



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MILITARY COMPTROLLERS

To Promote Education, Training and Professional Development in All Aspects of Military Comptrollership

July 2016

Washington Chapter



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President's Message

Mats A. Persson



First, I'm glad to be on board now as your Chapter President and look forward to hearing from you and working with you throughout the Washington Chapter's 2016 -2017 term year. Please join me in welcoming our new and returning Executive Board members, too, who are the backbone of your Chapter board from year to year and provide direct communication to you, the members.

New board members *Krystyna Kolesar* (President-Elect, Army), *Steven Birk* (Executive Secretary, DoD), *Greg Little* (DOD Assistant Secretary), *Hairo Ortiz* (Army Assistant Secretary), *Astrid Diaz* (USMC Assistant Secretary), *Benjamin J Yarish* (Air Force Vice President), *Chantele "Bug" Dow* (Air Force Assistant Secretary), and returning *Stacy Spadafora* (USCG Assistant Secretary). They join veteran Board officers *Raquel Kuhfahl* (Treasurer), *Cynthia Curry* (DOD Vice President), *Cynthia Crippen-Black* (Army Vice President), *Robin Farley* (Navy Vice President), *Veronica Trent-Walton* (Navy Assistant Secretary), *Jonathan R Newell* (USMC Vice President), *LT Mark Sanchez* (USCG Vice President), *Debra Delmar* (Corporate/Retired Vice President), and *Rita Finney* (Corporate/Retired Assistant Secretary).

Wow! All slots filled with a great set of experienced leaders. What more can we ask for?

I hope you'll reach out to your Board representative [contact information included in this publication for your reference] to learn what's going on and volunteer to participate in events. If you see a gap, want to help us fix it – talk to us. We want your input and feedback to be the “best ASMC Chapter” in the country. We're off to a flying start!

During the June 16th Washington Chapter Luncheon at the Westin Hotel, ASMC National Executive Director Al Runnels installed our new Executive Board officers. At that time, our Chapter awarded the annual Scholarship Awards. Five excellent students were recognized – Bregan Hanna, Robert Jackson, Collin Ryan, Jacob Inderrien, and Michael Malherek. *(continued on next page)*

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(Continued from previous page)

We also participated in a great community charity event in support of the DC Central Kitchen. Ten Chapter members came together on June 10th to support the operation. This was a rewarding experience and excellent opportunity to make a contribution back to the community.

We just completed a Management Concepts training class July 7: It' Crunch Time: Appropriations Law & YE Spending Webinar. We had over 164 attendees from the National Capital Region took advantage of this training. The next training class is on Aug 4: Budgeting and Accounting: Making the Connection Mini-course. Take advantage of this 3 hour (2.5 CPE) free course.

And what is next? Join us for the ASMC & AGA Annual Golf Tournament at Fort Belvoir Golf Course on July 27th. Participants will be winding their way through 27 holes (that's right, 18 plus 9). We are almost sold out by now. This is another of those must do events. Our Rita Finney is the lead for this annual event.

ASMC is the premier professional development association for DoD Resource and Financial Managers. Our mission is continuous training and education for DoD professionals to perform their duties to the highest standards. Our Chapter members were incredibly focused and committed to meeting the certification challenge by the June 30th deadline! Our chapter is committed to pursue education and training opportunities for our members to achieve and maintain their certification The recently implemented DoD FM Certification Program requires 80 hours of continuing professional education every two years. Over the course of our term year, the ASMC Washington Chapter provides approximately 25-30 free CET/CPE credits to meet that requirement for our members across our monthly meetings, annual regional PDI, frequent training classes and audit/webinar offerings. We encourage you to take advantage of these on-going opportunities to train, engage and contribute to our chapter.

A particular focus this year is recruiting new ASMC members and reaching out to retired/dropped members to re-engage. If everyone takes on the goal to recruit one new/absent member – our chapter will benefit as well as our critical mission! Thank you!

Our theme for all Luncheon Meetings Presentations during our term year 2016-17 will be **“Supporting the Warfighter with Solid Financial Information”**. Our first speaker, scheduled for Wednesday August 18th, is Ms. Alaleh Jenkins, Assistant Deputy Chief Financial Officer. Ms. Jenkins will discuss the DoD Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness (FIAR) effort and how auditable financial statements support the Warfighter.

In conclusion, please get involved, make a difference, and help us make the Washington Chapter the best it can be!

Mats



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May Luncheon Recap



The Washington Chapter was pleased to have Mr. Joseph Marshall, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management & Comptroller), as our guest speaker at the May luncheon.

Mr. Marshall addressed the Navy's auditability efforts. The Navy has defined the critical path to comply with the National Defense Authorization Act direction to report the results of a full audit by 2019. The DoN completed the FY 2015 Schedule of Budgetary Activities (SBA) audit in February 2016, receiving a disclaimer of opinion due to control environment weaknesses. The disclaimer of opinion cited three classes of material weaknesses:

1. Ineffective Business IT Systems Controls – 181 system-related deficiencies on 30 business systems; security & access controls uniformly non-compliant
2. Ineffective Business Process Controls – multiple process control failures; documentation shortcomings.
3. Ineffective Controls over Financial Reporting – data does not reliably flow through compilation process, resulting in unexplained adjustments.

Mr. Marshall observed in his remarks that the functional/technical "split" ownership of financial management Information Technology (IT) systems is a feature of our enterprise architecture he is not sure will withstand audit. The fact that DFAS owns and is responsible for the two of the three general fund core financial systems and General Ledgers (STARS and SABRS), while the Department of the Navy owns and operates the Navy ERP inevitably complicates management and sustainment of the DoN's financial system enterprise architecture.

Mr. Marshall continued his discussion by noting recent congressional actions relating to audit.

In Mr. Marshall's words the "Congress is watching," and for the first time is proposing real sanctions to the Department if it continues to fail to make measurable progress towards auditability. In the Audit the Pentagon Act of 2015 (S. 327) the Congress proposed increasingly onerous consequences if DOD fails to obtain an audit with an unqualified opinion:

1. Transfers DFAS from DOD to Treasury.
2. Provides higher reprogramming thresholds for Services that are auditable as a "carrot."
3. Severe restrictions on reprogramming
4. No obligating funds for major defense acquisition programs beyond Milestone B
5. Cancellation of any ERP business computer system if procurement takes longer than three years from initial obligation of funds to full deployment and sustainment.

Mr. Marshall concluded his remarks by reporting on the Department of the Navy's performance in the DoD Financial Management Certification Program. As the June 30 deadline approaches the DoN is making good progress towards moving from startup into sustainment for this initiative. The DoN is working to increase the availability of on-line and classroom training to help its financial managers achieve and sustain certification.



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Date	Upcoming Events / Sponsor / Speaker	Location
27 July	ASMC/AGA Washington Chapter Annual Golf Tournament	Ft. Belvoir Golf Club
4 Aug	Free Training for ASMC Washington Chapter Members: <i>"Budgeting & Accounting—Making the Connection"</i>	Management Concepts Training Center, Washington DC
18 Aug	Monthly Luncheon / OSD(C) / Mrs. Alaleh Jenkins	Westin, Crystal City
15 Sep	Monthly Luncheon / Army / TBD	Westin, Crystal City
30 Nov	Holiday Social	Army Navy Country Club
9 Mar 17	NCR PDI	Ronald Reagan Building, DC

Next Luncheon



The next Chapter Luncheon will be on **Thursday, 18 Aug, 11:30 am** at the Westin Hotel in Crystal City. Mrs. Alaleh Jenkins is the Assistant Deputy Chief Financial Officer within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller). Mrs. Jenkins was appointed as a member of the Senior Executive Service in December 2014. She provides direct support to the Deputy Chief Financial Officer on developing and interpreting Department wide accounting and finance policy; promoting standard financial management processes and systems; as well as ensuring an enterprise wide audit strategy is properly implemented. Mrs. Jenkins leads major initiatives for the Department, working jointly with the Government Accountability Office, Office of Management and Budget, and DoD Inspector General for improved financial management practices.

Prior to becoming the Assistant Deputy Chief Financial Officer, she served as the Director for Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness (FIAR) within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller). In this position, she was responsible for advising the Deputy Chief Financial Officer on all issues related to financial management reform and audit readiness. Mrs. Jenkins was responsible for the implementation and oversight of financial improvement plans across the Department of Defense (DoD) in support of the Department's strategic goals and legislative mandates to attain auditability and improve financial management.

Prior to becoming the FIAR Director, she served as a client service Director with PricewaterhouseCoopers. In this position, she was responsible for assisting DoD clients in the development and implementation of solutions to improve financial practices and prepare for auditability through discovery, remediation; driving change at all organizational levels within the organization.

Mrs. Jenkins' other assignments within the DoD include Assistant Director of FIAR within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) and Business Transformation Program Manager within the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Installations & Environment). In those positions, she led enterprise-wide solutions to overcome financial management impediments to audit readiness, as well as, large-scale business process reengineering efforts across the military's business operations. These efforts collectively led to the establishment of a new process frameworks and improved efficiency of day-to-day operations and long term sustainability for the entire DoD.

Mrs. Jenkins is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Defense Financial Manager (CDFM) and an accomplished leader with more than seventeen years of experience in federal and private-sector financial statement audit, business transformation, and large scale and complex financial management engagements. She holds a Bachelors of Science in Accounting from George Mason University. Mrs. Jenkins has received various personal awards, including the Secretary of Defense Excellence award and the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board Pillar award. [Sign up here today!](#)

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Department of Defense Financial Management Strategy

By Greg Little



The entire FM community is working towards achieving audit readiness by the end of FY2017. Can you believe that is only a year and half away! Tremendous effort has occurred to move the Department to an improved audit state, but in some respects the journey has just begun. Audit readiness is an extremely important goal, but ultimately the FM vision is to provide a simplified, standard, affordable, secure and auditable business environment. In this budget constrained environment we need to be thinking of financial improvement that ensure DoD's business is auditable, but also efficient, effective and sustainable.

The Achieving the FM vision can feel insurmountable. The question becomes, "How do we get there?" The Office of the Secretary of Defense Comptroller is publishing a *DoD Financial Management Strategy FY2016-2020* that provides a comprehensive roadmap with a unified vision and purpose to achieve the following strategic goals:

- GOAL 1 - Achieve audit readiness and sustain an auditable business environment
- GOAL 2 - Enhance and implement financial policies and processes to improve, simplify and standardize the financial management business and systems environment
- GOAL 3- Develop and maintain a well-trained financial workforce that has knowledge, skills and abilities to provide decision support and analysis as well as achieve and sustain an auditable business environment
- GOAL 4 - Develop a Standardized Planning, Programming, Budgeting and Execution (PPBE) process that enables end-to-end (E2E) funds traceability and data linkage between budget and execution

The problem with many strategies is that they can feel like the "target state" is so far in the future that it is not an urgent priority or that they are attempting to "boil the ocean" and not realistic. What is different about the DoD FM Strategy is it takes a two and five year outlook. The first two years is driving to an audit ready state leveraging an effective framework of people, process and technology to effect real change. The longer term FY2018-2020 target environment includes balancing auditability with financial improvements in the areas of reducing legacy systems, procure-to-pay improvements, cash accountability, intragovernmental transactions and SFIS/USSGL compliance. The FM Strategy provides incremental achievable milestones to reach the target state.

So what do we need from you? The FM workforce has some of the best and brightest in the DoD and the execution of the FM strategy comes down to people. We can achieve the FM target state if we work together with a single vision and purpose and make it a part of our day-to-day lives.

Mr. Greg Little is a Senior Staff Accountant for the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller). He is responsible for the Department of Defense Financial Management Strategy, FM system portfolio rationalization and investments, and improving the Department's end-to-end business processes.



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Chapter News – Successful Training Webinar Held on July 7

IT'S CRUNCH TIME

Complimentary Webinar



APPROPRIATIONS LAW AND YEAR-END SPENDING

Each summer Federal agencies must address year-end financial decisions, with a “use it or lose it” status to funding.

This timely and informative one-hour webinar held on July 7th addressed:

- Rules which outline how and when to correctly spend Federal funds
- Exceptions and flexibilities GAO has allowed in recent years
- Avoiding violations of the Antideficiency Act
- Considerations every Federal employee should know



MANAGEMENT
CONCEPTS

164 DoD Comptroller Professionals in the NCR attended this webinar on July 7th, sponsored by your ASMC Washington Chapter. Due to the overwhelming success and positive feedback received for this training session, we will look to sponsor more webinars in the future. Make sure you check the chapter website and this newsletter for upcoming training opportunities. If you have specific topics you'd like to see covered, please forward your ideas to Terry Placek at terryplacek@yahoo.com



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Chapter News – Upcoming Training Opportunity



Budgeting and Accounting: *Making the Connection*

2 Sessions on August 4:
8:30-11:30 am & 12:30-3:30 pm

*****FREE for ASMC Members*****



This course supports improved financial management effectiveness by providing a deeper understanding of the requirements for the federal budgeting and accounting functions. The course presents the introductory concepts of federal budgeting and accounting, and addresses the integration of the budgeting and accounting functions. This gives budgeteers an appreciation for the work involved to produce accurate accounting information and accountants an understanding of how budgeters use accounting data.

Why take this course? This course is designed for participants from several different backgrounds: accountants who want insight into Federal budgeting, budgeteers who want insight into Federal accounting, and systems people who want a basic understanding of Federal budgeting and accounting to implement new financial systems

Learning Objectives:

- Make the connection between budgeting and accounting
- Apply budget and accounting terminology appropriately
- Track budgetary and proprietary accounting transactions through the budget execution process
- Describe the use of the U.S. Government Standard General Ledger account structure
- Relate budget obligations to agency assets, liabilities, and expenses
- Determine unfunded budget requirements from accounting reports
- Improve budget estimating with accounting information

MANAGEMENT
CONCEPTS

Sponsored by your ASMC Washington Chapter at **no-cost** to our members. CLPs/CPEs: 2.5

Training location: 919 18th St. NW, Suite 800, Washington DC 20006; ph: 202.955.1008

Click [here](#) to register today. Complete the class roster registration form and return it to:

pilotcourses@managementconcepts.com **Registration deadline is Friday, July 22.**



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ASMC 2015 National Corporate Member of the Year!



Established in 1985, **Kearney & Company, P.C.** (Kearney) is currently the largest Certified Public Accounting (CPA) firm dedicated exclusively to Federal financial management (FM). Approximately half of Kearney's business consists of work within the Department of Defense (DoD) and the United States Coast Guard (USCG). Our success relies heavily on supporting ASMC's mission to provide education, training, development and advancement of the profession of military comptrollership in our staff and in the military. In keeping with this mission, Kearney actively participates in offering professional development programs to ensure our team is informed and well-prepared, encouraging team members to join ASMC and recognizing those who obtain their CDFM. They actively participate in ASMC chapters, sponsor and exhibit at the National PDI, and personnel play key roles in ASMC committees.

Chapter News – 2016 Student Scholarship Winners



The Washington Chapter awarded five \$1,000 college scholarships to graduating High School seniors entering a field of study related to financial operations. Winners were selected based on their Scholastic Achievements, Leadership Ability, Extracurricular Activities, and Career Goals. Congratulations to the following 2016 graduates!

- Bregan Hanna - \$1,000.00 - Mountain View High School
- Jacob Inderrieden - \$1,000.00 - Maurice J. McDonough High School
- Randolph Jackson - \$1,000.00 - James Wood High School
- Michael Malherek - \$1,000.00 - Maurice J. McDonough High School
- Collin Ryan - \$1,000.00 - Potomac Falls High School



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Past Community Service Event



ASMC Members Volunteer at DC Central Kitchen



Thank you to the ten ASMC Washington Chapter members that gave back to our community by volunteering at DC Central Kitchen on June 10. DC Central Kitchen is America's leader in reducing hunger with recycled food, training unemployed adults for culinary careers, serving healthy school meals, and rebuilding urban food systems through social enterprise. The volunteers had fun chopping vegetables, preparing lunches, and cleaning the kitchen.



Great Job!
Thanks for giving back to the community!



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ASMC National News



American Society of Military Comptrollers

To promote education, training and professional development in all aspects of military comptrollership.

[Click here to access the National ASMC home page](#)



PDI 2016
PREPARE TO LAUNCH...
CERTIFY YOUR FUTURE

Presentation slides have been posted from PDI 2016 on the PDI website.

[Click here to access them.](#)



Upcoming Training Events

[Module 4 Acquisition Business Management Course](#)

July 13 2016

Rosslyn, VA

[Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Course \(EDFMTC\)](#)

July 18 2016

Arlington, VA NGB (ARNG)

[Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Course \(EDFMTC\)](#)

August 08 2016

Bethesda, MD (Navy)

[Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Course \(EDFMTC\)](#)

August 08 2016

Bethesda, MD (Navy)

[Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Course \(EDFMTC\)](#)

October 17 2016

Fort Belvoir (Army)



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Still room for more golfers!

Save the Date:

ASMC & AGA Annual Golf Tournament

July 27, 2016

Ft. Belvoir Golf Club

We have both the Woodlawn and Gunston Courses

The event begins with a **shotgun start at 0800** and concludes with a catered lunch at the clubhouse.
The format is Captain's Choice (Scramble).

ENTRY FEES: (includes catered lunch, cart, greens fee & prizes)

Individual Golfer Registration:

\$50 for current government/Military Personnel

\$110 for Corporate/Retiree participants.

Foursome Golfer Registration:

ALL Current Government/Military: \$180

ALL Corporate/Retiree: \$400

2016 Tournament Online Registration link:

<https://secure3.rhq.com/ireg/public/index.cgi?evid=R16-07-27-ASMC>

This event is organized by the ASMC Washington Chapter: <http://www.washington-asmc.org>

For event or sponsorship information, please contact:

Rita Finney (rfinney@savantage.net) / 301-938-8198 or

Vonetta Vaughan (vvaughan@savantage.net)

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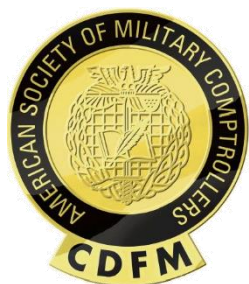


CDFM Corner

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 Newest CDFMs!



Khriss Corpuz

Ash Hanna

Maxine Glenn

Mike Havey

Roger Hoselton

Gregory Duckman

Maureen Kearn

Lori Evans

Jimmy Pendergrass

Clifton-Dayvonne Roy

While most candidates in the CDFM program are civilian or military/reserve members of the Department of Defense, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps or employees of defense contractors or suppliers, the CDFM program is open to all candidates who have a high school diploma (or equivalent) and meet the following work experience qualifications:

Have the required number of years of defense-related financial management experience outlined below:

- **Two (2) years if you hold an Associate's degree or higher;** or
- **Three (3) years if you do not have a degree.**

OR

Do not have defense-related financial management experience, but can meet the following criteria outlined below:

- **Four (4) years of Federal government-related financial management experience;** and
- **An Associate's degree or higher.**

There are three steps involved with earning your CDFM:

1. Enroll in the CDFM Program. Your enrollment is valid for two (2) years, during which time you must take, and successfully pass, the three CDFM module examinations.

2. Submit Your Verification of Financial Management Experience Form. This form, which must be signed by a supervisor who can verify your work experience, must be returned to ASMC after enrolling in the CDFM program. You do not have to submit this form prior to taking a CDFM examination, but it is required prior to the awarding of the CDFM designation.

3. Purchase and Schedule the CDFM Examinations. Be sure to carefully – and completely – read the criteria associated with each testing option for the CDFM examinations. Failure to do so can result in the purchase of the wrong CDFM examination and/or the inability to test at your preferred location



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Air Force Assistant Secretary Ms. Chantele Dow, chantele.m.dow.civ@mail.mil 703-697-0950

Coast Guard Vice President LT Mark Sanchez, CDMF-A mark.m.sanchez@uscg.mil 202-475-5450

Coast Guard Assistant Secretary Ms. Stacy Spadafora, stacy.e.spadafora@uscg.mil 202-372-3610

Corporate/Retiree Vice President Ms. Deb Del Mar, debra.delmar@vanguard-llc.com 703-593-6667

Corporate/Retiree Secretary Ms. Rita Finney, rfinney@savantage.net 301-938-8198



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Committee Chairs

Training and Education

Chair: Terry Placek and Millie Thompson

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Wendy Pouliot	Awards/Essay Chair	wendy.pouliot.civ@mail.mil	703-697-0156
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