



# American Society of Military Comptrollers

## Washington Chapter

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

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## President’s Message

One of the most famous quotes from Shakespeare is “Now is the winter of our discontent made glorious summer by this son of York”. Like King Richard, all of us in DoD financial management look forward to a brighter future without furloughs, government shutdowns, and a reprieve from sequestration. There is a dark cloud though that hangs over all of us – ethics. Each of the services is dealing with a very public and embarrassing lapse of integrity among its members. Ethical lapses anywhere within DoD reflect on all of us and make our job as trusted advisors all the more difficult.

I am asking everyone to take a few minutes and review our Pledge of Professionalism.

•Be guided in all activities by

loyalty to the highest principles always remembering that public office is a public trust.

•Refrain from activities, which are in conflict with the public interest or are discreditable to the Society, and to avoid activities, which create the appearance of such conflict.

•Exercise diligence, objectivity and integrity in professional activities, ever aware of the responsibility to eliminate improprieties.

•Refrain from the transmission or usage, for personal gain or advantage, of information obtained in the professional environment.

•Carefully earn and

continuously protect my reputation for good moral character in comptrollership.

•Recognize that professional example will influence associates and efficiency.

•Recommend and initiate methods to enhance productivity and efficiency.

•Continuously strive to increase my professional knowledge and skills to improve service and value to associates and the Society.

•Extend the same consideration to the rights and interests of others that I seek for myself.

•Respect the professionalism of fellow-members and work with them to promote the



*Mr. Doug Bennet, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Financial Operations, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Financial Management and Comptroller*

goals and programs of the Society.

These simple guidelines will help you navigate your way through the daily temptations and protect our hard-earned reputation. We are in this together.



## 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>

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# *The U.S. Coast Guard and Its First “Clean” Audit*

by

*Commander Colin Campbell*

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) received a clean (unmodified) opinion on the fiscal year 2013 annual financial report by an independent external auditor. Achieving this important milestone is an historic first for the Coast Guard and the Department, and is the first clean opinion for any armed service.

All federal agencies are required to produce auditable financial statements in accordance with the Chief Financial Officer Act of 1990. The DHS Financial Accountability Act (2004) and the DHS Audit Requirement Target Act (2012) also require the Department to obtain audit opinions on its financial statements. Given that the Coast Guard accounts for about half of the Department's asset value and a quarter of the annual obligations and financial activity on the consolidated DHS financial statements, the Coast Guard was front and center for the DHS audit. Reaching this critical milestone along the Department's journey towards fiscal maturity can be directly attributable to the aggressive and dedicated remediation efforts carried out throughout the year.

But the Coast Guard's success in 2013 was not a one-off event. Rather, it was the culmination of years of hard work by men and women across the service, who, with the support from the Department modernized our business processes, improved the quality and reliability of our financial information, and made it all auditable. The success we obtained also demonstrates the

maturity that DHS has achieved over 10 years in providing management and oversight of the third largest agency in the federal government.

As a multi-mission military service with over 223 years of continuous service, property assets yet older, and units scattered across the United States and the globe, the Coast Guard faced a number of challenges that made the task of producing auditable financial statements a difficult one.

One of the toughest challenges was ensuring that all our property was properly valued and accounted for, including almost 56,000 real property assets. This meant searching archives and records for information to support assets acquired before modern accounting standards came into effect, and creating alternative procedures to value items if no acquisition records were found.

The Coast Guard also faced working with its highly-customized and antiquated financial system put in place during the move to DHS in 2003. With limited flexibility to make system changes, the Coast Guard developed a series of analytic tools that helped dig into financial transactions to provide transparent and traceable data that was previously impossible to generate.

These analytic tools provided the Coast Guard and the external auditor with validated and auditable financial statements and underlying transaction detail, as well as a number of analytic

reports supporting a variety of key financial processes. These analytic reports helped mitigate the Coast Guard's significant financial system limitations and helped pave the path toward a clean audit and improved financial reporting despite the challenges with the current financial system.

Rather than focusing on the audit itself, as its endstate, the Coast Guard seized this opportunity to expand efforts to enhance organizational effectiveness by modernizing business and financial practices and improving communications among stakeholders and process owners. Changes implemented in the name of the audit, both big and small, are helping to strengthen our commitment to instituting proper accounting and controls over the way we spend valuable tax dollars.

Currently, the Coast Guard is shifting its focus to sustaining the clean audit opinion, making continuing improvements over our financial and business practices, updating our automated financial management system, and building a more robust set of internal controls which govern key financial and business activities.



# January Luncheon *Recap*

The Washington Chapter's January luncheon was held on the 14th at the Crystal City Sheraton. The Army members sponsored this month's event. We were excited to have the Mr. Thomas Steffens, Director of Accountability and Audit Readiness, ASA Financial Management and Comptroller.

## Upcoming Events *February Luncheon*

Sponsored by Washington Chapter US Coast Guard

### **US Coast Guard's Audit Success**

Wednesday, 19 February 2014

Commander Colin E. Campbell,  
Chief, Audit Remediation Division (CG-845)  
Office of Financial Policy, Reporting, & Property  
(CG-84) at Coast Guard Headquarters



Sheraton Crystal City  
1800 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Arlington, VA 22202  
(Discounted parking rates for ASMC members)

Social 1130, Lunch 1200  
Register at

<https://secure.rhq.com/ireg/public/index.cgi?evid=R13-06-01-ASMC>

## Membership

*Help us achieve our President's vision for the 2013-2014 Chapter year by encouraging your colleagues to join our growing network of professionals!*

As a member of the ASMC, you already know the many benefits of being a part of a global community of defense resource managers. Joining the ASMC is an investment in yourself, your professional development and your career.

Regardless of where you are in your career, your ASMC membership offers many paths and opportunities to learn from and interact with your colleagues in ways that will help you meet your professional goals.

For more information on the many benefits of being an ASMC member, visit  
<http://www.asmonline.org/membership>.

# *2014 ASMC National Capital Region PDI*

## *DoD Resource Management: Vital Professionalism in Tough Times*

Thursday March 13, 2014  
Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center

**Our 2014 ASMC National Capital Regional PDI is a vibrant partnership across the major ASMC Washington area Chapters (Washington, Potomac, Quantico, DIA, NRO, Fort Meade, Mount Vernon) to optimize our DoD enterprise education and learning, dialogue, networking, as well as enhance our fund-raising results for charities and scholarships. Last year our event sold out, with over 1000 government and industry professionals attending this worthwhile conference to learn, share insights, and help advance critical business outcomes for the support of our warfighters.**

Our 2014 ASMC National Capital Region PDI theme is:

### **DoD Resource Management: Vital Professionalism in Tough Times**

The DoD Financial Management triumvirate - military, civilian, and contractor professionals has been challenged by Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel to cut spending, accelerate audit, enhance professional advancement, and smartly modernize. We must shift our current path with wiser choices to reform our business environment faster, cheaper, and with less risk -- in order to achieve operating effectiveness, auditability, and reprogram critical funds for national security.

Operational readiness begins with fiscal readiness!

PLEASE join us on Thursday March 13, 2014 at the Ronald Reagan Center in Washington, D.C. for a terrific day of learning, dialogue, collaboration, networking, and certification (7 CPE/CETs). There is no cost for our active Military/Government ASMC members to ensure attendance. Invited keynote speakers this year include Honorable Bob Hale, Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) and CFO.

We are working to make the ASMC National Capital Regional PDI an exciting, relevant event for our talented, diverse workforce in the Washington area. In addition to the 7 CPE/CETs that would be achieved by attendance at the PDI, we are hoping to offer one or two two-hour mini-courses that would qualify towards the FM certification competencies. We will update the website as we have additional information.

***Given the current budget realities -- that impact funding for government training -- our Chapter is continuing our policy (implemented in 2013) in 2014 to offer ASMC government members attendance for no cost at this training event. We are confident offering our government members the opportunity to receive valuable professional training and CPE credentials at no cost is a win/win for our Chapter membership and the DoD overall. This policy shift was unanimously approved (per our ASMC Washington Chapter By-Laws) by our Executive Board, and falls within both parameters set by Federal Regulation (5 C.F.R. 2635.204(g)) as well as precedent set by Federal training events that routinely exercise this policy (e.g. AGA FFS Summit 10 Jan 2013).***

# Corporate Member Spotlight

## *MorganFranklin Consulting*

MorganFranklin Consulting helps government clients implement improvements to achieve mission success in federal financial management and performance improvement. We develop tactical and strategic solutions that require a combination of expertise in accounting, risk management, process improvement, and technology. We are committed to adding lasting value that improves and preserves the ability to meet mission and policy goals.

Our financial management professionals and ex-CFO Act auditors provide A-123 support, resolve agency deficiencies, integrate risk management priorities, and enhance overall audit readiness and operational effectiveness. Our performance improvement consultants optimize business processes, redesign organizations, plan and roll out strategic initiatives, and deliver effective change management solutions. Our clients tell us that what really sets us apart is our nimbleness, flexibility, and willingness to do whatever it takes to get the job done.

We call it *The MorganFranklin Way™*.

MorganFranklin Consulting provides a wide range of government solutions including:

- Audit Support, Readiness & Remediation
  - Budget & Performance Integration
- Business Intelligence & Data Management
  - Business Process Re-engineering
    - CFO Compliance Support
      - Change Management
    - Enterprise Resource Planning
    - Governance, Risk & Compliance
      - IT Compliance & Security
      - IT Strategy & Planning
      - OMB A-123 Support
- Organizational Assessment & Design
  - Performance Management
  - Program & Project Management
    - Risk Management Services
      - Shared Services
      - Strategic Planning

### **MorganFranklin Consulting ASMC Point of Contact:**

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# National News

## from the National ASMC

From Al Runnels

### **ASMC National 2014 PDI**

I am pleased to report that planning for conduct of the ASMC 2014 National PDI in Seattle is proceeding well. While momentum toward conduct of the National PDI is increasing, we will not know for sure until we receive feedback from the Services and other organizations regarding their conference participation approval packages (currently under development). We will have the ASMC 2014 PDI Website up on the net by the end of this week; however, registration will not be open for another three to four weeks when we expect to know the results of determinations by Service Secretaries (and by leaders of other DoD organizations) on requests for PDI participation packages. The Office of the Under Secretary (Comptroller) recently revised DoD policy allowing for instruction approved (based upon certain specific criteria) as in alignment with DoD Financial Management Certification Program (FMCP) competencies to be presented in “professional symposia.” Requirements also include strict management of attendance (we’ll be using attendance scanning equipment) and the conduct of a course feedback survey at the end of the instruction. The Professional Development Committee (PDC) met again the evening of 30 January to finalize PDI training content (subject areas, speakers, etc), toward our goal of structuring 50% of the PDI instruction into approved Mini-courses. This will provide the opportunity for PDI participants whose positions have already been designated (or will be designated) as Level 2 or 3 within the program to obtain direct credit toward meeting DoD FMCP requirements within certain FM competency areas (and also in the Leadership area at “Leading Teams” or “Leading People” levels. This direct credit toward DoD FMCP requirements will be in addition to obtaining Continuing Education and Training units, necessary to maintain other professional certifications. These Mini-courses will have specific learning objectives and a course syllabus. Want to also add my continuing thanks to Ron Lloyd (PDI Chair), Shirley Towne and Laura Sandy (PDI Co-Vice Chairs), and the leads of each of our six PDI committees (as well as their committee members) who are working on preparation for the PDI. Lastly, congratulations to the Seahawks and to Seattle (12th Man) as Super Bowl Champions.

### **ASMC Membership Growth**

Just a reminder that in the latest edition of our Armed Forces Comptroller journal, our ASMC National President, Ms. Marilyn Thomas, issued a challenge to all current ASMC members. Specifically, her words were, “I challenge each of our ASMC members to recruit one new member over the next six months.” I worked on recruiting a new member last week, as I was exiting the Pentagon following a meeting. I look forward to the growth in ASMC membership that we can achieve this year as each of us work to recruit new members. At only \$26 per year, ASMC membership is one of the best professional association deals out there.

### **Enhanced Defense Financial Management (EDFM) Training**

From now on, we will be highlighting locations (see below) of upcoming EDFM training course opportunities in our ASMC National News (to Chapter Presidents) and in our e-Connection newsletters to members, just as a means to help ensure the word is out on courses scheduled as a result of the EDFMT contract. This info is, of course, also available on our ASMC Website.

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

# Training and Education



## Did you know?

All of the military departments and OUSD(C) financial management (FM) organizations have websites. These websites provide information about FM leadership and organizational structure as well as training, education and career management.

### Defense

<http://comptroller.defense.gov>  
<https://fmonline.ousdc.osd.mil>

### Army

<http://www.asafm.army.mil>

### Navy

<http://www.navyfmip.com>

### Air Force

<http://www.saffm.hq.af.mil>

## *EDFM Training Courses*

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

Begin Date: Feb 24 2014  
End Date: Feb 28 2014  
Location: Norfolk, VA (NAVY)

Begin Date: Mar 10 2014  
End Date: Mar 14 2014  
Location: Ft. Meade, MD (DW-DISA)

Begin Date: Mar 17 2014  
End Date: Mar 21 2014  
Location: Arlington, VA (JB Myer-H) (ARNG)

Begin Date: Mar 24 2014  
End Date: Mar 28 2014  
Location: Alexandria, VA (DW-DoDIG)

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



# 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.asmc.org/certification/cdfm-information)

## *Congratulations to the Washington Chapter's new CDFMs!*

Derek Zumstein  
Chris Zwicker  
Ricardo Aguilera  
Chidozie Ekechukwu  
Kathleen O'Leary  
La Toya Thomas



Kate Caldwell  
David Cranston  
Mary Chelle Kirkland  
Henry Meyer  
Jeffrey Stiggle  
Chris Valle

Have something you want to see in  
the next newsletter? Send us your  
ideas!

contact [julia.vigneault@ey.com](mailto:julia.vigneault@ey.com)



# Washington Chapter 2013-2014 Executive Board

## *Chapter Officers*

### **President**

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### **Treasurer**

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### **Army Vice President**

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### **Navy Assistant Secretary**

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### **Air Force Vice President**

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### **Coast Guard Assistant Secretary**

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### **President Elect**

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### **DoD Vice President**

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### **Army Secretary**

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### **Marine Corps Vice President**

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### **Air Force Assistant Secretary**

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### **Corporate/Retiree Vice President**

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### **DoD Assistant Secretary**

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### **Coast Guard Vice President**

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### **Corporate/Retiree Secretary**

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## *Committee Chairs*

### **Awards/Essay**

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### **Competition**

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### **Community Service**

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