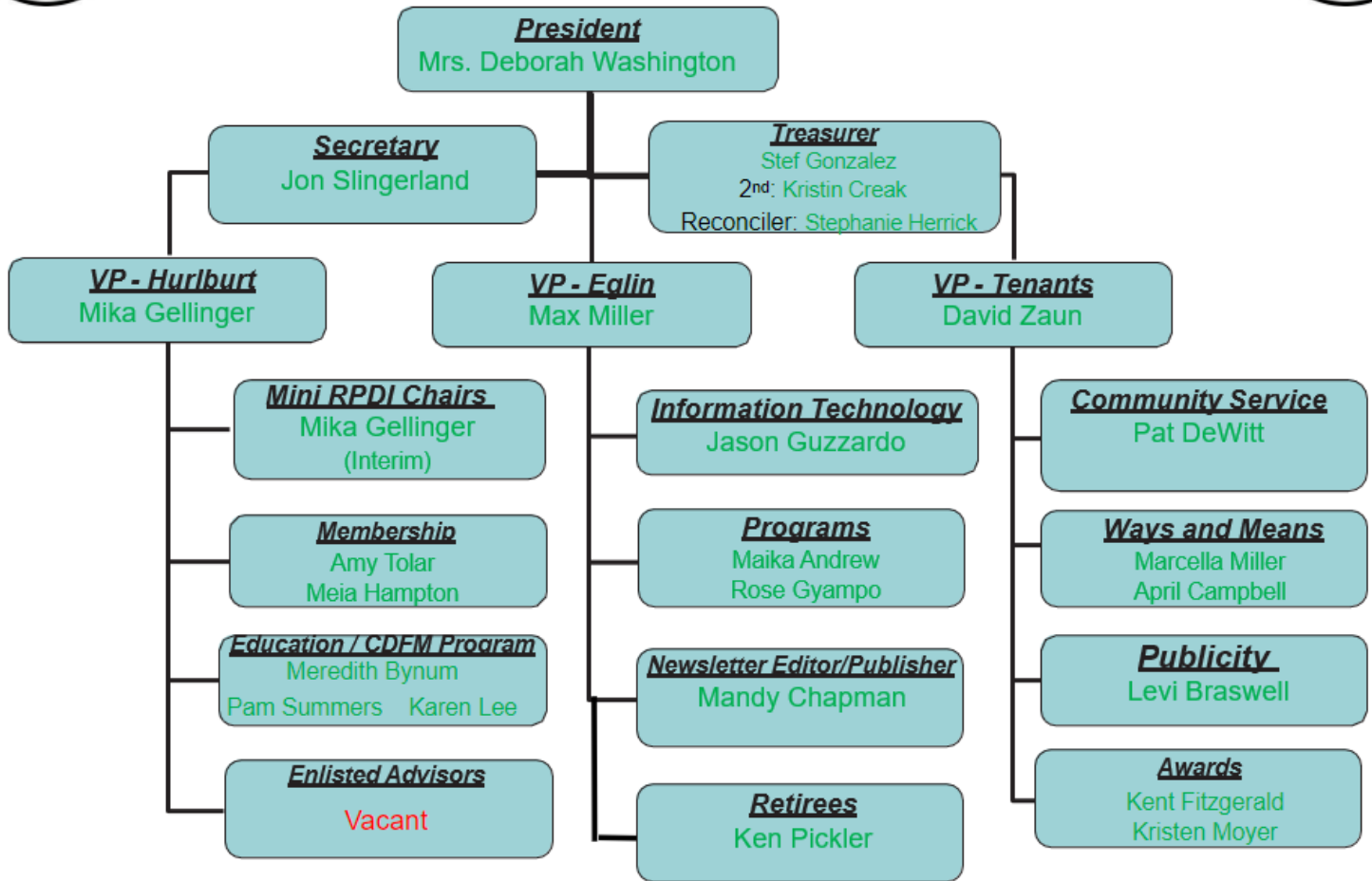
[Eglin Hurricane Info](#)

[Hurlburt Field Hurricane Info](#)

Org Chart



2023-2024 Gulf Coast Chapter



As of July 2023

Financial Management

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

Directions:

Find the word in the puzzle.

Words can go in any direction.

Words can share letters as they cross over each other.

AFAA

CCaRs

DEAMS

Execution

Internal Control

Obligation

Risk

Analogy

Compliance

DFAS

Funding

JOCAS

PPBE

Scope

Audit

Cost Estimate

Document

Inflation

JV

Qualified

Answers to word search will appear in the next newsletter



Program/Speaker Lineup

Future Meetings

September 2023
TBA

Past Meetings

28 August 2023
“Recharge the
Workforce”

Hot FM Topics
Ms. Christine Wasdin

27 July 2023
“Recharge the
Workforce”

Experienced Panel
Discussion
Mr. Graber, Ms. Woolgar, &
Mr. Neece

Education

Congratulations to all our Scholarship winners!! Way to go!! We wish you much success in college as well as all your future FM career endeavors.



The 5 winners are:

High School:

- Emily Weinstein attending University of Central Florida, award \$750
- Gregory Seaton attending Washington University in St. Louis, award \$250

College:

- Carl Winters attending University of Central Florida, award \$750
- Alyssa Hadley attending Tuskegee University, award \$250

ASMC member:

- Jordan Brown attending University of South Florida, award \$1,000





Retiree Update

Written by

Ken Pickler

ASMC Retiree Committee

I'm pleased to report that two of our notable retirees have joined ranks with us to get our new chapter retiree mentor corps up and running. Mrs. Denise Wagner, recently retired AFRL Munitions Directorate CFO, will work with our VPs and me to help nail down the details on the program. Mr. James Pitts, former Air Armament Center (AAC) Budget Officer and Test Wing Plans Director, has also volunteered to serve as a chapter mentor. Both are past presidents of our chapter. As we work with our Executive Council to nail down the details on the program, we encourage you to help us recruit retirees you recommend as mentors...or even want for your own mentor!

We're still aiming for an October launch. Former Weapons Program Executive Officer and AAC commander Maj Gen "ChedBob" Chedister daily urged us to "Pay It Forward." He was also passionate about knowledge sharing, bringing the Air Armament Academy (now Eglin Academy) to life. Mentoring enables retirees to be wingmen for life.

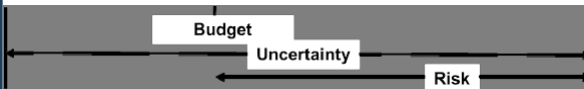
In addition to our recruiting effort, we welcome suggestions for our program. E-mail us via our chapter mailbox, gulfcoast.asmc@gmail.com or message me via Facebook or LinkedIn.

FM Article

Written by

Winston Graves

Risk and uncertainty analysis is critical to proper cost estimating and, in most cases, required by policy. Although critical and time consuming, an analyst might only need to perform risk and uncertainty analysis a few times a year. Monte Carlo simulation is the standard practice to assess risk in the DoD.



Over the years, compatibility and re-certification issues have plummeted the availability of the defense industry standard Monte Carlo tool (Crystal Ball).



Organizations have been paying ~\$1,100 per person per year for a software that's likely not available the few times they need it each year. For example, let's say a MAJCOM has 300 cost analysts, who each have their own license which they use 8 times a year on average. The organization is paying \$330,000 every year for something they use sparingly throughout the year (if it is even available).

Due to a lack of availability, high prices, and difficulty of use, I created a Monte Carlo simulation alternative. This alternative is completely free, always available, more user friendly, and has well-documented training available. The simulation interfaces with excel and is hosted on the VAULT: a secure web platform on NIPR & SIPR, available to anyone with a CAC. This tool has been through rounds of validation testing to ensure results are accurate. The new risk tool has the potential to save thousands of dollars for organizations, save analysts significant headaches, facilitate FM compliance with policy, and enable better decision-making DoD wide.

Member News

The time to plan ASMC Oktoberfest is upon us, and we need volunteers to be on the committee, if you would like to help plan this event, or be the lead for this event, please send Max Miller an email @ max.miller.2@us.af.mil.



Let's move forward with making this an awesome event.

RPDI News

The 2024 April RPDI is in the works. We need volunteers! Please consider volunteering to be a RPDI co-chair or committee member.

Post-PDI 2023 Access

The American Society of Military Comptroller's (ASMC) Professional Development Institute (PDI) 2023 was a great success. Just because you couldn't join us doesn't mean you should miss out on all the defense FM content. ASMC is happy to present PDI On Demand 2023 [<https://asmconline.org/pd/pdi/>], the digital library with 150+ hours of recordings and the ability to claim 180+ CPEs. Register & Start Earning CPEs [<https://asmconline.org/pd/pdi/>]

HELLO!

New Members!

We welcome our newest member, Tonisha Young who joined our chapter on July 28, 2023

Did you or someone you know recently move to another organization at Eglin? If so, you or someone you know might 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.



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 Amy Tolar, membership chair, for more information or to be added to the ASMC distro. <https://asmconline.org/membership/>

National ASMC News

ASMC Newsroom

Calling All Defense Financial Management Subject Matter Experts

By ASMC National Certification

August 3, 2023

The American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) is excited to update the Certified Defense Financial Manager (CDFM) and CDFM with Acquisition Specialty (CDFM-A) certification examinations!

ASMC has closed the Job Task Analysis (JTA) Survey which collected detailed job-related information used to update content of the CDFM examinations. Many thanks to the individuals who contributed their time and expertise to this critical step that is helping us ensure a rigorous and high-quality generation of the CDFM and CDFM-A certification exams. Those who completed the JTA survey will be sent an email by 7/14/2023 with a link to their digital certificate worth 1 CPE for this work.

Now HumRRO (the Human Resources Research Organization), ASMC's partner in exam development, is compiling the JTA survey data to update the Module 1, 2, 3, & 4 exam blueprints. The Exam Blueprint Update Committee members are currently being selected to review and finalize the blueprints. If you would like to participate in this task or any of the upcoming tasks, please sign up by **completing a short background questionnaire**.

Seeking Subject Matter Experts (SMEs)

We are still seeking SMEs in defense financial management to assist us with this important work. The contributions and collaboration of SMEs are essential to capturing a holistic picture of what it means to be a **Certified Defense Financial Manager**. We want to acknowledge and hear the diverse experiences you have as a defense financial manager.

Volunteer Opportunities Available

- **Job Task Analysis Survey — COMPLETED 7/7/2023**
We are looking for individuals who have expertise in defense financial management (FM). The ideal volunteer is currently identified as having lived experience and demonstrates diverse skillsets as defense financial managers.
- This opportunity involves completing a 1-hour survey to rate how relevant and important each pre-developed knowledge statement is for a defense financial manager. The knowledge statement ratings will be used in generating the CDFM and CDFM-A exams. Your expertise and insight will help us ensure a rigorous and high-quality examination.
- **Exam Blueprint Update — IN PROCESS**
Once the Job Task Analysis Survey is completed, there will be a 3-hour virtual workshop where SMEs will collaborate with other defense financial management experts to review the CDFM and CDFM-A exam blueprint. This will ensure the questions we develop are representative and inclusive of the Certified Defense Financial Manager role.
- **Drafting Exam Questions**
We are looking for individuals with expertise in defense FM who can develop questions that will be used in the CDFM and CDFM-A exams. The question development effort will be in-person at our Alexandria, VA office. There will be a 4-hour workshop to train SMEs about how to write questions. Each SME will then write 12 questions.
- **Exam Question Review**
After exam questions are developed, we will need SMEs in defense FM to review the questions for accuracy, relevance, and criticality to those in defense FM.

National ASMC News

- **Pilot Testing**

Once questions are developed and reviewed, we will pilot test the developed exam to assess the questions are working as intended before administering the CDFM and CDFM-A exams to actual test takers. The pilot test will take 2 hours to complete in a virtual environment.

Importance of SMEs in Exam Development

- It is critical to have SME collaboration throughout the CDFM certification exam development process.
- Your time and willingness to participate is a crucial factor in ensuring that the exam adheres to a scientifically rigorous process that is valid, reliable, and legally defensible.

Benefits of Participating

- Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credits will be awarded for participation.
- Contributing in tangible and meaningful ways to the defense financial management field.
- Ensuring accurate and representative content on the exam.
- Allowing your thoughts, experiences, and perspectives to be represented in the exam.

Timeline & Commitment

- Subject matter expert volunteering begins in February 2023.
- Some activities are done individually, while others are completed as a group.
- Time commitments can range anywhere from 1 hour to multi-day sessions depending on the task.

How to Sign Up

If you would like to participate in upcoming tasks in the exam update process, please complete the **SME Background Questionnaire**. One of our team members will reach out to you to discuss the next steps if you are selected to participate as a SME volunteer.

Please contact certification@asmconline.org if you have any questions.



Defense Report

The Pentagon may be too busy to fix its half-century-old budget process, reform group says

By Audrey Decker

August 15, 2023

The congressional panel looking at the Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution system has interim recommendations—and doubts about their implementability.

A congressionally directed panel working on recommendations to give the Pentagon new spending flexibility released an interim report Tuesday—but acknowledged the Defense Department may not have the bandwidth to implement their suggestions.

The panel's job is to modernize the Pentagon's over half-a-century-old budget process, called the Planning, Programming, Budgeting & Execution Process, or PPBE, so the military can get newer technology much faster than it can today.

The commission's interim report details "potential recommendations" and other actions that could be implemented immediately to speed up the Defense Department's budget process. The commission will release its final report in March 2024.

The group wants to change processes to foster innovation and better adapt to changing requirements, Bob Hale, chair of the Commission on PPBE Reform and previous Pentagon comptroller during the Obama administration, said Tuesday at a Defense Writers Group event.

But despite the need for change, Hale said he's worried the Pentagon doesn't have the "bandwidth" to implement the commission's potential proposals.

"They are so busy with the day-to-day issues of oversight and then the financial crises that seem to be unending, [and] Ukraine right now, which takes up a lot of time," Hale said. "I am concerned about their ability to absorb these changes."

While he doesn't expect to see any changes in legislation this year, Hale said he has seen a willingness to change throughout the department.

Part of the challenge is a "dynamic tension" between Congress's need for oversight and the Pentagon's need to move quickly with the right force structure, said Ellen Lord, vice-chair of the commission and a former industry CEO who was the Pentagon's top weapons buyer during the Trump administration.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine and China's persistent presence in the Pacific has spurred a demand for change, Lord said.

"Our challenge, I believe, boils down to coming up with systems where we have the data and information provided consistently on a timely basis to allow both the DOD to generate the most meaningful resourcing decisions, and then allow the Hill to understand what those are and how they were derived, and then be able to adjust very quickly because we are in an era where everything is dynamic," Lord said.

Federal executives still should be keenly aware of the possibility of a cut to their program.

The interim report details potential recommendations that could "introduce substantial disruption to the financial structure" of the Defense Department, the report said.

National News

The commission isn't advocating throwing everything out, "as appealing as that might sound to people," Lord said. "What we're trying to do is take what works and streamline it, so that we have a relevant timeframe."

One example of how the department could transform the budget process is by consolidating the number of line items in the annual budget.

In the research, development, test, and evaluation account alone, "there are about 1,000 of these little guys and you've got to wonder whether that is so many that it's difficult for DOD to manage, let alone perhaps for Congress to execute oversight," Hale said.

The panel also is looking at the department's use of "colors of money"—aka the Pentagon's method of putting money into different pots in its budget, such as procurement, operations and maintenance, and RDT&E.

If the Defense Department's money wasn't so segmented, an acquisition organization could pay for its expenses using procurement, even if some of it would normally have been research or operating money, Hale said.

"That would make it less common that programs are slowed, because the program manager hasn't been able to foresee exactly how much money they needed in a procurement pot versus the research pot. This would have to be accompanied, I think, by a set of rules that provided for congressional oversight, or it's not going to be acceptable," he said.

The commission also might recommend restructuring the budget so the dollars are expressed in a "more mission-oriented fashion," Hale said. "The goal is to be more mission-oriented and make it easier to relate strategy to budget."

One action the Pentagon could implement now is conducting a midyear budget review to improve communication with Capitol Hill, Hale said.

Congressional staff members told the panel they receive an avalanche of information when the budget is first submitted, but for the rest of the year, information is sporadic and sometimes inconsistent, Hale said.

"If we could get this dialogue going, I think it would help improve relationships between DOD and Congress on PPBE-related issues and hopefully limit the amount of changes that have to be made," he said.

Meanwhile, some GOP lawmakers in the House Armed Service Committee want to abolish a key part of the Pentagon's budget process, called the Office of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, or CAPE, which analyzes what type of major acquisition programs the military needs and what they are likely to cost.

Hale said the commission isn't going to "take a stand" on the future of CAPE, but the functions the office provides are essential to making PPBE work, as it leads the programming process and supplies information throughout most of the process.

"If they just abolish CAPE and don't provide those functions, it would be a disaster. The process couldn't work without it," Hale said.

