American Society of Military Comptrollers Washington Chapter

TO PROMOTE EDUCATION, TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN ALL ASPECTS OF MILITARY COMPTROLLERSHIP

President's Message

Greetings ASMC Washington Fiscal Stewardship for a Us" link. Chapter members! honored, humbled and enthused having key DoD and other Committee Chair, is looking at to be your new President for the Government officials present new and different ways of 2014-2015 year! After only 2 their perspectives at luncheons networking months on the job, the year is and are exploring the possibility leveraging already exciting; with lots opportunity for our Chapter and for lunch. More to come! We Anyone who would like to help the Nation.

together with you and the shortly. This will enable you to Terry! tremendous Chapter Executive Committee to informative line-up of speakers. our make our Chapter more flexible, The September luncheon will Committees to provide more innovative, responsive, and fun! feature Lieutenant I need your great ideas! To this Karen Dyson, Military Deputy to end, soon, we will be posting a for Budget, Assistant Secretary volunteers. short survey on the Washington of Chapter website under the Management and Comptroller). professional network and have "News" Executive Committee a better Chapter website to make it more difference. Please review the idea of what you want from user-friendly and informative. new committee line-up on our • Become the Role Model for 5 Star your ASMC Chapter. Please Thanks to Wayne Whitten, our website complete and submit the survey.

Already, we are introducing new approaches to improve the way we do business. Let me preview Our 2014-2015 a few! education theme is "Improved

I am Stronger Defense". We plan on Training shaping-up to be of breakfasts for those who opportunities available in the of cannot take time out of your day National will publicize our event speaker shape I look forward to working schedule for the entire year Education Washington plan and register early for the reorganizing and reconstituting the Army link to give the We have modernized our the opportunity to make a Chapter website is your one- volunteer. stop-shop for all news on the Washington Chapter Executive Washington Chapter. Please Committee has developed 2014visit frequently to stay up to date 2015 Goals for the Chapter. and provide comments for Our Chapter goals for 2014improvement at the "Contact 2015 are:

Terry Placek, our and Education and learning by unique the Capital Region. our Training and agenda contact Also, we are Washington Chapter General depth and focus. We continue look for committee As a committee (Financial volunteer you will expand your and contact the Finally, the





Ms. Ariane Whittemore, Assistant Deputy Commandant, Programs and Resources, Headquarters Marine Corps

- Washington • Increase Chapter Member Participation
- Leverage unique opportunities in Washington area to diversify speakers and events
- Chapters
- take a couple of minutes to new Webmaster, the Washington appropriate Committee Chair to Be responsive to Washington Chapter Member needs

As we try new things; some will be "Hits" and some "Misses", but we will work to continue to improve the value of the Washington Chapter to its members.



STAY CONNECTED

Washington Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers is on Facebook. Scan this QR Code to "like us" on Facebook and start receiving up-to-date information.

http://www.washington-asmc.org PO Box 16237 Arlington, VA 22215-1237

The U.S. Coast Guard's New Chief Financial Officer: An Interview with Rear Admiral Todd Sokalzuk

By Ms. Stacy Spadafora, CGFM, CDFM

The new U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Assistant Commandant for Resources and Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Rear Admiral Todd Sokalzuk, recently assumed his duties at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, DC. He was interviewed by the U.S. Coast Guard ASMC Assistant Secretary, Ms. Stacy Spadafora, to introduce him to the ASMC community.

Q: You have taken the reins as CFO of the Coast Guard the first year following the "clean" audit opinion. How do you plan to deal with the challenge of sustaining the audit?

A: This is a great time to be the Coast Guard's CFO because it's a period full of pivotal opportunities. Sustaining the unmodified audit is a top priority; but as we looked at what we face to do so, we realized that this is not just about the audit or just about dealing with outdated financial management systems. We decided that whatever we do now is more about how the Coast Guard can improve our financial management enterprise to be more efficient and effective in supporting our operations.

Q: The new Commandant, Admiral Paul Zukunft, stated in his Commandant's Direction, 2014, his goal of "modernizing our financial management system" to "optimize efficiencies and stewardship of resources." How do you plan to accomplish this?

A: We are in the process of updating our automated financial management systems, and building a more robust set of internal controls that govern key financial and business activities to better meet all federal requirements. This requires a complex set of changes we're implementing through what we call the Financial Management and Procurement Services (FMPS) effort. This will fundamentally shift the Coast Guard away from custom-designed financial management processes and unique workarounds to the standardized and compliant activities that seamlessly support not just the audit but more effective operations. These will include correctly aligning funds distribution, developing clear technical authority and internal controls, increasing business intelligence, reporting assessment and assurance. All of this will better support daily operations and also improve our contingency operations capacity in financial management to better deal with unforeseen events like Hurricane Sandy.

Q2 That sounds quite ambitious. What exactly will the

Coast Guard do to achieve that?

A: We have divided this effort into three components for better project management and oversight. They are:

- Business Process Reengineering (BPR) Implementation, which is enacting improvements identified in the Coast Guard's 2013 Financial Management BPR Final Report to adjust how we manage business processes that are repeatable, sustainable, and compliant with audit requirements;
- Financial Management Service Improvement Initiative (FMSII), which is acquiring a hosted FMPS solution from a Federal Shared Service Provider (FSSP) as replacement for our outdated Core Accounting System (CAS); and
- Data Strategy and Legacy CAS migration, which is preparing our financial data for the new service provider while ensuring compliance with audit standards.

All three FMPS components will solidify our improved internal controls and help sustain the audit with fewer impacts to our operations.

Q: Like the rest of the federal government, the Coast Guard is looking at a lengthy period of constrained and declining discretionary budgets in the future. How do you plan to properly fund Coast Guard operations yet maintain needed mission support?

A: Even in this constrained fiscal environment, we must act responsibly now to improve efficiencies and effectiveness in the future. We are striving to make sure that the FMPS effort improves the quality of Coast Guard financial and procurement data, precisely because doing so allows senior leadership to accurately understand the costs of units, activities, and missions. This is the best way to prioritize what we do so the Coast Guard can dedicate our scarce resources to effectively serving the Nation.

For example, the BPR implementation will reduce the burden of financial and procurement management on operational units. We'll do this through more centralized procurement, leveraging economies of scale to buy needed goods and services more economically and efficiently. The Coast Guard must also be smart about how we utilize our mission support personnel. Moving processes and reallocating authorities within the Coast Guard will give us that ability. Q: The Coast Guard Resources Directorate (CG-8) is tasked with tremendous responsibilities. In your short tenure as Assistant Commandant, what have you found to be most noteworthy about CG-8?

A: As I stated above, the next few years will be challenging for the entire Coast Guard as we modernize our financial management system to best comply with all federal standards. Coast Guard senior leadership and the rest of the Coast Guard are completely committed to this.

For example during the audit, the work that was led by people in CG-8 and carried out throughout the service allowed the Assistant Commandants of Information Management (CG-6) and Engineering and Logistics (CG-4) to identify significant and meaningful savings through improved accountability. The Coast Guard at all levels is realizing it is not just about an "audit", but that better financial management practices lead to more

July Luncheon Recap

funding available for missions! The staff in CG-83, our Office of Resource Management, reduced the Coast Guard's unexecuted funding in fiscal year 2013 to \$7 million out of a total budget appropriation of over \$10.4 billion! That is a fantastic accomplishment.

But even as we have achieved success in the audit, we can't stop seeking improvements in the professional skill and acumen that is fundamental to improving how we do business. We must continue to strongly support the professional development of financial management personnel within the Coast Guard to guarantee that we have a proficient and ready workforce. In fact, to better understand what work we do, we are conducting a Manpower Requirements Analysis to identify required skills in support of our business plan. We'll use the results to develop minimum professional requirements for certain positions, improve training, focus hiring and retention, and better manage our combined military and civilian workforce to enable the Coast Guard to meet the challenges we face in the future.

The Washington Chapter's June luncheon was held on the 18th at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City. It was sponsored by Washington Chapter US Air Force members. The Department of the Navy sponsored this month's event. We were excited to have Mr. Al Runnels, Executive Director of the National ASMC. The focus of this luncheon was the installation of Washington Chapter Officers for 2014-2015.

Upcoming Events August Luncheon

Sponsored by Washington Chapter U.S. Coast Guard Members

ASMC Annual Survey of FY15 DoD FM Priorities, Challenges, Concerns

Wednesday, 20 August 2014

Mr. Al Runnels, CDFM, ASMC Executive Director Mr. Dennis Taitano, CDFM, DASN-FO Mr. Doug Bennett, CDFM, DASAF-FO Ms. Ann McDermott, Fiscal Director, USMC



Hyatt Regency Crystal City 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway Arlington, VA 22202 The Hyatt will run a free shuttle every 15 minutes between the Metro stop and the hotel.

Social 1130, Lunch 1200 Register at https://secure.rhq.com/ireg/public/index.cgi?evid=R13-06-01-ASMC

ASMC Washington Chapter's Golf Tournament

This year's ASMC/AGA Golf Tournament was held on Wednesday 23 July 2014 and hosted at the Fort Belvoir Gunston and Woodlawn courses. The success of this event again this year can be attributed to the dedicated government and corporate Golfers, our outstanding Corporate Sponsors and the terrific volunteers, working on and off the course. It was a beautiful balmy July day.

Amidst the festivities, our ASMC and AGA members generously gave to those less fortunate by donating 436 pounds of food goods and non-perishable items – as well as cash contributions – for the Capital Food Bank.

Congratulation to our 1st Place Winners!

Gunston Course Score: 60

Louis Matrone Al Runnels Roger Scearce Robert Speer <u>Woodlawn Course Score</u>: 57 John Argodale Robert Cook

Sean Lingo David Zorzi

Thanks to all of the volunteers who helped before, during, and after the event! Special appreciation goes to Rita Finney, our Golf Tournament Chair, for a fabulous job again this year!

Christy Beck Cynthia Crippen-Black Tracy Finney Scott Force Hakeem Khwaja Justin Lee Angie Penn Carin Rhodes

Kathy Hebert

Special Thanks to all of our Corporate Sponsors of the event:

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E&Y	Kearney & Company	Savantage Solutions
AOC Solutions	Cotton & Company	St Michaels
Binary	IBM	Summit2Sea
CALIBRE	Immersion Consulting	TRH
CliftonLarsonAllen	MIL Corporation	Vanguard Advisors

ASMC Washington proceeds \$7,718 AGA Washington proceeds \$494 ASMC Golfers 145 AGA Golfers 28

51 Government golfers * 122 Corporate golfers * 173 Total golfers





Woodlawn Winners

2014 Survey of DoD Financial Managers

ASMC and Grant Thornton recently completed the 12th annual survey of senior defense Financial Managers and rank-andfile ASMC membership. This year's survey features the results of 24 in-person interviews with the leadership of the defense FM community and the results of an on-line survey with over 1000 ASMC members responding. The common theme throughout the survey was the incredible pressure that defense financial managers are under from a variety of fronts. Workload issues appear regularly with concern that there is too much on the DoD FM plate. Respondents feel that with the demands of putting together multiple base, sequestration and supplemental budgets, audit readiness, ERP implementation, and the addition of new professional training continuum in an era of decreasing resources puts undue pressure on the workforce, resulting in less than optimum performance on any specific issue. Add to that the loss of confidence in job stability in the workforce due to the 2013 furloughs and it is clear that the FM community is dealing with significant issues of morale, stability and job satisfaction. Over 80% of the respondents felt that the magnitude of the challenges being faced in 2014 are higher than ever before.

Respondents were asked questions in several areas reflecting the most critical issues the FM community is currently facing:

<u>Audit Readiness</u>. Over half the respondents felt that their organizations were relying on organizations and systems beyond their control for audit readiness. There were also concerns voiced that non-FM leadership does not have audit readiness as one of their top concerns.

<u>Better Results through Data Analysis</u>: The FM community recognizes that data analysis must become commonplace in budget development in order to improve results, reduce workload and deliver readiness at reduced cost, but 59% of on-line respondents felt that their organizations did not rely on analysis to a significant degree while 92% of senior FM leaders felt their organizations already relied on analysis. This gap in understanding of what analysis is actually being employed is interesting and points to a disconnect between leaders and their personnel on how much analysis is actually being done.

<u>IT Modernization</u>: Neither FM leaders nor their managers feel that the pace of IT improvement is satisfactory. Among the on-line respondent, almost 60% said that they were dissatisfied the with rate of IT system modernization compared to 55% of FM leaders. This is an area of clear agreement with the FM community.

<u>Shared Services</u>: Use of shared services has been mandated by OMB in the Federal FM community and this year's survey asked to what extent FMers thought the use of shared services would improve performance. Many respondents pointed out that DFAS provides shared accounting services to the defense community, but we probed beyond DFAS. Answers to the question, "Do you think the use of a shared service provider would benefit your organization?" were mixed. Over half of the executives and 25% of managers replied that they did not know. The rest of the responses were evenly spaced between "No Benefit" and "Great Benefit."

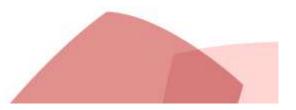
<u>Top Concerns:</u> The number one concern among senior FM executives this year was people. There were several aspects to the top concern including recruiting and retention of a quality workforce, easing non-value added administrative burdens, improving morale and retirement of the workforce. Second among concerns was stability in the budget process. The third top concern among executives was IT modernization and eliminating the reliance on legacy systems. Accelerating the move to ERPs seems to be high on everyone's priority list.

There are many other issues addressed in this year's survey which you can find by going to the ASMC website,

<u>www.asmconline.or</u> or the Grant Thornton Public Sector web site, <u>www.grantthornton.com/publicsector</u> after August 19, 2014.

Copies are also available on request.





Message from the Washington Chapter Scholarship Chair

June is the month for ends and beginnings. We see the school year come to an end, college graduates take on new endeavors and newlyweds begin their journey together, just to name a few. It is also the month I begin my term as the 2014-2015 Scholarship Chair. I am excited to begin the interface with the surrounding schools and to eventually review submissions for awards.

An abundance of appreciation and gratitude is sent to Mr. David Ernest for his facilitation of the 2013-2014 Scholarship Chair. Under his guidance, the Washington Chapter was able to distribute ten \$1,000 scholarships to college-bound seniors in the financial/economic field. Winners were selected based on their Scholastic Achievements, Leadership Ability, Extracurricular Activities and Career Goals.

Please let me know if you have any suggestions for the program, as we are always looking to improve this program as well as aim for an outstanding program!

<u>Name</u>	High School	Anticipated Major
Nicholas Western	James W Robinson, Jr.	Accounting
Samuel Douthit	Washington-Lee	Mathematics
Sheena Wilson	Oakton	Accounting
Jack Baker	James W Robinson, Jr.	Finance
Brooke Mustain	Oakton	Finance
Kelly Malloy	Dominion	Business
Brian Romola	Briar Woods	Finance
Ankit Goyal	Thomas Jefferson	Economics
James Pickett	Oakton	Finance
Sara Wong	Dominion	Accounting

Congratulations to our 2013-2014 Scholarship Award Winners!



National News

White House establishes U.S. Digital Service

Thursday, August 14th, 2014

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) announced this week the establishment of the U.S. Digital Service. OMB called this initiative a key component of efforts to improve and simplify the government's delivery of services through information technology (IT). This initiative follows on the successful efforts last fall by a group of IT experts brought into government to fix the HealthCare.gov website.

According to a blog posted on the OMB website, "the Digital Service will be a small team made up of our country's brightest digital talent that will work with agencies to remove barriers to exceptional service delivery and help remake the digital experience that people and businesses have with their government.

"The first administrator of the Digital Service will be Mikey Dickerson, who was an integral part of the group that worked to fix HealthCare.com. Dickerson, a former Google site reliability engineer, will also become the Deputy Federal Chief Information Officer. He has described himself not as a policy expert but as one who knows "how to make big distributed systems work technically.

"The new team expects to hire people who "have talent and expertise in a variety of disciplines, including procurement, human resources, and finance."

OMB expects the Digital Service to achieve its mission by: 1) establishing standards to align the government's digital services with best in the private sector; 2) identifying common technology patterns to scale services effectively; 3) collaborating with agencies to fix gaps in their ability to design, develop, deploy, and operate top-notch customer interface services; and 4) to provide accountability to ensure results.

Concurrent with this announcement, OMB released two critical components of the IT toolkit to support the work of the Digital Service. The Digital Services Playbook will guide leveraging private-sector best practices and the TechFAR Handbook will help ensure agencies get the right technical tools to buy digital services consistent with the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR).OMB will fund the Digital Team in FY2014 with existing funds and "will scale in 2015 as outlined in the President's FY 2015 Budget."

> For more news and updates, visit http://www.asmconline.org



Training and Education Attention Members!

Earn Six (6) CPEs Free!

Go to the ASMC Washington Chapter website and "attend" the National Capital Region (NCR) 2014 Regional PDI to earn your free 6 CPEs

WANTED: Volunteers to serve on our Chapter's Training and Education Committee! If you are interested in becoming a member of this key committee contact Terry Placek at terryplacek@yahoo.com

EDFM Training Courses

The Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Course is a five-day, intensive financial management review course taught in three modules. The course is provided by the Department of Defense and is licensed and copyrighted by the American Society of Military Comptrollers. For those individuals interested in attending the EDFMT Course, the current schedule is shown below:

14 Aug 2014 Arlington, VA (ARNG)

28 Aug 2014

Ft. Belvoir, VA (Army)

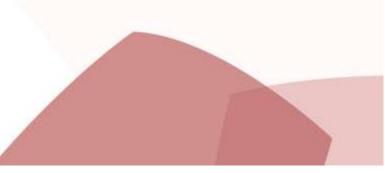
For more information on upcoming trainings, visit http://www.asmconline.org.

Additional Learning Opportunities Are Available to ASMC Members at the Online Learning Center!

The ASMC Online Learning Center currently offers recorded sessions from PDI 2012, as well as the quarterly Armed Forces Comptroller and recorded audio education sessions. PDI sessions and the AFC exams offer Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credit and a certificate to validate user participation.

http://www.asmconline.org/educationtraining/online-education/pdi-online





CDFM Corner

THE ASMC OFFERS THE CERTIFIED DEFENSE FINANCIAL MANAGER (CDFM) EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AND CERTIFICATION DESIGNATION TO THOSE PERSONS DESIRING TO DEMONSTRATE PROFICIENCY IN THE CORE ASPECTS OF DEFENSE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT. FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT HTTP://WWW.ASMCONLINE.ORG/CERTIFICATION/CDFM-INFORMATION

Congratulations to the Washington Chapter's new CDFMs!

Al Bond* Colin Wilson* Erica Thomas, CDFM-A* Jamie McManus, CDFM-A* Jeffrey Siberon* Jessica Vallone, CDFM-A*



Joe Moyer, CDFM-A*

Kevin Lennan* Pete Jackson, CDFM-A* Peter Terrill, CDFM-A* Quentin Yip, CDFM-A* Randy Smith* Ricardo Martinez, CDFM-A*

Have something you want to see in the next newsletter? Send us your ideas! contact mohammad.kohistani@ey.com

Monthly Featured Corporate Gold & Silver Member



Washington ASMC Gold level corporate member CALIBRE Systems of Alexandria has been at the forefront of providing management consulting and technology services to the DoD for over a quarter-century. Today, CALIBRE has more than 750 employees who support the DoD in 36 states and four foreign countries. The company is a well-known, trusted, and long-term partner to its customers, who seek CALIBRE's expertise and enduring solutions to support them address their most important and complex challenges. This statement is supported by independent customer satisfaction surveys, which show that over the past four years 100% of our customers state that they would use CALIBRE again and recommend us to others. Core service offerings include Financial Management and Cost Analysis.

CALIBRE has received regional and national recognitions and awards that include:

- "Nunn-Perry Awardee" Department of Defense
- "Government Contractor of the Year" Greater Washington GovCon Awards
- "Best Place to Work" Great Place to Work Institute, FORTUNE magazine
- "Most Promising Data Analytics Consulting Company" CIO Review magazine
 - "5-Star Company for Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve" DoD

CALIBRE has been a corporate ASMC member since its founding in 1989. Members of CALIBRE serve in a variety of ways that include: leaderships in the Washington Chapter, regional PDI committees, and National PDI and Editorial committees; writing articles for the ASMC Journal; presenting workshops at local and national PDIs; sponsoring PDI events and booths; and advertising in the ASMC Journal. In 2007 CALIBRE was recognized as the ASMC Corporate member of the year.

To find more about CALIBRE visit their website at <u>www.calibresys.com</u> or contact Wayne Whiten at 703.797.8831 or <u>wayne.whiten@calibresys.com</u>.



THANKS TO OUR 20 CORPORATE GOLD & SILVER MEMBERS!



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Washington Chapter 2014-2015 Executive Board

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