

February 2015



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American Society of Military Comptrollers

Washington Chapter

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

President's Message

The air is "crisp", the calendar indicates it's "winter", and your ASMC Washington Chapter has lots of "COOL" stuff going on! We just hosted (in partnership with ASMC National) our first, and tremendously successful, Early Careerist Social at Sine's Irish Pub in Pentagon Row! Over 30 "early careerists" (both ASMC members and prospective members) braved the inclement weather to share experiences in a relaxed, informal setting. I'd like to thank Terry Placek, Michael Jucewicz, and Dave Zorzi for their exceptional work in planning this tremendous event! Based on the rave reviews, we are planning a second Early Careerist Social for April. Watch our website for details! Our January luncheon featured VADM Frank Pandolfe, Director of

Strategy and Policy (Joint Staff) who laid the strategic foundation for our 2015 Luncheon Speakers. Our 2015 line-up of speakers includes the Honorable Jamie Morin (Director, Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, Office of the Secretary of Defense) in February, RADM Sokalzuk (Assistant Commandant of the Coast Guard for Resources and CFO) in April, and the Honorable Mike McCord (Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)) in May. Hope you can join us to hear these exciting National Security Leaders give us their perspectives at our Monthly Chapter Luncheons at the Westin Crystal City, the 3rd Thursday of February, April and May. Sign-up NOW on our website! Don't miss our annual National Capital

Region Professional Development Institute (NCR PDI) scheduled for March 3 at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center beginning at 8:00 a.m. This year's Theme is "Real Change Will Transform DoD FM"! Once again, thanks to Deb Delmar and her incredible NCR PDI Committee, we have a great line-up of speakers, workshops, and Speed Mentoring! Registration is almost full so register NOW at our website. We have many other upcoming events including new CDFM Training in the spring and lots more. Stay tuned to the Washington Chapter website for these event and volunteer



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

opportunities! Check them out on our WEBSITE (<http://www.washington-asmc.org>) and FACEBOOK page. So, there you have it! There is no reason to let the winter doldrums get you down when your ASMC Chapter has so much going on! SEE YOU AT OUR LUNCHEONS AND THE 2015 NCR PDI!



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

December 2014

(Sponsored by U.S. Marine Corp)

The December Holiday Social was held on 4 Dec 2014 at the Army Navy Country Club. The response was wonderful with over 150 in attendance. The Chapter greatly appreciates your generosity in support of Toys for Tots and the Capital Area Food Bank. It was a heartfelt way to begin the Holiday Season and we look forward to seeing everybody next year!



October 2014

(Sponsored by Washington Chapter Corporate Members)

Speaker: VADM Lou Crenshaw USN (Ret.)
Founder and President of Crenshaw Consulting Associates LLC, a Service Disabled, Veteran Owned Small Business

Topic: "Where you stand depends on where you sit"

September 2014

(Sponsored by Department of Army)

Speaker: LTG Karen Dyson
Military Deputy for Budget, Assistant Secretary of the Army, Financial Management & Comptroller

Topic: "Challenge of Change"



Upcoming Events

February Luncheon

ASMC Washington Chapter Luncheon Meeting (February 19, 2015)

Sponsored by Washington Chapter Air Force Members

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



Westin Crystal City (formerly Sheraton) located: 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia, 22202.

Westin Crystal City Hotel is conveniently located in the heart of Arlington's Crystal City, adjacent to the Crystal City Metro Station (Yellow and Blue Lines)

Social 1130, Lunch 1200

Register at

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

April Luncheon- Sponsored by Washington Chapter Coast Guard

Speaker: **RADM Sokalzuk, Assistant Commandant for Resources, CFO**

May Luncheon- Sponsored by Washington Chapter Department of Army

Speaker: **Honorable McCord, Undersecretary of Defense, Comptroller**

Other Upcoming Events

2015 ASMC National Capital Region PDI

Tuesday March 3, 2015

**Location: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004
Phone: (202) 312-1300
Program Start Time: 8:00am**

Join us on 3 March 2015 for this year's National Capital Region PDI! This year's program boasts speakers from across the DoD providing you an opportunity to hear leadership's perspective on our Nation's most pressing fiscal challenges. The Honorable Mike McCord, Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) will kick off the event by discussing the current fiscal landscape, its challenges, and DoD priorities. As in years past, the morning will be dedicated to keynote speakers and Service updates, followed by an afternoon of targeted training in areas of budget, Audit Readiness, FM Systems, and workforce development. The day also features a 2-hour mini-course providing course hour credit toward the DoD FM Certification Program Level 3 – Leadership Competency, in addition to speed mentoring and tech talks for additional learning. To register, visit the link below.

To register please visit: [Registration Link](#)

2015 Essay Competition

This year's Essay must be written on the current topic for 2015: "What improvements are necessary in the resource management profession as resources and personnel continue to decline? Describe how to implement the proposed improvements." The deadline for this submission is not later than February 28.

2015 Chapter Leadership

This award recognizes individuals for outstanding and continuous leadership, accomplishment and support of the society at the ASMC chapter level. Submissions are due April 10th. A selection panel of at least three members, chaired by the Associate Director for Membership and Chapter Development, will review and judge all nominations received. The nominator will be notified by May 1 by e-mail if their nominee has been selected.

2015 Corporate Member Award

This award recognizes one Corporate Member for outstanding contributions made to a local Chapter and the National Organization in the furtherance of the goals of the chapter and the society. Submissions are due April 10th. A selection panel, chaired by the National Awards Committee and assisted by the Corporate Advisory Group Chairman, will review all nominations and make a final selection. Award will be presented at the annual ASMC Professional Development Institute (PDI). Chapters will be notified by May 1 if their nominee has been selected.

Coming Soon!!

Election of Washington Chapter Officers is coming up in the spring. Stay tuned to the Washington Chapter website for more details.

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

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.

National News

from the National ASMC

[Carter confirmed as Secretary of Defense](#)

Friday, February 13th, 2015

Yesterday, the Senate voted 93-5 to confirm Ashton Carter as the 25th Secretary of Defense. President Obama nominated Carter in December and the Senate Armed Services Committee cleared Carter's nomination earlier this week 26-0.

Carter succeeds Chuck Hagel who announced his resignation in November, but has continued in service until a new secretary is confirmed and installed.

Carter served as Deputy Secretary of Defense from December 2011 to December 2013. Prior to becoming Deputy Secretary, he was Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, a post he held from 2009 to 2011. Carter also served in the Clinton administration as Assistant Secretary of Defense for international Security Policy from 1993 until 1996.

During his Senate confirmation hearing (held February 4), Carter's nomination was generally applauded by members of the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC). SASC chairman Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) called him "one of America's most respected and experienced defense professionals." Ranking SASC member Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) said Carter was "uniquely qualified to lead the Department of Defense."

President Obama praised Carter's confirmation in a statement from the White House. "With his decades of experience, Ash will help keep our military strong as we continue the fight against terrorist networks, modernize our alliances, and invest in new capabilities to keep our armed forces prepared for long-term threats, Obama said.

Carter is expected to be sworn in next week.

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

Training and Education

Attention Members!



ASMC Washington Chapter Training & Education initiative

The ASMC Washington Chapter is sponsoring two Management Concepts mini courses:

Cost Benefit Analysis

2.5 hours

DoD Cert Level 2

Thursday April 2, 2015

Internal Controls: Meeting Federal Requirements for Accountability

2.5 hours

DoD Cert Level 2

Friday April 17, 2015

Each class is limited to 30 participants, will be given at the Management Concepts Washington DC Training Center and is free to ASMC Washington Chapter members.

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

Kearney & Company, P.C. is a pacesetter in a fast-paced environment! As an IPA firm with a Federal financial niche, we focus on partnering with and delivering for DoD. Kearney has performed work across DoD, at the Army, Navy, Air Force, Defense Health Agency, and Military Retirement Fund, as well as at the Department level and other agencies. We lead accounting functional ERP development, advise on audit readiness, perform IPA audits, consult on workforce development, and perform training, certification, and career path development, to name just a few projects. Kearney is also represented in the COCOM world, supporting both SOCOM and TRANSCOM in their financial improvement efforts.



Kearney brings to DoD a diverse team of financial management professionals. Our leaders include former uniformed services officers, former civilian DoD financial professionals, as well as professionals who have prepared for and delivered successful Federal audits throughout civilian Government agencies. Our combined perspectives can provide DoD with workable, real world solutions to its financial management challenges.

In short, Kearney understands DoD's business and its environment. And most importantly, Kearney understands delivery. We have 29 years of understanding, validated by recognition as a "Top 100 Accounting Firm" by *INSIDE Public Accounting*; a "Best Place to Work" by *Accounting Today*, *Washington Business Journal*, and *Virginia Business*; a "Virginia Fantastic 50 Business" by Virginia Chamber of Commerce; and a "Best for Vets" employer by *Military Times EDGE*. Unparalleled credentials, unparalleled team... Kearney sets the pace

Featured Corporate Members

The U.S. fiscal outlook has put pressure on the Department of Defense (DoD) to support current operations, maintain readiness, extend the life of existing capabilities, and acquire new capabilities to meet future threats. To respond to these mission requirements under current fiscal constraints, DoD is undertaking activities to develop a more agile, integrated, and transparent business environment. In short, we know that we need to do more with less, and leverage current capabilities and technologies more effectively. Standardization of operations, financial management, and data will provide senior leaders with more reliable financial information. Accurate and reliable financial information allows us to make more informed decisions that ultimately benefit the customer and the Department of Defense as a whole.



Since 2006, *St. Michael's Inc.*, a Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business, has been supporting DoD and Coast Guard clients with Audit Readiness, Dashboard & Productivity Tools, Feeder System Reconciliation, and PPBE support. At *St. Michael's Inc.*, we pride ourselves on delivering solutions that are compliant with government regulations, while modernizing and optimizing client business processes to support 21st Century mission requirements and objectives.

As an ASMC Silver Corporate member, *St. Michael's Inc.* appreciates the work and service performed by DoD and Coast Guard Financial Managers. As we continue to navigate the challenges and opportunities ahead, we all need to remember why DoD started this Audit Readiness initiative. It is not just about becoming audit-ready; it is about knowing, understanding, and executing DoD's business processes efficiently and effectively. It is a privilege to work with people who appreciate DoD's bottom-line, mission outcomes, and operational effectiveness. Most especially, we appreciate the opportunity to work together to get it done right. Thank you for your service!

St. Michael's Inc.



THANKS TO OUR 20 CORPORATE GOLD & SILVER MEMBERS!



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Chapter Officers

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Mrs. Ariane L. Whittemore
ariane.whittemore@usmc.mil
703.614.3435

Treasurer

Ms. Raquel Kuhfahl
raquel.kuhfahl@usmc.mil
571.256.2735

Army Vice President

Ms. Cynthia Crippen-Black
cynthia.d.crippenblack.civ@mail.mil
703-545-9316

Navy Assistant Secretary

Ms. Veronica Trent-Walton
veronica.trent@navy.mil
703.695.2913

Air Force Vice President

SMSgt Roderick C. Lewis Sr.
roderick.c.lewis.mil@mail.mil
240.612.9057

Coast Guard Assistant Secretary

Ms. Stacy Spadafora
stacy.e.spadafora@uscg.mil
202.372.3610

President Elect

Ms. Gretchen V. Anderson
gretchen.v.anderson.civ@mail.mil
703-571-9206

DoD Vice President

Ms. Cynthia L. Curry
cynthia.l.curry.civ@mail.mil
703.697.4542

Army Assistant Secretary

Ms. Dionne Bailey
dionne.m.bailey.civ@mail.mil
703-545-1170

Marine Corps Vice President

Ms. Jane Roberts
jane.roberts@usmc.mil
703.955.1469

Air Force Assistant Secretary

SMSgt Kelly Wismer
kelly.wismer.1@us.af.mil
240.612.9036

Corporate/Retiree Vice President

Ms. Deb Del Mar
debra.delmar@vanguard-llc.com
703.593.6667

Secretary-Designate

Ginger Schmid
ginger.l.schmid2.civ@mail.mil
703-614-6521

Secretary

Ms. Susan G. Sweatt
susan.sweatt@usmc.mil
703.692.5451

DoD Assistant Secretary

Ms. Hannah Francis
hannah.l.francis.civ@mail.mil
703.693.1102

Navy Vice President

Ms. Sandra Wright
sandra.wright1@navy.mil
202.685.1527

Marine Corps Assistant Secretary

Mr. Jonathan R. Newell
jonathan.r.newell@usmc.mil
571.256.8740

Coast Guard Vice President

LTJG Mark Sanchez, CDMF-A
mark.m.sanchez@uscg.mil
202.475.5450

Corporate/Retiree Secretary

Ms. Rita Finney
rfinney@savantage.net
301-938-8198

Washington Chapter 2014-2015 Executive Board

Committee Chairs

Training and Education

Chair: Terry Placek and Millie Thompson

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|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Edson Barbosa | CDFM | barbosaEN@state.gov | 202-736-7357 |
| Wendy Pouliot | Awards/Essay Chair | wendy.pouliot.civ@mail.mil | 703-697-0156 |
| Lisa Donahue | Scholarship | lisa.j.donahue.civ@mail.mil | 703-697-5011 |
| Milford E. Thompson | Luncheon | milford.thompson@navy.mil | 202-685-1524 |
| Terry Placek | Training & Education | terryplacek@yahoo.com | 703-599-4514 |

PDI

Chair: Deb DelMar

| | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Ramni Abdul-Jalaal | PDI Silent Auction | ramni.abdul-jalaal.civ@mail.mil | 703-692-2015 |
| Deb Del Mar | Regional PDI | debra.delmar@vanguard-llc.com | 703-593-6667 |

Outreach and Publicity

Chair: Wayne Whiten and Jeff Norris

| | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Veniceza "Vee" Critton | Competition | veniceza.critton.civ@mail.mil | 703-695-6458 |
| Jeff Norris | Community Service | jnorris@kpmg.com | 202-533-4024 |
| Dan Olden | Membership | dolden@kpmg.com | 202-533-5183 |
| Rocky Wilber | Photographer | rocky.wilber@dfas.mil | 571-372-7190 |
| Mo Kohistani | Newsletter Managing Editor | mohammad.kohistani@ey.com | 571-213-3709 |
| Wayne Whiten | Webmaster | wayne.whiten@calibresys.com | 703-797-8831 |

Audit

Chair: Ann McDermott

ann-cecile.mcdermott@usmc.mil
703-614-1150

Nominating

Chair: Ariane Whittemore

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Cynthia Curry | DOD VP | cynthia.l.curry.civ@mail.mil | 703-697-4542 |
| Cynthia Crippen-Black | Army VP | cynthia.d.crippenblack.civ@mail.mil | 703-692-5746 |
| Sandra Wright | Navy VP | sandra.wright1@navy.mil | 202-685-1527 |
| Jane Roberts | USMC VP | jane.roberts@usmc.mil | 703-955-1469 |
| SMSgt Lewis | Air Force VP | roderick.c.lewis.mil@mail.mil | 240-612-9057 |
| LT Sanchez | USCG VP | mark.m.sanchez@uscg.mil | 202-475-5450 |
| Deb Delmar | Corporate/Retired VP | debra.delmar@vanguard-llc.com | 703-593-6667 |