



# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MILITARY COMPTROLLERS

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

**September 2016**

## Washington Chapter



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## President's Message

*Mats A. Persson*



Great to be back for the second newsletter. The board is working well together and we are making great progress.

You saw the listing of all the filled board positions last month. We have one change since then. We are thanking Raquel Kuhfahl who supported us for more than 2 years as the Treasurer. She is being replaced by our current secretary Steve Birk, as of September 1, 2016. Stacy Spadafora, USCG is replacing Steve Birk as the Secretary as of September 15.

We had Alaleh Jenkins from OSD Comptroller speak to us at the August 18 luncheon. It was an excellent presentation and we had close to 70 attendees. On September 15, we had Caral Spangler from the Army present at the monthly luncheon. In October, we will host John Graveen from the Navy and are working to have Ricardo Aguilera from the Air Force present in November. How about that! Who's who is coming to see us every month. We are very fortunate.

We are currently working the final details of the budget for FY16-17. It will be reviewed by the Executive Board on October 6. We expect to have it approved that day. You will get the final details in the next newsletter. In particular, we are looking at the revenue side and studying opportunities for more corporate sponsors and revenue raising opportunities.

We have recently selected a new firm to audit our Financials. This will make us have the same firm that is performing the audit for our parent organization. We are also in the final steps of completing the Financials for Fiscal Year 2015-16. We expect to have it done very soon.

We are in the process of setting up a web link to be able to sign up for the monthly ASMC luncheon online on our web page.

**To register online using your iPhone or Laptop follow the below simple steps:**

1. Log into the ASMC Washington Chapter website at [www.washington-asmc.org](http://www.washington-asmc.org)
2. Select the ASMC Washington Chapter Luncheon Meeting Link at <https://secure.rhq.com/ireg/public/index.cgi?evid=R13-06-01-ASMC>
3. Input your personal/credit card information and hit submit
4. Your confirmation receipt will go to the email address that you provided/inputted

I hope you enjoy this September edition of your newsletter. There is a lot of good news in here including information on upcoming training classes that are free to members, community service volunteer opportunities, and a Young Professionals Happy Hour which will be held October 13 at Chevy's Fresh Mex in the Pentagon City area.

Have a great Fiscal Year End!

Mats

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## Washington Chapter



### August Luncheon Recap



The Washington chapter was pleased to welcome **Mrs. Aleah Jenkins**, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, as our guest speaker at the August luncheon. Her topic was: *"How the Financial Improvement & Audit Readiness (FIAR) Effort Supports the Warfighter with Solid Financial Information."*

Mrs. Jenkins stated that while our primary mission is to support the warfighter we must hold ourselves to the same standards as the rest of the government for the tax payers. Our lack of a clean audit is having an effect on nation security because Congress is tired of hearing our excuses. Congress would like to give DoD additional resources to support our warfighters but will not because we cannot account for the resources we have.

On a recent visit to Norfolk Mrs. Jenkins visited field activities and talked with the field personnel on FIAR and they stated they needed more resources to "do the other stuff" and that their priority was the mission. The fact is that our resources are going down and may continue to do so until such time that we can demonstrate to Congress we are utilizing our resources effectively.

Mrs. Jenkins believes there are two big issues affecting our ability to get a clean audit:

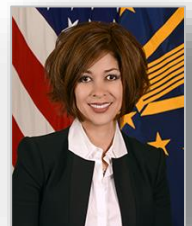
**Paper Chasing** – The financial culture is reliant on "paper" and Mrs. Jenkins new response when confronted with someone stating "we have to have paper" is "Show me where in law why paper is required". The fact is lots of documentation is missing and the reliance on paper will require a cultural change management.



**IT infrastructure** – We have to find a way to get rid of legacy systems. There are too many "home grown" IT systems throughout the Department. Portfolio management can assist with reducing our legacy systems by identifying duplication. The implementation of Enterprise Resource Planning (ERPs) and Defense Agencies Initiative (DAI) can help if allowed to but unfortunately not all ERPs are being implemented effectively.

Mrs Jenkins believes a clean audit will happen but we must conquer the communication hurdles that exist between all the "silos" in the Department and bring comptroller, acquisition, logistics, and others into a common lexicon to achieve a clean audit.

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



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Date	Upcoming Events / Sponsor / Speaker / CPEs	Location
28 Sep	Training / OMB Circular A-123 (Internal Controls)	Webinar (on-line)
13 Oct	Young Professionals Happy Hour / 1700	Chevy's Fresh Mex, Pentagon City
20 Oct	Monthly Luncheon / Navy / John Graveen / 1 CPE	Westin, Crystal City
17 Nov	Monthly Luncheon / Air Force / Ricardo Aguilera / 1 CPE	Westin, Crystal City
30 Nov	Holiday Social, 1730-2030	Army Navy Country Club
1 Dec	Registration Opens for NCR PDI	ASMC Web Site (on-line)
9 Mar 17	NCR PDI / 7 CPE credits	Ronald Reagan Building, DC

### September Luncheon – Topic: “Team Sports”



Ms. Caral E. Spangler became the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller), Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller), the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. on May 17, 2015.

As the Principal Deputy, she advises the Assistant Secretary and the Army leadership on matters relating to Army finance, accounting, financial systems, financial management workforce development, and cost and economic activities.. Ms. Spangler transitioned to the Army by way of the Air Force, where she served as Deputy for Budget, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Financial Management and Comptroller).

Throughout her career she has been responsible for planning and directing budget formulation and execution of appropriations totaling more than \$160 billion annually. She has been instrumental in leading a staff of civilian and military financial managers to develop, defend and execute funding to support military operations and priorities at the direction of Congress, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Air Force and now Army. Ms. Spangler's diversity does not stop there, she has also served as the Assistant Deputy Commandant for Resources (USMC), known as the Fiscal Director as well as held financial management positions within the Department of the Navy and the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense (Comptroller).

Ms. Spangler received her Bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and her Master's degree from Syracuse University. She resides in Alexandria, Virginia with her husband, Gene, and has three adult daughters.



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The Washington Chapter would like to congratulate our two **National Essay Award Winners**: 1st place winner - **Col Steven Minkin** and 3rd place winner - **Ms. Ginger Schmid**! We received many wonderfully written essays for this year's competition and we would like to share an entry from **Ms. Jessica Stewart**. Jessica has eight years of federal financial management and financial statement audit experience. At Williams Adley, she oversees the firm's Department of Defense business portfolio. Ms. Stewart holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Towson University (Magna Cum Laude) and a Master's degree in Accounting from The George Washington University.

**Evaluation factors: "Identifying and adopting best practices can improve performance. Describe best practices from your career that may improve DoD financial management." Essay by Jessica Stewart**



**Department of Defense (DoD)** professionals, financial and non-financial alike, face unprecedented challenges in achieving the goal of auditability from constrained budgets, to legacy IT systems and to weak internal control environments. It is more important than ever that DoD builds a culture of audit responsibility across the entire Department. To do this, DoD must continue to develop the knowledge and expertise of its professionals. To have the right workforce, professionals should adopt career best practices such as taking on challenging roles and assignments, continuous professional development, and networking. These and other best practices are the keys to improving DoD financial management.

DoD professionals should be encouraged to step outside of their comfort zone and take on challenging roles. When professionals take on demanding tasks and assignments they exponentially increase their knowledge and expertise. This in turn increases the chance of an organization succeeding in reaching its goals. When employees are challenged and learn they become more engaged at work and feel indebted to their organization's success.

"Great things never come from comfort zones." These are the words I have followed throughout my career. I have always looked for opportunities to push myself beyond my limits and I value these opportunities as they have helped me evolve as an auditor. I have been able to acquire new skills and increase my depth and breadth of financial management by working on stimulating and thought-provoking assignments.

Continuous professional development is the constant expansion of skills in response to changing environment. Continuous professional development is an on-going process that improves skills and increases knowledge. It includes on-the-job development, certifications, and classroom training. Staying abreast on current developments in the industry is important and can be done through attending networking events and industry conferences, and reading industry periodicals.

With the changing DoD financial management environment, it is vitally important that financial management professionals apply continuous professional development. It will increase productivity and provide efficiencies within business processes. I have applied continuous professional development throughout my career. For example as a financial statement auditor I am currently pursuing my Certified Information Systems Auditor certification as information technology is now very integrated segment within financial management.

Generally speaking professionals understand importance of networking, but most have a misconception about it. Networking is more than just having "small talk" with someone at a networking event. Both internal and external networking are vital to career success. There is a major benefit to internal networking as it *(continued on next page...)*



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(continued) can strengthen the relationships within an organization and provides professionals valuable skillsets not normally obtained as part of ones day to day job. Furthermore as ideas are shared and knowledge is passed throughout the organization which creates a culture of cross collaboration and innovation. These will benefit DoD financial management as efficiencies in business processes can be created.

I have learned and seen the benefits of internal networking. I have taken opportunities to network with colleagues to identify other projects to work within other departments of my accounting firm. For example I have worked on a DoD audit readiness project that needed an “auditor’s lenses”. This allowed me to provide value to a former DoD client as I was able advise them on how to make improvements to their business process to ensure they could pass the scrutiny of an audit.

In regards to external networking, one must be strategic in how they network. For example, I always carry business cards with me, as I never know who you may run into out in my day to day life. In preparation of attending networking events and conferences I review the list of attendees, if available, to identify who I may want to connect with at the event. With networking, professionals may identify best practices from outside their organization and that can be brought back to their agency for consideration and implementation. Networking is a very valuable way to expand one’s knowledge, learn from the success of others, and facilitate a culture of cooperation which will benefit DoD financial management.

As DoD professionals travel through the maze of the changing DoD financial management environment it will be critically important that they identify and adopt career best practices. By adopting the best practices noted above or other best practices employees will become more empowered and engaged, which will allows them to develop deeper connections to their organization and its success.

**Just a reminder that the upcoming Essay topic will be announced in an upcoming newsletter - probably 4th quarter - with a February 2017 deadline. For more information, please contact Wendy Pouliot at [wendy.pouliot.civ@mail.mil](mailto:wendy.pouliot.civ@mail.mil), 703-697-0156.**

## Chapter News – Training Opportunities



### Budgeting and Accounting: *Making the Connection*



**MANAGEMENT**  
CONCEPTS

We had a great turnout for the free Budgeting & Accounting seminar on August 4 in Washington DC. This course was designed for ASMC members from several different backgrounds: *accountants* who want insight into Federal budgeting, *budgeteers* who want insight into Federal accounting, and *systems people* who want a basic understanding of Federal budgeting and accounting to implement new financial systems. Check our ASMC web site for future training opportunities!



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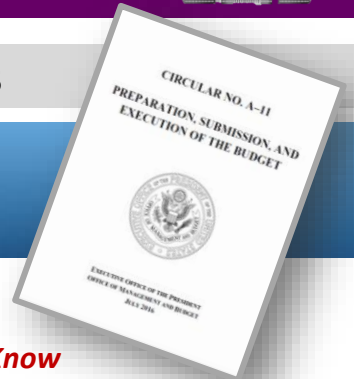
## Washington Chapter



### Chapter News – Training Opportunities



Office of Management and Budget



**MANAGEMENT  
CONCEPTS**

**Wednesday, September 28, 2016, 1:00-2:00 pm EDT**

We are holding another complimentary webinar, **Easy as A-123: What You Need to Know About the Update**, based on the **OMB Circular A-123: Management's Responsibility for Enterprise Risk Management and Internal Control**. The webinar is targeted primarily to Federal financial management professionals, and secondarily to grants employees who are working with Federal funds.

**Registration:** <http://learn.managementconcepts.com/A-123>

There are **no limits to the number of people or groups** who want to register. Simply fill out the form and a link will be provided for the webinar.

**Suggest doing a "Brown Bag" lunch session with your group and utilizing the event as a supplement to previous training, a precursor to upcoming training, or a forum on current issues.**

#### Webinar Description:

#### **Easy as A-123: What You Need to Know About the Update**

**Robert Black**, CGFM and Instructor for Financial Management at Management Concepts

Wednesday, September 28, 2016, 1:00-2:00 p.m. ET

The long-awaited revised OMB Circular A-123: Management's Responsibility for Enterprise Risk Management and Internal Control updates guidance on agency internal controls and establishes new requirements for Federal Enterprise Risk Management (ERM). Join us to learn:

- How the A-123 has been restructured
- What new ERM requirements mean for you and your organization
- What the new emphasis on fraud means
- How you will need to use The Green Book and apply the standards and principles of internal control

**Can't make it the 28th? Register and we'll send you the presentation and recorded webinar on September 29th.**

#### Technical Notes:

Adobe Connect

VoIP – there is not a dial-in number. The sound will come from your computer and phones are not needed – don't forget your headphones!



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## Chapter News –Training Opportunities

### For more in-depth Onsite Training Courses:

Feel free to contact Terry Placek at [terryplacek@yahoo.com](mailto:terryplacek@yahoo.com) with any questions or if you need further information. She can even provide an onsite quote (group training at your location) that is discounted off of our GSA schedule with tiered pricing for 15 to 30 people, along with a course agenda, syllabus, and table of contents for the comparable courses listed below.

### 5142: Internal Controls for Managers (NEW COURSE!!! Onsite Only)

#### Key Information for You to Have on Hand:

- Link to course on the website: <http://www.managementconcepts.com/Course/id/5142>
- Who is the key audience: This course is designed for managers who want to have an understanding of management's overall responsibility for internal control as dictated by law and regulation.
- So what – why is this important to our audience: With the release of the revised OMB Circular A-123, more emphasis is being placed on internal controls and risk management. Managers need to know how to implement effective internal controls within their organizations and address risks.

#### What's New?!

This course supports a manager's ability to assess risks and implement effective internal controls to address risks. The course provides an overview of what is needed to support an organization's compliance with relevant laws and regulations, including the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, GAO's Standards for Internal Control, and OMB Circular A-123 (enterprise risk management [ERM] and internal control assessments).

### 5112: Internal Controls: Meeting Federal Requirements for Accountability

<http://www.managementconcepts.com/Course/id/5112>

This course supports an organization's ability to effectively control financial resources; meet legal and regulatory obligations; and minimize the risk of fraud, waste, and abuse. The course helps students to build the skills needed to support their agency ensure compliance with requirements under the relevant laws and regulations, including the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (or Integrity Act), GAO Standards of Internal Control, and OMB Circular A-123. This course provides students with a strong foundation in how to build and assess controls. The course demonstrates how internal control is an integral part of every aspect of management through explaining what internal controls are (the organization, policies, and procedures of an agency) to why good controls are necessary to carry out the agency mission at all levels and in all operations.



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## Corporate Member of the Month



SAP is the global leader in enterprise application software and services. From back office to boardroom, warehouse to storefront, desktop to mobile device – SAP empowers people and organizations to work together more efficiently and use business insight more effectively.

As the market leader in business process improvement solutions for defense and security forces, SAP helps improve combat readiness, even in unpredictable conditions – and increase overall mission effectiveness. Leveraging SAP technology, military, defense, and security organizations are able to mitigate operational risk and get the maximum value from equipment, information, and personnel to run superior force deployments, smarter planning processes, and transparent supply chains – all with ironclad information security.

The partnership between the Department of Defense (DoD) and SAP enables more than 175,000 DoD personnel to perform their jobs every day leveraging SAP ERP capabilities. More than 40% of the Department's annual operating budget is executed via SAP-based financial systems of record. SAP systems provide end-to-end wholesale and retail supply chain management capability to the Departments of Army, Navy, and the Defense Logistics Agency.

SAP is proud of its direct stakeholder alignment with the DoD Financial Management (FM) community. As the DoD continues on its path toward a modernized target architecture that underlies standardized data and processes, SAP is committed to enabling business intelligence, enhanced decision making, workforce productivity and overall cost reductions. SAP is committed to helping the DoD achieve its goals of operational efficiency in order to ensure the preservation and sustainability of our All-Volunteer Force. Point of contact: Rocco Perciavalle, [rocco.perciavalle@sap.com](mailto:rocco.perciavalle@sap.com), 202-203-0112

## Young Professionals Event – 13 Oct at 5pm



### Who?

Young finance professionals  
with careers in DoD



### Where?

Chevy's Fresh Mex (Pentagon City)

*It's the perfect opportunity to  
network with peers and senior  
leadership in your industry!*

### When?

Thursday, 13 October ... the fun begins at 5pm!



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## ASMC Washington Chapter Golf Tournament



This year's **ASMC/AGA Golf Tournament** was held on Wednesday 27 July at the Fort Belvoir Gunston and Woodlawn courses. The success of this event again this year can be attributed to the dedicated government and corporate Golfers, our outstanding Corporate Sponsors and the terrific volunteers, working on and off the course.

Amidst the festivities, our ASMC and AGA members generously gave to those less fortunate by donating 282 pounds of food goods and non-perishable items for the Capital Food Bank. Thanks to **Jeff Norris** and **Marion Buchite** for ensuring we supported this worthy cause. Special appreciation goes to **Doug Bennett** for presenting at the winner's circle and **Rita Finney**, our Golf Tournament Chair, for a fabulous job again this year!



ASMC Golfers 165 / AGA Golfers 43

52 Government golfers \* 156 Corporate golfers \* 208 Total golfers



**Thanks** to all of the volunteers who helped before, during, and after the event!

Marion Buchite  
Tim Coulson  
Cynthia Curry

Tracy Finney  
Alex Kalup  
Kris Kershaw

Justin Lee  
Jackie Pfadt  
Vonetta Vaughan

Join us on Facebook to see pictures from golf tournaments <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1224850390859237/>

### Special thanks to all of our Corporate Sponsors of the event:

<p><u>Lunch Sponsor</u></p> <p><b>VANGUARD</b> ADVISORS CONSULTING LEADERS IN BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT</p>	<p><u>Driving Range Sponsor</u></p>	<p><u>Program Sponsor</u></p> <p>savantage solutions</p>	<p><u>Drink Cart Sponsors</u></p> <p>Building a better working world</p> <p>REXHAME GROUP</p> <p>KEARNEY &amp; COMPANY</p> <p>SIGNIFICANCE INC.</p>
<p><u>Breakfast Sponsor</u></p> <p><b>MORGANFRANKLIN</b> CONSULTING</p>			

### Golf Tee Sponsors

<p>AOC Solutions</p>	<p>Booz   Allen   Hamilton delivering results that endure</p>	<p>CALIBRE</p>	<p>CCA</p>	<p>CliftonLarsonAllen</p>	<p>Cotton &amp; Company Answers Questioned</p>
<p>ids</p>	<p>IMMERSION CONSULTING</p>	<p>LMI Complex Financial Transaction Solutions</p>	<p>RMA Associates Certified Public Accountants &amp; Consultants</p>	<p>SEHLKE consulting</p>	
<p>Spry</p>	<p>ST. MICHAEL'S</p>	<p>SUMMITSEA</p>	<p>TRH</p>	<p>WILLIAMS ADLEY</p>	

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## ASMC Washington Chapter Golf Tournament

### Congratulation to our First Place Winners!

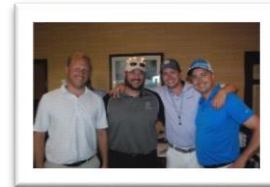
#### Course Woodlawn Winners: 56

Paul Donato  
Mike Strasburg  
Kevin Nagel  
David Lewandoski



#### Course Gunston Winners Score: 57

Michael Lindsey  
Bryan Eckle  
Chris Florman  
Brendan Ford



### Honorable Mentions

### Congratulation to our Second Place Winners!

#### Course Woodlawn Winners: 60

Kyle Richards  
Brendan Kearney  
Liz Pierpoint  
Conor Tracy

#### Course Gunston Winners Score: 57

Gary Drozdowski  
Tom Preston  
Susan Breissinger  
Graham Evans

### Congratulation to our Third Place Winners!

#### Course Woodlawn Winners: 60

Robert Cook  
Greg Cumbey  
Dave Zorzi  
John Argodale

#### Course Gunston Winners Score: 58

Brad Miller  
Erik Viergutz  
Michael Catts  
Bryan Harrell

### Congratulation to our Best Effort Participants & Pros!

#### Course Woodlawn:

Chris Heyde  
Tony Vallone  
Ross Hosse  
Pulkit Kapila

#### Course Gunston:

Wayne Williams  
Robert Meredith  
Ed Roden  
Sylvia Roden

Closest to the hole Ladies  
Closest to the hole Men  
Longest Drive Ladies  
Longest Drive Men

#### Course Woodlawn:

Wendy Morris  
Tom Flammia  
Mike Lumb  
Liz Pierpoint

#### Course Gunston:

Sylvia Roden  
Frank Landefeld  
Melanie Michael  
Jarret Kuhfahl



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## ASMC National News



### American Society of Military Comptrollers

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

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



**PDI 2016**  
PREPARE TO LAUNCH...  
CERTIFY YOUR FUTURE

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

[Click here to access them.](#)



## Upcoming Training Events

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

**Begin Date: October 17 2016**

**End Date: October 21 2016**

**Location: Fort Belvoir (Army)**

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

**Begin Date: October 17 2016**

**End Date: October 21 2016**

**Location: Fort Jackson, SC (Army)**

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

**Begin Date: October 24 2016**

**End Date: October 28 2016**

**Location: Fort Lee, VA (DW-DeCA)**

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

**Begin Date: October 24 2016**

**End Date: October 28 2016**

**Location: Norfolk, VA (Navy)**



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

September 2016

## Washington Chapter



### CDFM Corner

ASMC offers the Certified Defense Financial Manager (CDFM) educational program and certification designation to those persons desiring to demonstrate proficiency in the core aspects of Defense Financial Management.

For more information, visit: <http://www.asmconline.org/certification/cdfm-information/>



Tyler Bowden  
Karen Hasselman  
Natasha Kirk  
Leslie Robinson  
Desmond Ross  
Hannah Brumfield  
Diane Carthorn  
Alissa Fulton  
Allison Griner

Karen Hewes  
Linnea Simpson  
Kevin Uher  
Christopher Whipps, CDFM-A  
Donovan Charlot, CDFM-A  
Tracy Ferguson  
Megan Guise  
Long Nguyen  
Kathleen Sluzenski

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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### Chapter Officers



**President** Mr. Mats Persson

[mats.a.persson.civ@mail.mil](mailto:mats.a.persson.civ@mail.mil)

571-372-7167

**President Elect** Ms. Krystyna Kolesar

[krystyna.m.kolesar.civ@mail.mil](mailto:krystyna.m.kolesar.civ@mail.mil)

703-697-1805

**Secretary** Ms. Stacy Spadafora

[Stacy.e.Spadafora@uscg.mil](mailto:Stacy.e.Spadafora@uscg.mil)

202-372-3610

**Treasurer** Mr. Steven Birk, [Steven.A.Birk.Civ@mail.mil](mailto:Steven.A.Birk.Civ@mail.mil), 703-693-7336

**DoD Vice President** Ms. Cynthia L. Curry, [cynthia.l.curry.civ@mail.mil](mailto:cynthia.l.curry.civ@mail.mil) 703-697-4542

**DoD Assistant Secretary** Mr. Gregory Little, [gregory.b.little2.civ@mail.mil](mailto:gregory.b.little2.civ@mail.mil) 703-614-7496

**Army Vice President** Ms. Cynthia Crippen-Black, [cynthia.d.crippenblack.civ@mail.mil](mailto:cynthia.d.crippenblack.civ@mail.mil) 703-545-9316

**Army Assistant Secretary** Mr. Hairo Ortiz, [hairo.r.ortiz.civ@mail.mil](mailto:hairo.r.ortiz.civ@mail.mil) 703-692-7868

**Navy Vice President** Ms. Robin Farley, [robin.farley1@navy.mil](mailto:robin.farley1@navy.mil) 202-433-3499

**Navy Assistant Secretary** Ms. Veronica Trent-Walton [veronica.trent@navy.mil](mailto:veronica.trent@navy.mil) 703-695-2913

**Marine Corps Vice President** Mr. Jonathan R. Newell, [jonathan.r.newell@usmc.mil](mailto:jonathan.r.newell@usmc.mil) 571-256-8740

**Marine Corps Assistant Secretary** Mr. Astrid Diaz, [astrid.diaz@usmc.mil](mailto:astrid.diaz@usmc.mil) 703-614-3435

**Air Force Vice President** Mr. Benjamin J Yarish, [benjamin.j.yarish.civ@mail.mil](mailto:benjamin.j.yarish.civ@mail.mil) 703-695-4442

**Air Force Assistant Secretary** Ms. Chantele Dow, [chantele.m.dow.civ@mail.mil](mailto:chantele.m.dow.civ@mail.mil) 703-697-0950

**Coast Guard Vice President** LT Mark Sanchez, CDMF-A [mark.m.sanchez@uscg.mil](mailto:mark.m.sanchez@uscg.mil) 202-475-5450

**Coast Guard Assistant Secretary** Ms. Stacy Spadafora, [stacy.e.spadafora@uscg.mil](mailto:stacy.e.spadafora@uscg.mil) 202-372-3610

**Corporate/Retiree Vice President** Ms. Deb Del Mar, [debra.delmar@vanguard-llc.com](mailto:debra.delmar@vanguard-llc.com) 703-593-6667

**Corporate/Retiree Secretary** Ms. Rita Finney, [rfinney@savantage.net](mailto:rfinney@savantage.net) 301-938-8198



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#### Training and Education

**Chair: Terry Placek and Millie Thompson**

Edson Barbosa	CDFM	<a href="mailto:edson.n.barbosa.civ@mail.mil">edson.n.barbosa.civ@mail.mil</a>	301-677-5890
Wendy Pouliot	Awards/Essay Chair	<a href="mailto:wendy.pouliot.civ@mail.mil">wendy.pouliot.civ@mail.mil</a>	703-697-0156
Janice Hill	Scholarship	<a href="mailto:Janice.hill@usmc.mil">Janice.hill@usmc.mil</a>	571-256-8810
Milford E. Thompson	Luncheon	<a href="mailto:milford.thompson@navy.mil">milford.thompson@navy.mil</a>	202-685-1524
Terry Placek	Training & Education	<a href="mailto:terryplacek@yahoo.com">terryplacek@yahoo.com</a>	703-599-4514

#### PDI

**Chair: Deb Delmar**

Deb Delmar	PDI Silent Auction	<a href="mailto:debra.delmar@vanguard-llc.com">debra.delmar@vanguard-llc.com</a>	703-593-6667
Deb Delmar	Regional PDI		

#### Outreach and Publicity

**Chair: Wayne Whiten and Jeff Norris**

Veniceza "Vee" Critton	Competition	<a href="mailto:veniceza.g.critton.civ@mail.mil">veniceza.g.critton.civ@mail.mil</a>	703-695-6458
Jeff Norris	Community Service	<a href="mailto:jnorris@kpmg.com">jnorris@kpmg.com</a>	202-533-4024
Dan Olden	Membership	<a href="mailto:dolden@kpmg.com">dolden@kpmg.com</a>	202-533-5183
Rocky Wilber	Photographer	<a href="mailto:rocky.wilber@dfas.mil">rocky.wilber@dfas.mil</a>	571-372-7190
Michael Monson	Newsletter Editor	<a href="mailto:monsonm@get-integrated.com">monsonm@get-integrated.com</a>	703-795-6086
Wayne Whiten	Webmaster	<a href="mailto:wayne.whiten@calibresys.com">wayne.whiten@calibresys.com</a>	703-797-8831

#### Audit

**Chair: David Zavada, [dzavada@kearneyco.com](mailto:dzavada@kearneyco.com) / 703-931-5600**



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