

May 2015



American Society of Military Comptrollers

Washington Chapter

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

President's Message

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	1
Luncheon Recaps	2
UPCOMING EVENTS	3
RECONIGNIONS	4
SERVICE Article (OSD)	5-6
NATIONAL NEWS	7
TRAINING & EDUCATION	8
CDFM CORNER	9
MONTHLY CORPORATE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT	10-11
CORPORATE SPONSORS	12
2014-2015 WASHINGTON CHAPTER EXEC BOARD	13-14

They say time flies when you're having fun! With how quickly my tenure as ASMC Washington Chapter President has flown by --- I have had "LOADS" of fun! I want to personally thank the Washington Chapter Executive Board, Committee Members and Volunteers for your initiative and the exceptional support all provided over the last year. The Chapter has thrived thanks to your efforts! I am thrilled that Gretchen Anderson, who will become Washington Chapter President in June, already has plans for even a better year in 2015-2016. However, we still have some exciting activities and opportunities planned for this year! Balloting is underway for 2015-2017 Washington

Chapter Officers. You can vote at the 21 May luncheon or on our website (http://www.washington-asmc.org/upcoming-special-activities_1.html) and I encourage all to vote! We have a robust group of volunteers, led by Jeff Norris, participating in our 21 May Community Service Event at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in support of America's injured service members. Thank you, Jeff for organizing another great Community Service Event! At our Washington Chapter luncheon on 18 June, I look forward to recognizing the scholastic acumen of 21 exceptional high school students. I hope you will join me in presenting our FY15 ASMC Scholarships

to these impressive young men and women! Also at the June luncheon we will inaugurate the new Washington Chapter Officers! Our first two mini-courses (Cost benefit Analysis and Internal Controls) offered by Management Concepts in April were a great success. We're incorporating Lessons Learned from these first two courses into offerings later this year. Stay tuned to the Washington Chapter website for upcoming courses planned for August and November. It is now time for me to bid you FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS as I turnover the Washington Chapter to the able and



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

talented Gretchen. It has been my honor to serve you, because you serve our Great Nation! God Bless you, your Families and may God Bless America!



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

Luncheon Recaps

January 2014

(Sponsored by Washington Chapter DoD Members)

**Speaker: Vice Admiral Frank Pandolfe
Director for Strategic Plans and Policy
Joint Staff, J-5**



February 2015

(Sponsored by Washington Chapter Air Force Members)

**Speaker: Honorable Jamie M. Morin, Director of Cost
Assessment and Program Evaluation Department of Defense**

**Topic: How do we strengthen our national defense in this
time of fiscal uncertainty?**

March 2015

Washington-ASMC Held the National Capital Region
PDI 2015 Program

Topic: Real Change Will Transform DOD FM

This year's program boasted speakers from across the DoD providing an opportunity to hear leadership's perspective on our Nation's most pressing fiscal challenges. In addition to the great turnout, thanks to the generosity of the PDI attendees, we collected 222 pounds of food and \$120 of cash that we donated to the Capital Area Food Bank. Thank you to all that donated!!!!

For Presentation Materials:

<http://washington-asmcnationalcapitalregionpdi.org/recorded-2015-pdi-presentations/>

Upcoming Events

Date	Event Description
May 21, 2015	ASMC Washington Chapter Monthly Luncheon Meeting - Early Start Time (11:00)
May 21, 2015	ASMC Volunteer Event - Yellow Ribbon Fund
May 27- 29, 2015	ASMC National PDI (New Orleans)
May 29, 2015	ASMC Washington Chapter Ballots for 2015-2017 Officers Due
June 18, 2015	June luncheon: Recognize Scholarship Winners/Inauguration of New Leadership ^
July 22, 2015	ASMC Washington Chapter Golf Tournament

For more information these events please visit: [More information](#)

**^FOR ASMC Washington Chapter Ballot for 2015-2017 Officers
Please Vote using link below:**

http://www.washington-asmc.org/upcoming-special-activities_1.html

Recognitions

Congratulations to the National Award Members from our Chapter:

- In the Chapter Award Categories, the **Washington Chapter** received **Five Star Recognition & Community Service**.
- The Corporate Member of the Year Winner is **Calibre**; the Distinguished Winner is **Deloitte**.
- Meritorious Small Team Award goes to our very own **BRAC Consolidation Team**.
- One of our Chapter members, **Mr. Stephen Allenbach**, was identified as Meritorious winner in the Budgeting category.
- The Washington Chapter Distinguished Service Award winner is **Ms. Debra Delmar**.



Working with Congress

By: Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD)

Congressional relations are an essential function in every Federal agency. It's how the Executive Branch works with the people's representatives in Congress, which is a separate and equal branch of government and the source of legislation, appropriations, and oversight.

As in the Armed Services, the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) divides responsibility for working with Congress between two separate offices:

- (1) The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs which deals with the authorizing committees, the Senate and House Armed Services Committees or SASC and HASC as they are commonly known, and other committees having oversight of national security, and
- (2) Budget and Appropriations Affairs (BAA) which is part of the OSD Comptroller organization. By law, BAA is responsible for working with the House and Senate appropriations committees -- the HAC and SAC -- and their Defense subcommittees.

The liaison mission in OSD Comptroller is to serve as a conduit between Congress and the Department, explaining the President's Budget request and fostering bipartisan Congressional support for Defense program resources. They do this primarily by working with Committee staff members. It's challenging and rewarding work. Committee staffers are knowledgeable and dedicated. They are charged by Members of Congress to apply stringent oversight to budget requests and the execution of funds for Defense programs. The liaison's job requires knowledge of the programs in their portfolios and an understanding of committee views and those of staff members. With this background, they are able to help program managers and other stakeholders to better communicate the merits and requirements of the Defense organization on Capitol Hill.

In this back-and-forth, DoD financial managers can play an essential role. You may be called upon to provide a "response to query" for a Congressional office or committee, for example, or you may be asked to brief a staffer. In either case, there are some guidelines that will serve you well:

- Communicate with all Congressional stakeholders honestly, clearly, ethically, and in a non-partisan manner.
- If briefing staff members, a prep-brief is a good idea. Consider the reason for the briefing and your objectives. Work out any disagreements, and identify weak areas in the presentation before the meeting.

- Employ accurate information. Thoroughly vet your response so that you have the latest thinking on an issue. Remember that the Department is large and decisions are made every day that could affect your program.
- Timeliness is also critical. Many times Congressional staffers are asking questions that need very quick response as they work on mark-ups, conferences, or floor action. There may be many others who will have views on a particular program or issue. So it's important that the Department's position is properly presented in time for decision makers to take it into account.

By following these guidelines, you can help us to earn and maintain Congressional trust for program execution. Delivering what we promise is what Congress expects.

Another key to a successful Congressional relations effort is to cultivate productive relationships. The liaison team's skill in this area will be called upon in the weeks and months ahead, as they adjust to changes on Capitol Hill caused by the recent election. With a Republican majority in the new Congress, Senate leadership has changed. Committees will be headed by new chairmen, and a full schedule of hearings is expected.

Key staff members are also changing roles. Some may be trading portfolios or even moving on. Liaisons will need to meet and brief the new staffers with responsibility for Defense financial issues. The liaisons' job is to ensure that DoD's voice is heard, especially on key issues.

That's important, because -- as they work to build new relationships -- they may also need to deal with pressing issues that won't wait: The Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 budget is currently being executed. A budget for FY 2016 is due to be rolled out next month. The financial aspects of the U.S. response to ISIL in Iraq and Ebola in West Africa are on everyone's priorities list. And steady progress must continue in auditing the complex financial books of the Department of Defense. Congress is interested in all of these issues and more.

The Role of ASMC Professionals

In the effort to keep Congressmen and their staffs informed about the financial aspects of DoD, financial managers across the organization continue to have a vital role. You are the keepers of the data that liaisons depend on. When -- in answer to questions -- you supply accurate, vetted information in a timely manner, you are helping to promote DoD's message on Capitol Hill and instilling confidence in our organization.

In short, it takes a team of Congressional liaisons and expert financial analysts to ensure that Congress understands the Department and its requirements. Working together, we help to make certain that the men and women of the Armed Forces have the resources they need to carry out their mission.

from the National ASMC

House passes FY2016 Defense Authorization bill over White House veto threat

Tuesday, May 19th, 2015

The House [passed](#) its version of the FY2016 Defense Authorization bill, 269-151 last week. The vote was primarily along party lines as 228 Republicans were joined by 41 Democrats in voting for the bill. Only 8 Republicans voted against the bill.

The House bill authorizes \$515 billion for the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Energy (DoE) nuclear weapons program. The authorized amount for the base DoD budget is about \$496 billion.

The bill also authorizes \$89 billion for FY2016 Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding. The president requested \$50.9 billion for OCO. The additional \$38.3 billion in the House bill is for O&M requirements from the base bill.

Including base funding in the OCO account (considered emergency and not counted against the budget caps) allows the House to authorize \$585 billion (\$496 billion in base funds and \$89 billion in OCO) for DoD in FY2016. This is essentially the same as the president's request for total DoD funding (\$534 billion in base funding and \$51 billion in OCO).

Most Democrats strongly disapprove of this approach because they say it could lead to large cuts in nondefense spending. They call for a solution to sequestration that would increase nondefense as well as defense funding.

Defense Secretary Ash Carter also decried the use of this method of increasing defense finding. In his [testimony](#) before the Senate Appropriations Committee Carter said "while this approach clearly recognizes that the budget total we've requested is needed, the avenue it takes is just as clearly a road to nowhere." Carter further said the House proposal "risks undermining support for a mechanism – OCO – meant to fund incremental costs of overseas conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere."

The White House reacted strongly to the House bill issuing a [Statement of Administration Policy](#) (SAP) that threatened a presidential veto. The SAP expressed strong concerns that "shifting base budget resources into OCO...fails to provide a stable, multi-year budget on which defense planning is based."

The House FY2016 Defense Authorization bill would provide military personnel with a 2.3 percent pay raise by allowing the current pay raise calculation procedures to go into effect, unless the president recommends an alternative. The president has requested a 1.3 percent military pay raise for FY2016.

To continue reading, please go to [article](#).

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

Training and Education

Attention Members!



ASMC Washington Chapter Training & Education initiative

The ASMC Washington Chapter is sponsoring Management Concepts mini courses:

The ASMC Washington Chapter will be sponsoring additional mini courses offered by Management Concepts. Courses will be conducted in August, November and February. These courses are funded by the chapter and are available free to chapter members. Specific course offerings, dates and registration information will be announced on our chapter website in the next couple of weeks.

Specific registration information will be available soon. Watch for details on our [web site](#), Facebook page, Info Net and emails.

If you have any questions please contact Terry Placek, Training & Education Committee co-chair, terryplacek@yahoo.com

LEARN



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](http://www.asmonline.org/certification/cdfm-information)

Congratulations to the Washington Chapter's new CDFMs!

Andrea Clark, CDFM-A*
 Andrew Carlisle*
 Anna Lee*
 Bret Roberts, CDFM-A*
 Courtney Bruce*
 Nicole Lee, CDFM-A*
 Noemi Contreras-Woods*



Carmen Green*
 Christine Allen*
 Cindy McMullen*
 Daniel Mullery, CDFM-A*
 Debra McKoy*
 Jason Happ*
 Jeniece Birchett*
 Jim Jewett*
 Jin Pyo*
 Kevin Stephens*
 Michael Woo*
 Sri Prithvi*
 Thomas Bellamy, CDFM-A*

Have something you want to see in the next newsletter?

Send us your ideas!

Contact mohammad.kohistani@ey.com

Featured Corporate Members

Deloitte's Federal Practice has over 6,600 dedicated professionals who work with government agencies to deliver award-winning solutions to complex business challenges. By drawing on industry-leading practices across government and business, Deloitte applies a mix of private-sector perspective and public-sector experience to help federal agencies in their efforts to address today's biggest challenges while building a stronger foundation for tomorrow. Learn more at www.deloitte.com/federal

The Deloitte logo is displayed in a blue, sans-serif font. The word "Deloitte" is followed by a small green dot. The logo is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Featured Corporate Members



...where Knowledge Generates Solutions®

For over 40 years, KGS has been serving our government and commercial clients to help them meet complex technology, data, business and mission challenges. KGS, an ISO 9001:2008 certified company, has provided financial management support to DoD for over 20 years and to DHS agencies since inception. KGS provides audit readiness and remediation, financial management and internal control support to defense agencies such as DHA, DTRA, CDBP, Army MEDCOM, DLA, and others. KGS has supported 11 unmodified (“clean”) financial statement audit opinions in DoD entities, more than any firm in industry. Likewise, at USCG, KGS helped remediate property accounting weaknesses allowing both Coast Guard and DHS to achieve their first clean opinion. KGS was recently selected by the US Coast Guard (USCG) Civil Engineering Division to provide continued capital acquisition program, internal controls, and audit sustainment support to the USCG's Civil Engineering Construction in Progress (CIP) programs. KGS was also selected by USCG as a member of two teams to provide audit remediation, accounting; financial management; internal control; property management; and financial management human resources strategy development and implementation support.

At our newest DHS client, FEMA, KGS provides Grants Management Training and Technical Assistance to grantees within Region II, including New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. KGS applies instructional design methodologies to develop classroom and virtual training on topics pertaining to financial, operational, and compliance management of the portfolio of FEMA Region II's Preparedness, Disaster, and Non-Disaster grants. KGS will also provide tailored technical assistance to grantees to help transfer new skills to the workplace.

At our largest civilian agency client, the Veterans Administration, KGS has provides prime infrastructure and database support for the Veterans Affairs (VA) Financial Services Center (FSC) since 1997, supporting over 15 million Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) transactions annually across multiple portals and applications. KGS on-site personnel have provided a wide range of information technology services for the FSC's installed infrastructure, including custom applications and COTS products. We measure our shared success as a mission-critical partner of the FSC by enabling its growth as a franchise fund while providing expert personnel who maintain FSC systems at an unprecedented 99+% availability rate.



THANKS TO OUR 20 CORPORATE GOLD & SILVER MEMBERS!



Washington Chapter 2014-2015 Executive Board

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Washington Chapter 2014-2015 Executive Board

Committee Chairs

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Chair: Terry Placek and Millie Thompson

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PDI

Chair: Deb DelMar

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Deb Del Mar	Regional PDI	debra.delmar@vanguard-llc.com	703-593-6667

Outreach and Publicity

Chair: Wayne Whiten and Jeff Norris

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Chair: Ann McDermott

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Nominating

Chair: Ariane Whittemore

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