



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MILITARY COMPTROLLERS

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

March 2020

Washington Chapter



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President's Message

Ms. Leslie Ferguson



Greetings ASMC Washington Chapter. It was an extremely difficult decision to postpone the NCR PDI scheduled for 12 March. It was necessary, due to the deep concern, consideration for CDC guidance, as well as an abundance of caution for our DoD FM community and the broader public relative to the COVID 19 virus. We are targeting to reschedule for late summer at the same venue, since we were able to reschedule in the 2020 calendar year without any penalties – we will keep posted!

Our NCR PDI theme this year is: "Create Success – Its' Contagious!" We certainly could not have predicted the extent of the term "contagious". The good news is that the majority of our program content and arrangements - speakers, sponsors, exhibitors, tech talks, and materials - as well as detailed arrangements - can be applied to a future date to minimize rework. On behalf of the NCR PDI 2020 Committee, and myself - heartfelt thanks for your understanding and support to preserve and reschedule our plans on top of your great commitments thus far. We are truly grateful for your cooperation.

Your ASMC remains focused on value-added support of the defense financial management community. A successful career in financial management is founded on our ability to add value in every step of our professional journey. I recognize that in the midst of our daily responsibilities, competing priorities, and pending suspenses, dedicating time to continual learning is a challenge. We have been charged with extensive reform initiatives that are necessary to enable the transformation of our warfighting capabilities. The financial mission falls on us, the DoD FM Community. It's our job to manage the nation's defense spending in an effective and efficient manner. We must be willing to embrace change and investigate new ways of doing financial management; learning new skills, leveraging technology, optimizing our processes, partnering with each other to identify best practices.

Our outstanding ASMC Annual Chapter Award recipients have certainly taken this to heart! Congratulations to our 2019 ASMC Washington Chapter Individual and Team Achievement Award Winners: Individual Award – Accounting- Ms. Jamie Fecher, Air Force; Individual Award – Acquisition/Cost Analysis - Ms. Kristin M. Clark, Coast Guard; Individual Award – Auditing - Ms. Dara Rosenfeld, Army; Individual Award – Budgeting - Major Allen Dismuke, Air Force; Individual Award – Resource Management - Dr. Ann Tipton; Team Award – Small Team - Headquarters Marine Corps, Programs and Resources; Team Award – Large Team - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Thanks to all that nominated a very impressive pool of candidates.

Continued next page



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Upcoming Events

Date / Time	Upcoming Events / Sponsor / Speaker / CPEs	Location
20 Aug 20	NCR PDI 2020 (Rescheduled from 12 Mar to 20 Aug)	Reagan Building, Washington DC
Postponed	April 2020 ASMC Chapter Luncheon Meeting / Mr. Steve Herrera, US Air Force / 1 CPE	The Westin, Crystal City
Postponed	16 April Mini-Course (F3589): Internal Controls	Washington DC
21 May 20/1130-1300	ASMC Chapter Luncheon Meeting / DoD / Mr. Thomas Constable / 1 CPE	The Westin, Crystal City
27-29 May 20	ASMC National PDI	Nashville, TN
18 Jun 20/1130-1300	ASMC Chapter Luncheon Meeting / Awards / Ms. Leslie Ferguson / 1 CPE	The Westin, Crystal City
July (TBD)	ASMC/AGA Annual Golf Classic	Ft. Belvoir Golf Course

President's Message

President's Message Continued

Unfortunately, due to the COVID 19 virus, we also had to postpone our April 16th monthly luncheon as well as our free mini course in April. As of this writing, registration is still open for the National PDI taking place May 27-May 29 in Nashville, TN (with Pre-PDI May 25-26) and it has not been cancelled or postponed yet. Please continue to check the National PDI [website](#) for updates. We will of course continue to monitor any continued guidance on the COVID 19 virus and keep you notified of any schedule changes.

Please continue to take your individual precautions during this difficult time for your own safety and for the safety of others. Check our [Chapter website](#) for continuous updates.

Best wishes,
Leslie



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Featured Article

Title: A Beginner's Guide to the Fund Balance with Treasury (FBWT) Problem

By Tony Pappas, Project Manager, Thompson Gray, Inc.

The Department of Defense's (DoD's) struggle with auditability is well documented. Among the many problems, one material weakness continues to stand out: DoD's Fund Balance with Treasury (FBWT) issues. The obvious question being, if the U.S. Treasury is providing an agency an exact and finite amount of money to spend, then how could the agency not know how or where it expended its funds? If a department is given \$500 (or \$500 billion; the only difference is a few extra zeros), at the end of the year it should have spent... \$500. So how do these FBWT differences keep occurring year after year? That is the rhetorical question we will briefly explore.

As financial managers in DoD, we field these questions a lot. We have had to explain the problem to multiple new administration officials and new hires over the years. I'd like to share the anecdote we use to explain it for any of the new ASMC members we have coming into the fold.

Picture yourself throwing a birthday party for 10 six-year olds at a massive arcade. There's pinball, skeeball, and hotshot basketball. A huge cafeteria with pizza and burgers and french fries and chicken tenders and all the most unhealthy food children love. There's video games with joysticks, games with steering wheels, games with hammers... and of course a massive ticket redemption area with every type of prize and candy imaginable, where the partygoers can redeem any tickets won. You give each six-year old \$10 and tell them they have an hour to eat anything they want, play anything they want and redeem any tickets they win for any prize. The only requirement, you tell the children, is they have to tell you exactly what they spent the \$10 on and what they got in return.

At the end of the hour, all the children line up to see you. Partygoers #1 and #2 tell you they spent all \$10 on a quarter-pusher machine, which does not give tickets. Child #2 and #3 tell you they spent \$4 on pizza and \$4 on a milkshake. Parties #4 and #5 say they spent \$2 on pretzels, \$8 on pinball, won 20 tickets, and redeemed the tickets for two secret decoder rings. Child #6 and #7 spent all \$10 on a two-player game winning 40 tickets, but wanted to save the tickets for next time they visit the arcade to get a better prize. Partygoer #8 spent \$4 on pizza, \$2 on a quarter pusher with no tickets, and \$3 on pinball to get 10 tickets, then gave their last dollar to #9 who needed an extra dollar for one more "Continue" while playing Dance Dance Revolution. Then #9 shows up lugging a massive remote-controlled airplane worth 75,000 tickets that you know they couldn't possibly have earned in an hour.

The anecdote of the kids-in-an-arcade tale is simply that in today's world, you are the U.S. Treasury and the children are the DoD and its Military Departments and Defense Agencies. There are so many mitigating factors including the different types of purchases, the sharing and exchanging of dollars, the second and third order effects of dollars-to-tickets-to-decoder rings, etc. that it makes it nearly impossible to reconcile your \$100. Without a centralized source of control requiring the purchase details and purchaser identity, the difference between what you handed out and what came back will always be irreconcilable.

It's for this reason that the agencies using Treasury-Direct Disbursing (TDD), or report daily to Treasury (vice monthly), have almost no FBWT differences. With the TDD model applied to the arcade anecdote, you are still the U.S. Treasury, but now the partygoers have Rewards Cards that link directly to your account. In near real-time you can see how much is being spent at what games and which individual Rewards Card is doing the spending. How the Treasury disbursing model works and how it differs from the DoD disbursing model is fodder for another anecdote and article. However, the key takeaway remains: DoD is less than 10% TDD and its FBWT audit issues will continue to be a problem for the foreseeable future.

In summary, disbursing auditability and financial reporting in the DoD, as in life, gets more and more difficult the farther it gets away from the source. It's much easier to get back the \$50 you loaned your neighbor than it is to find and recoup it from your neighbor's daughter's niece's babysitter's second cousin. And if you made it this far and are still wondering what happened to partygoer #10... here he comes! Six months after the party he shows up saying he can't really remember what he spent it on, but he thinks it was probably on broccoli and brussel sprouts and a book on mindfulness. Sounds completely reasonable for a six-year old. Good luck with that reconciliation!



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February 2020 Meeting Recap



Speaker: *Rear Admiral Thomas G. Allan, Jr., USCG*

Assistant Commandant for Resources & Chief Financial Officer

Time: *Social 11:30am, Lunch 11:45am*

Date: *Thursday, 20 February 2020*

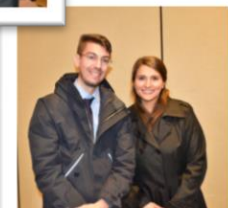
Location: *Westin
1800 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, VA 22202*



TOPIC: System Modernization - An Organizational Change Revolution

Admiral Allan delivered an insightful discussion surrounding the challenges with data driven change management. Using the Coast Guard's current Business Process Re-Engineering initiative as an example, Admiral Allan shared how the organization is leveraging metrics for actual performance to make decisions and address anecdotes which may not be accurate. This includes reduced processing times, hours saved, dollars saved, and survey results. A multi-year initiative, the Coast Guard continues to refine and enhance its financial business processes to meet operational demands.

RDML Allan provided an engaging overview of Financial Management operations and initiatives at the US Coast Guard. He highlighted their system modernization challenges, audit status and budget/fiscal outlook.



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April 2020 Meeting



Speaker: *Mr. Stephen R. Herrera*

Deputy for Budget, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management and Comptroller

Time: *Social 11:30am, Lunch 11:45am*

Date: *Thursday, 16 April 2020*

Location: *Westin*

1800 Jefferson

Arlington

Postponed

Mr. Steve Herrera is responsible for the Air Force budget formulation and execution of appropriations totaling more than \$100 billion annually. Mr. Herrera leads a staff of civilian and military financial managers who execute funding that supports military operations and Air Force priorities at the direction of the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Air Force. Mr. Herrera has also served as the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force Assistant Secretary for Financial Management and Comptroller.

Prior to his current position, Mr. Herrera was the Deputy Director of Staff, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, the Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia, where he assisted the Director of Staff in providing advice and assistance to the Secretary, Chief of Staff, Under Secretary and Vice Chief of Staff on numerous aspects of Air Force policies, plans and programs.

Mr. Herrera began his career with the Air Force as a Palace Acquire intern upon graduation from the University of Texas in San Antonio. He has held positions within the Air Force in the areas of budget formulation, program integration and resource management. His experience spans several appropriations and functional areas, including budget and acquisition.

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May 2020 Meeting



Speaker: *Mr. Thomas A. Constable*

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness

Time: *Social 11:30am, Lunch 11:45am*

Date: *Thursday, 21 May 2020*

Location: *Westin*

*1800 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, VA 22202*

Mr. Constable is the principal advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness on the readiness of U.S. Armed Forces. He manages the policies and programs designed to assure the preparedness of the United States Military, to engage the missions assigned by the President and the Secretary of Defense. He oversees the Defense Readiness Reporting System and the Readiness Recovery Framework, used to enable the Military Services' readiness recovery planning and inform future readiness requirements. Mr. Constable also shares responsibility for the policy and oversight of force training and education, Defense language programs, operational safety, and the Occupational Health of over 2.7 million Department of Defense Military and civilian employees.

Mr. Constable entered the Senior Executive Service in 2015 as the Associate Director for Military Operations in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), where he served as a senior representative and principle advisor for the Services' operation and Maintenance activities to include military readiness, Combatant Commands, Working Capital Fund operations, and all DoD civilian pay. In 2018, he returned to his Army roots as the Senior Advisor for Army Intelligence Resources, including the Military and National Intelligence Programs (MIP and NIP). Previously, Mr. Constable served as the Assistant Chief of Staff (G8) for the United States Army, Africa, in Vicenza, Italy, where he was the senior financial manager and primary resource integrator for Army military and theater security cooperation objectives in Africa.

Mr. Constable is a retired Soldier, having enlisted in the Army in 1987 and later commissioned as an officer in the Field Artillery; he retired from active duty in 2008. He received Master's Degrees in Business Administration and Public Administration from Syracuse University, and a Graduate Certificate in Conflict Resolution from The Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. His awards include the Legion of Merit and the Superior Civilian Service Award, and he is a proud recipient of the Leonard F. Keenan Award for Distinguished Service.

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2020 ASMC National Capital Region PDI
Create Success – It's Contagious



Our 2020 ASMC National Capital Region PDI is a partnership across key ASMC Washington metropolitan area chapters – to optimize our DoD enterprise education and learning, dialogue, networking, and certification, and enhance our fund-raising for charities and scholarships.

Last year our event sold out, with over 1,500 government and industry professionals attending this worthwhile conference to interact, share insights, and help advance critical business and operational challenges for our warfighters.

The DoD Financial Management triumvirate – military, civilian, and contractor professionals – has been challenged by DoD leadership to cut spending, smartly modernize operations, and enhance professional advancement. We must embrace the real change -- essential to achieve operating efficiency, and reprogram critical funds for national security.

The theme for the 2020 ASMC National Capital Region PDI is: **"Create Success – It's Contagious"**

PLEASE join us on **Monday, March 20, 2020** at the Ronald Reagan Center in Washington D.C. for a terrific day of learning, dialogue, networking, and certification [7 CPEs]. There is **no cost** for our government ASMC members to attend. Corporate/Retired members: \$229; non-members: \$279

2020 NCR PDI [Registration](#) opened 1 Dec 19 and filled up fast.

The DoD Financial Management triumvirate – military, civilian, and contractor professionals – has been challenged and funded by DoD Leaders since 2001 to effectively transform legacy operations, achieve audit, and enhance professional advancement. We have prepared long and hard. 2020 is our time to dare - cast aside conservatism, apprehension, and the status quo for real change - to achieve transformational outcomes and repurpose scarce funds to the fight.



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Community Service Event



To celebrate the New Year, we volunteered to support the DC Central Kitchen again! Thank you for lending your time and generosity and help us fight hunger in DC!

28 January 2020, 9am – 12pm
425 2nd St NW, Washington, DC 20001



On January 28, 2020, several ASMC Washington Chapter members and volunteers gathered at DC Central Kitchen to donate their time and gratitude to the kitchen staff with various tasks for the morning meal preparation. DC Central Kitchen prepares and delivers more than 5,000 meals to partner homeless shelters, rehabilitation clinics, halfway houses, and afterschool programs each day.

Wearing their hair and beard nets and aprons, the volunteers were divided into small groups to help the DC Central Kitchen staff in different parts of the kitchen. From slicing chicken, chopping vegetables such as broccoli and potatoes, to preparing meals for community centers, the volunteers helped the staff with many of DC Central Kitchen's social projects. At the end of the morning, the team had time to reflect on the impact the organization makes in our community. Thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers! Please look for an upcoming summer opportunity to volunteer with us again at DC Central Kitchen!



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Training & Education

The ASMC Washington Chapter is sponsoring the following mini-courses 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)

April 16, 2020

AM SESSION 8:30-11:30 AM

PM SESSION 12:30-3:30 PM

Register by April 3, 2020

LOCATION

Management Concepts Washington DC Training Center
919 18th Street NW, Suite 800 Washington, DC 20006

Across the street from the Farragut West Metro Station

To register, visit Learn.ManagementConcepts.com/ASMC

Due to high demand, space is limited and you are not able to attend after registering.

FREE for ASMC Members!

Postponed

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[Click here to register: Learn.ManagementConcepts.com/ASMC](http://Learn.ManagementConcepts.com/ASMC)



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ASMC National News



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

Click Here for 2020 National PDI COVID-19 Update



PDI is the premier training event for resource/financial managers in the Department of Defense, US Coast Guard, and public and private sectors. This three-day training event features a full day of Service and Defense Agencies workshops; general sessions with keynote speakers; mini-courses aligned to the DoD Financial Management Certification Program competencies and associated proficiency levels; financial management, audit, acquisition, and workforce management workshops; and other special activities. Join us May 27-29, 2020 in Nashville, TN for this year's PDI. Registration opened February 28, 2020. Please visit www.pdi2020.org for more details.

ASMC Online Learning Center

Members earn continuing professional education credits by viewing and testing recorded educational sessions and the Armed Forces Comptroller.



Upcoming Training Events



EDFMT – DW/DIA – JBAB, Washington DC – 20-24 April 2020

The Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Course (EDFMT) is a 5-day, 40-hour, intensive financial management review course delivered in a classroom setting. The material covered is presented in 3 sections that correspond to the CDFM exam modules and knowledge areas:

Resource Management Environment
Budget and Cost Analysis
Accounting and Finance

Students receive a copy of the course textbook on the first day of class and receive 40 CPE/CET for full participation. Register at least three weeks before the first day of the class. EDFMT Course questions should be directed to Amanda Alter at (202) 314-3346 or amanda.alter@graduateschool.edu

Course cost does not include CDFM Program enrollment or any CDFM exams.

Contact ASMC with questions at CDFMtraining@asmconline.org



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ASMC National News



American Society of Military Comptrollers

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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 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!

John Baker
Edward Coney
Ivan Harris
Tiffini Janowich
Tanya Kelly
Linda Magee
Jorge Meza
Ruben Mojica

Marquis Nunely
Robert Patrick
Matt Simmons
Alanna Sparrow
Jacqueline Thomas
Whitney Vergara
Jae Yoon Yoo

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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703-695-8094

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703-697-1974

Secretary Ms. Shari Ritter
703-614-0710

Treasurer COL Todd Handy, 703-614-1550

DoD Vice President Mr. Charles Morse
DoD Assistant Secretary Vacant

Army Vice President COL Clay Pettit, 571-256-0604
Army Assistant Secretary Ms. Myrna Medina, 571-256-6456

Navy Vice President Ms. Jane Roberts, 703-571-1902
Navy Assistant Secretary Ms. Veronica Trent-Walton 703-697-4889

Marine Corps Vice President Ms. Janice Hill
Marine Corps Assistant Secretary Ms. Sylvia Chapman, 703-695-4747

Air Force Vice President Mr. Benjamin J Yarish, 703-695-4442
Air Force Assistant Secretary Ms. Angela Flowers, 703-695-5220

Coast Guard Vice President LCDR Mark Sanchez, 202-475-5459
Coast Guard Assistant Secretary Vacant

Corporate/Retiree Vice President Ms. Deb Del Mar, 703-593-6667
Corporate/Retiree Secretary Mr. Tim Kohlrus, 703-509-9031

Chapter Leadership Email: postmaster@Washington-asmc.org



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Committee Chairs

Training and Education

Chair: Terry Placek and Millie Thompson

Dick Reed	CDFM	703-971-4063
John Writer	Awards/Essay Chair	703-931-5600
Mario Beckles	Scholarship	703-806-7725
Milford E. Thompson	Luncheon	202-685-1524
Terry Placek	Training & Education	703-671-7550
Jennifer Miller	Luncheon Liaison & Host	703-607-1268

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