



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MILITARY COMPTROLLERS

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



September 2021

Washington Chapter

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President's Message

Rear Admiral Mark J. Fedor, U.S. Coast Guard



Greetings to Members and Supporters of American Society of Military Comptrollers!

I hope this newsletter finds everyone safe and healthy as we head into fall amidst busy and challenging times. I am certainly looking forward to our upcoming golf tournament this month as a means of getting outside to connect with people on a more personal level. I'm far from a great golfer but as Charles Barkley once said, golf is one of the few things in life you don't need to be good at to enjoy! I'm also eagerly anticipating when our ASMC Washington Chapter can recommence in-person events. The COVID-19 delta variant has appropriately made us reassess our short-term plans but I'm still optimistic we can schedule hybrid meetings (in person but with a virtual option) in early 2022. We'll work collaboratively as a Chapter and with the National Headquarters team to identify those future opportunities.

September is always a demanding month for financial managers as we look to close the books on the current fiscal year and lay the groundwork to prepare for the next one. This year, not only are we dealing with the typical end-of-year closeout craziness but it's also the 20th anniversary of 9/11. Most of us have been around long enough to remember exactly where we were when our world changed on 11 September 2001, and how hard we worked afterwards to resource our warfighters and first responders to prevent a recurrence. I'm sure there are ASMC members who either lost loved ones or have close ties to people who experienced that grief so my heart goes out to all of you. While September 11th will be a trying day for many of us, it also renews our commitment of service to our nation, our respective Services, and to each other.

September also brings back some lighter memories. I'm likely dating myself but I fondly recall being a junior officer in the Coast Guard's budget office and watching some of my more "seasoned" civilian colleagues wear brightly colored Happy New Year ties and hats on October 1st. It was an annual tradition marking the transition from one fiscal year to the next while adding a bit of frivolity and camaraderie to otherwise serious workplaces. These days when Continuing Resolutions have become the norm and the actual start of the next fiscal cycle has all the certainty of a roulette wheel, it's hard to celebrate "Happy Fiscal New Year" on a specific day.

Even though the traditional start of the fiscal year ebbs and flows on Capitol Hill, the financial management community still has to diligently ensure appropriated funds are obligated in accordance with Congressional intent or reallocated to meet emergent needs. Our world is complex as evidenced by recent events in Afghanistan, on the southwest border, and through the daily minutiae of unforeseen costs that always present themselves this time of year.

In our personal lives, we're still dealing with a great deal of COVID uncertainty which fuels alternate work schedules, more Zoom calls, and concerns for the wellness of our family, friends, and co-workers. The long-awaited FDA approved vaccine provided another ray of optimism following the emergency authorization. However, we all recognize the need for more people to get "the jab" before we can move forward without masks and alleviate the general concern that seems to grip all of us as we maneuver about our daily schedules.

President's Message Continued Next Page

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Continued

Through it all, our broad team of financial managers across the DOD and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), have continued to excel as we deliver resource and management support to address global needs. Your perseverance and commitment to being good stewards of the taxpayer's dollars provides some semblance of normalcy within these abnormal times. There is something reassuring about a balance sheet and the constraints of a fiscal year (regardless of when it actually starts) that imbues a sense of stability for our organizations. At times, some of our "customers" may not like being told they're on unstable financial ground but at least it makes them aware of their standing at a given point in time.

In the maritime community, we often refer to the "pivot point" as the physical spot where the rest of the ship rotates around. Ships at sea are in continual motion and impacted by a variety of dynamic forces, but the "pivot point" remains a known commodity for maneuvering purposes. No matter what forces are in play, you can bring that ship safely into a harbor if you're aware of it. I see our financial community as the "pivot point" for our respective organizations. Our senior leaders rely upon the accuracy of our financial guidance as they try to manage risk and bring their strategic goals into a safe harbor. Our work is even more important as the ambiguity rises around us. It's easy to get off track if you're not paying attention to the financial beacons that we manage. None of us should lose sight of our value to our respective Services and the essential role we play in mission accomplishment.

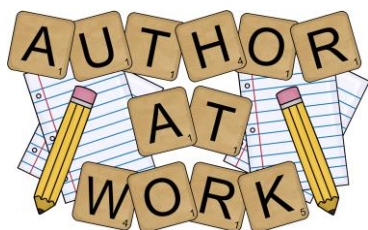
Our ASMC team is part of that success. It helps us attain the skills, address our shortcomings, and build networks to meet the ever-changing demands in the homeland and national security realms. ASMC helps us strengthen our arguments or build consensus to support our senior leadership teams and provide stability when our bureaucratic seas are rough. COVID uncertainty and the sprint towards the end of another fiscal year will undoubtedly challenge all of us but we don't go through these things alone. There are other ASMC professionals who have experienced trying times before or persevered through a similar financial dilemma that your team is facing so there are people to lean on. An email, phone call, or Zoom meeting with a fellow financial manager can do wonders to reinstall stability and to relocate your own "pivot point" so you can weather through adversity.

Through our credentialing programs, professional speakers, and continuous engagement among our early careerists as well as our seasoned veterans, we can keep our eyes on the horizon and sail towards calmer fiscal seas. I'm proud to be part of such a wonderful, innovative, and committed group of professionals because it clearly reflects that we are indeed stronger together. Our ASMC connections make us stronger individually and those connective sinews continue to strengthen with each meeting or engagement.

So best of luck to the entire ASMC team as we close the books on FY21 and open a new chapter with FY22. Whether you wear a uniform or civilian attire, never forget your value and how much you contribute to the team. Thank you for all you do and hold fast when the winds start to howl...we'll sail through this together!

Regards,

Mark



If you would like to write an article for the ASMC Washington Chapter newsletter, please contact your Service representative or the newsletter editor.



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Upcoming Events

Date / Time	Upcoming Events / Sponsor / Speaker / CPEs	Location
15 Sept 21/0800-1400	Chapter Golf Tournament	Ft Belvoir Golf Course
21 Sept 21/0730-0830	Early Careerist Virtual Coffee Chat with Mark Sanchez, LCDR, USCG	Virtual/Zoom; email Cody Ferguson to sign up
21 Oct 21/1200-1300	Chapter Luncheon Meeting / Navy / Mr. Paul Landauer / 1 CPE	Virtual - Register here
18 Nov 21/1200-1300	Chapter Luncheon Meeting / TBA / 1 CPE	Virtual - Register here
18 Nov 21	ASMC Washington Chapter Mini-Course: Internal Control—Meeting Federal Requirements for Accountability	Virtual – Register here
9 Dec 21	ASMC Washington Chapter Holiday Social	Army-Navy Country Club, Arlington

Featured Article



Tis the Training and Education Season

Dr. Jennifer Miller, CDFM-A, CGFM, DFMC3 Financial Manager Reserve Health Readiness Program, Defense Health Agency Combat Support

It is that (training) time again! Teleworking is over or optional for many employees, students got the virtual swing of things or headed back to some frequency of in-person class, and this fall school is largely back in session. That said, is it time for employee training? I've seen and listened to a bubbling of blogs, articles, podcasts and more about employee training for the forthcoming months and years. So much so that I dug into the Government Employment Training Act (GETA) for a refresher. I'll try a what, who, and how approach in the following since when is somewhat addressed, though we know learning is a lifelong continuous process.

The GETA is codified in Title 5 of the United States Code, chapter 41. Therein federal government agencies have flexibility and an existing management tool to do training in the interest of increasing efficiency and effectiveness in the government. Generally speaking, the responsibility of human resources development like education and training exists with the head of each agency. That individual or team at the head of each agency bears responsibility for ensuring organization training needs are identified and programs exist to meet the needs. The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) website adds to the description of GETA by noting GETA became Public Law 85-507 in 1958 and there is not currently a specific 'GETA fund' meaning organizations are to use their own appropriated funding for training programs.

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Featured Articles

Continued

Having shared the when, what, and who. Let's move to how.

Agencies have a tall and tethered-with-tangents table full order of ways to conduct training. It can be full-time or part-time. On-duty or off-duty. Mornings, afternoons, and nights are fair opportunities to entertain too. The GETA defines training as follows: the process of providing for and making available to an employee, and placing or enrolling the employee in, a planned, prepared, and coordinated program, course, curriculum, subject, system, or routine of instruction or education, in scientific, professional, technical, mechanical, trade, clerical, fiscal, administrative, or other fields which will improve individual and organizational performance and assist in achieving the agency's mission and performance goals. Although a tedious definition leading me to favor the OPM's simplified version on their webpage, it seems to cover all of the bases.

Given the COVID-19 experience, the federal government collectively also stretched to explore the virtual offerings like live and recorded webinars, podcasts, videos, and other synchronous and asynchronous offerings to bridge the training gaps. To elaborate more on the idea of who, the actual providers of training may vary greatly too as it isn't limited to: the responsible agency mentioned above, additional government (federal, state, or local) organizations, schools, industry and manufacturers, professional associations, individual people or groups, and those involved with growth work assignments (job details, rotations, mentoring, on-the-job-training, internships), and more. Our Washington Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers provides a hefty sum of education and training opportunities embracing normal and abnormal times like monthly luncheons (in person turned virtual with potential for hybrid offerings soon), mini courses through vendors including Management Concepts, Regional Professional Development Institutes (next one is March 2022), and recently we began Early Careerist breakfast sessions.

In closing, this quick refresher on the GETA and thoughts of complying with it both while in a more generous teleworking time and new normal definitely has me thinking: Yes, it is the season for training and education season – year-round really! Of course, that could just be the education advocate (aka nerd) in me. Regardless, I hope you picked up at least one thing you were aware of before reading this article. Back to the books!

Dr. Jennifer Miller is a Financial Manager for the Defense Health Agency; she previously supported the National Guard Bureau Headquarters' Joint Staff, and the Air Force and Army at locations along the East Coast. She is a Certified Government Financial Manager, and a Certified Defense Financial Manager with acquisition specialty and a member of the American Society of Military Comptroller's Washington Chapter.

Opinions, conclusions, and recommendations expressed or implied within are solely those of the author. They do not necessarily represent the views of the Department of Defense or any other U.S. government agency.



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August Meeting Recap



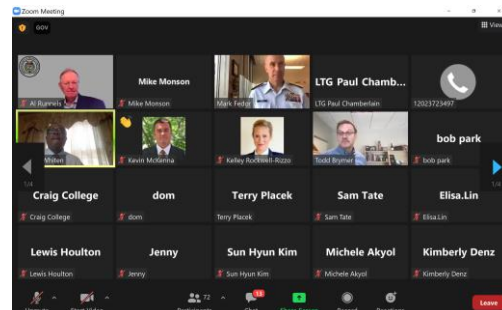
Speaker: *Lieutenant General Paul A. Chamberlain*

Deputy Assistant Secretary
of the Army, Army Budget

Time: 1200-1300

Date: 19 August 2021

Location: Virtual via Zoom



Key Takeaways:

- LTG Chamberlain made his return to the ASMC luncheon after 4 years. He opened up speaking about the heartache of the upcoming September 11th anniversary as well as the current events going on in Afghanistan.
- He spoke about his most memorable comptroller positions and shared some personal anecdotes from his career.
- He then spoke about some observations he has in today's world that he finds important for the comptroller community.
- How do we strengthen our proponent office; as well as the importance of it. "We need to making sure we remain relevant for the rest of the Army."
- LTG Chamberlain then moved on to discuss Modernization. "We have great efforts going on to maintain our 31+4. What do comptrollers need to do to keep modernizing? GFEBS is getting old...what can we do to make sure or logistics stay relevant?"
- He then spoke about 4 core competencies for modernization, one of them being data analytics "There is data and power there but we have only scratched the surface through the care program."
- LTG Chamberlain also spoke to Fiscal Stewardship. "It is not up to just 1 person (civilians, comptrollers, military personnel) it is a responsibility for everyone and needs to be made a priority. Focus on easy things (as leaders) we can do to make this a cultural norm."
- In conclusion, LTG Chamberlain then opened the floor for questions. He spoke to a range of topics.
- RDML Fedor then thanked LTG Chamberlain for his words.
- Mr. Wayne Whiten asked about cloud migration. "As we move into the cloud are there any concerns or good news stories?"
- RDML Fedor: "We are realizing we cannot move everything at once. We have to move one system at a time. There is no switch we can flip.
- RDML Mark Fedor and Al Runnels spoke about how they wanted the ASMC Washington chapter to focus on data analytics as well as AI.
- Lewis Motion discussed signing up for the mini course on internal controls and contributing articles for the newsletter.
- The meeting adjourned after approximately 1 hour.



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October Meeting



Speaker: *Mr. Paul S. Landauer*

Associate DASN, Data & Digital Transformation, Financial Management Systems, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management and Comptroller)

Time: *1200-1300*

Date: *Thursday, 21 October 2021*

Location: *Virtual via Zoom; [click here to register](#)*

Free

Topic: Data as a Strategic Enabler



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ASMC & AGA Annual Golf Tournament 15 September 2021



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

2021 Tournament Online Registration link:

<https://secure3.rhq.com/ireg/public/index.cgi?evid=R21-09-15-ASMC>

This event is organized by the ASMC/AGA Washington Chapters:

<http://www.washington-asmc.org>

For event or sponsorship information, please contact:

Conrad Symber (conrad.symber@sehlkeconsulting.com) / 732 397 8925 or
Matthew Hunt (matthew.hunt@sehlkeconsulting.com) / 434 774 7930



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Early Careerist News

Calling All ASMC Early Careerists

ELIGIBILITY:

Anyone with less than ten years of experience in their current profession may join.

Why You Should Join:

As a future government or industry leader in Defense or US Coast Guard FM, ensure your training needs are met with:

- ❖ Social and Networking Events with other Early Careerists, as well as Senior Leaders
- ❖ The opportunity to correspond and collaborate with a Senior Mentor/Coach
- ❖ Cost-effective training and education to obtain CPEs and highly valued Certified Defense Financial Manager test-based credential
- ❖ In-person ASMC Monthly Luncheons at a discounted rate (when they resume)
- ❖ An active community of cohorts within the ASMC National Engage Platform - Early Careerist Forum (details to follow)

Bios/Contact Information:

Cody Ferguson, Chairman of Early Careerists
cody.a.ferguson9.civ@mail.mil

Cody Ferguson is a Staff Accountant and Executive Analytics Portfolio lead on the Advana program with 6 years of experience working in DoD. He started his career in DoD as a Trainee in the DON's FM Career Program before moving to the DON Budget Office and ultimately OUSD(C) after completing his Master's Degree in Forensic Accounting.

Matt Ledder, Vice Chairman of Early Careerists
mledder@definitivelogic.com

Matt Ledder is a Financial Consultant/System Engineer with two years of experience at Definitive Logic. He has a strong academic background, including a Bachelor's Degree in Finance and a Master's Degree in Information Technology Management. He has worked on agile financial reporting and management solution implementations for both federal and commercial organizations, including DHS, ARC, HUD, DAI, and ICF.



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Academic Year 2021 - 2022



CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE



Sponsored by the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Council, the CFO Academy was created in 2008 and operates within National Defense University – College of Information and Cyberspace.

As described in DoDI No. 1025.10, *Chief Financial Officer Academy*, dated June 22, 2018, the CFO Academy provides graduate level education in the leadership of resource management that enables DOD's efficient and effective use of financial and other resources that supports the DOD mission. CFO Academy courses are accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and align with the financial management competencies specified in the DoD Financial Management Certification Program, which is managed by the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer.

Successful CFO graduates will be able to:

- Lead within and across organizational boundaries by leveraging knowledge of federal budgeting, financial accounting and reporting, data management and analytics, risk, internal controls, and audit for strategic advantage;
- Synthesize ethics, theory, practices, and technologies to promote effective decision-making and accountability across the enterprise, improve operations, and support financial management excellence;
- Communicate at the strategic level demonstrating command of the topic, logical organization, compelling argument, and excellence in English grammar and syntax.

CFO Leadership Graduate Certificate

Students earn this certificate by successfully completing the following five courses:

- White House, Congress, and the Budget
- Data Management Strategies and Technologies
- The Future of Federal Financial Information Sharing
- Risk Management, Internal Controls and Auditing for Leaders
- Strategic Performance and Budget Management

Admission Information:

- Admission requires a bachelor's degree with a minimum 3.0 GPA and a minimum officer rank of O-4 or civil service pay grade of GS-13
- Additional information may be found at <http://cic.ndu.edu>
- The Office of Student Services can be reached at 202-685-6300 or CICOSS@ndu.edu

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Training & Education

The ASMC Washington Chapter is sponsoring the following mini-course at no cost to our members.

MINI-COURSE (F3589)

Internal Control: Meeting Federal Requirements for Accountability

This mini-course will help participants in reducing the risk of waste, fraud, and mismanagement within their agency, and supporting accountability efforts. Participants will learn what controls are and why they are important; the requirements, standards, and guidance available for internal controls; the importance of risk management; and the eight steps in an internal control process. In addition, the course will cover the relatively new requirement for Enterprise Risk Management (ERM), addressing risks to an agency's strategic objectives.

DoD Certification Level 2

COMPETENCY: Audit Concepts, Policies and Principles – 2.5 hrs (PL3)

November 18, 2021

Two Virtual Sessions Available

- AM SESSION 8:30-11:30 AM
- PM SESSION 12:30-3:30 PM

Register by November 5, 2021

FREE for ASMC Members!

[Register now!](#)

For upcoming training opportunities!

Keep checking the Chapter website [here](#).

Check for Updates at WWW.WASHINGTON-ASMC.ORG or contact your Service Secretary



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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.

ASMC Value Proposition

ASMC supports	A global community of defense financial managers, military comptrollers, and corporate members
Who need	Convenient, affordable, and collaborative opportunities for leadership and education that further enable the support of warfighters, the National Military Strategy, and the overall federal financial management (FM) profession, while enhancing their career development
By providing	Educational materials, training courses, the Certified Defense Financial Manager (CDFM) certification; leadership opportunities at National and Chapter levels, opportunities to enhance communication skills and contribute to the federal FM body of knowledge; and in-person and virtual access to a global network of peers, and a knowledgeable and customer service-oriented staff
As a result	Financial managers who are members or certificants of ASMC are equipped with the latest innovations, industry knowledge, and best practices; possess a broader understanding of defense FM policies and operations; and differentiate themselves as highly qualified candidates for positions within the DoD, the United States Coast Guard, other federal agencies, and the private sector
Because of	ASMC's status as a premier defense financial management education provider, it is recognized as a prestigious organization for leaders and other individuals serving in or supporting the defense FM community
Unlike	Competitive membership organizations or educational programs that provide products and services to the financial management profession but do not offer ASMC's unique specialization in military comptrollership



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ASMC National News



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Latest Discussions



Tips and Tricks - Free Power Query & Power Pivot T ...

By: [Bob Jackson](#) , 15 hours ago

Posted in: [All Member Community](#)

Registration for the July virtual sessions of Tips and Tricks is now open! Ed Fritts will be presenting on a number of highly-requested Business Intelligence tools and how they can be leveraged ...



RE: Job Opportunity Announcement - Financial Management ...

By: [Heather Fair, CDFM-A](#) , 7 days ago

Posted in: [All Member Community](#)

Sorry everyone, first time posting with a URL and forgot the www. part. Updated URL: Link to Air Force Test Center (AFTC) announcement for this specific job: <https://www.afmc.af.mil/About-Us/Jobs/Article/2689409/financial-analyst/> ...



Job Opportunity Announcement - Financial Management ...

By: [Heather Fair, CDFM-A](#) , 8 days ago

Posted in: [All Member Community](#)

The Air Force Test Center (AFTC) is looking for their next Financial Analyst (NH-0501-03), Non-Supervisory. Go to this link to apply: <https://www.afmc.af.mil/About-Us/Jobs/Article/2689409/financial-analyst/> ...

More

Announcements

PDI 2021 Agenda Is Live!

By: [Josephine Gilmore](#) , 2 months ago

The PDI 2021 Agenda is live! Check out all of the workshops, mini-courses, sessions, and plenaries on the PDI website: <https://www.pdi2021.org/Agenda>. Love what you see on the agenda? Good news! Early Bird Registration has been extended to May 15, so register today to lock ... [More](#)

<https://www.pdi2021.org/Agenda>

Mark Your Calendar! The Next ASMC Webinar Is on May 13

By: [Josephine Gilmore](#) , 2 months ago

Ever needing to give your boss the best update, ever? Join us for our next webinar on May 13 to meet EFAR (Enemy, Friendly, Administrative needs, and Request), the time-tested-and-true recipe for composing status reports. Mark your calendars and reserve ... [More](#)

OUS(D) Waiver for PDI 2021

By: [Josephine Gilmore](#) , 3 months ago

The latest memorandum from the OUSD is big news for members of DoD's Financial Management Corps looking to attend ASMC's PDI 2021! <https://www.pdi2021.org/About-PDI> [More](#)

View Archive

Recent Shared Files



ASMC Southern Maryland Chapter Virtual Flag Day 5K

By: [Noelle Swann](#) one month ago

Posted in: [All Member Community](#)



ASMC Chapter Membership Webinar

By: [Melissa Blacketer](#) one month ago

Posted in: [ASMC Chapter Membership Chairs](#)



Member Referral Program

By: [Melissa Blacketer](#) one month ago

Posted in: [ASMC Chapter Membership Chairs](#)

More

ASMC Training Course
FISCAL LAW
30 August - 1 September | 0800 - 1600 EDT

BUILD YOUR CDFM TESTING CONFIDENCE
with newly available online practice tests!
30 DAYS UNLIMITED ACCESS
\$59 USD

EDFMTC
Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Course

Take your exam from home
Simply register and select the option to take your exam from "home or work". It's that simple!
[GET STARTED!](#)



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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 our newest CDFMs!

Curt Bartlett
Philip Brown
Hwang Choi
Ian Culver
Sharisse Hunt

Brendan McGarry
Nathanael Rhodes
Kurt Walker
Jeffrey Waugh

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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AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MILITARY COMPTROLLERS

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

September 2021

Washington Chapter



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Washington Chapter



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