

DATE: 14 Jan 09
TIME: 1200
PLACE: Eglin Enlisted Club

SPEAKER: Ms. Jennifer Sizemore, Associate Director for Membership and Chapter Development, National Headquarters, American Society of Military Comptrollers

SUBJECT: 60 Years of ASMC "Did You Know?"

Capt Dan Genest, President, Gulf Coast Chapter called the meeting to order, and began by introducing Ms. Jennifer Sizemore. Ms. Sizemore has been employed by ASMC since 1991, where she oversees, the society's support to the members and chapters.

Ms. Sizemore gave an interesting briefing on the history and early days of ASMC. She began by remarking that ASMC just celebrated 60 years. ASMC has undergone lots of changes. ASMC began with 9 founding members who met on 2 Dec 1948 in San Antonio, Texas. At that time it was known as the Society of Military Accountants and Statisticians. Then, on 12 May 1949, the national constitution was adopted. Also, as an added note, Title IV of the National Security Act Amendment of 1948 was a major landmark in financial improvements in the federal government. The act established the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Comptroller.

During the early days of ASMC, membership was limited to commissioned and warrant officers. The society was renamed in 1955 to the American Society of Military Comptrollers. Membership dues were \$5.00 the first year and \$3.00 every year thereafter. In 1970, the constitution was revised to include broader fields of membership to include enlisted personnel.

The first annual convention was held 21-22 Nov 1957 in Washington DC. By the third annual convention in 1959 there were 250 attendees. The convention was renamed the Professional Development Institute in 1981. An added note...in 1976, the National ASMC President and Executive Director were invited to the White House to represent the society at the signing of the Military Appropriations Bill by President Ford.

Ms. Sizemore then asked a trivia question: What was the verified attendance at last year's Orlando PDI? Many people guessed but the person who came closest won an ASMC travel mug, the answer was 4,238.

The Armed Forces Comptroller was first published in July 1956 and was dedicated to founding member Col Jerrold D. McCarthy. By 1959, membership had grown to 1,200 with 25 active chapters. In 1974, a new annual award was created for the most outstanding chapter.

Ms. Sizemore had another trivia question: What year was the Gulf Coast Chapter chartered? And of course the answer was 1980.

As we look at ASMC today, we have around 19,000 members in 148 chapters. Our members include civilian, military and private sector employees. ASMC's annual

convention now attracts up to 4,200 attendees and offers more than 130 workshops. Members who have achieved that CDFM certificate now total 4,400. The staff at ASMC headquarters includes 7 full time and 3 part time employees who support the programs and administration of the society.

Looking ahead to 2009...ASMC hopes to keep everyone informed, provide networking opportunities, provide professional development, leadership opportunities through your local chapters and provide members benefits.

Ms. Sizemore continued with trivia questions: How many chapter members have obtained their CDFM? The answer is 111. She gave away another ASMC travel mug. How many chapter members have obtained their CDFM-A? The answer is 34.

In closing Ms. Sizemore spoke of the upcoming PDI in San Antonio. The charity that will be supported this year is Fischer House of San Antonio. She continued with the National Awards Program and stated they have about 700 nominations and write-ups are due by 31 Jan. ASMC intends to make all awards web based next year. She also stated that the Continuing Education Program money is available. They have 15 categories and usually about 16 nominations. These are due by March and nominees must have been an active member for at least the two previous years.

That concluded our monthly luncheon. Capt Genest thanked Ms. Sizemore for taking the time out of her busy schedule to come and speak to our chapter. On her behalf, the chapter will make a \$50 donation to the Special Operations Warrior Foundation.

Capt Genest closed the meeting at 1300.

Recorded by Brenda Dininger, Secretary, Gulf Coast Chapter.