



ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter Newsletter

April 2024

ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter

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www.asmcconline.org



President's Corner

Written by Mrs. Deborah Washington, President

Greetings Gulf Coast Members,

As we step into the vibrant month of April, we are excited to announce an enriching event that promises to add value to your professional journey. Our upcoming Mini Professional Development (PDI) Training is just around the corner, and we cannot wait to delve into insightful sessions tailored to elevate your skills and knowledge.

This mini training is meticulously designed to provide you with practical insights, tools, and strategies that are essential for your career growth. Whether you are seeking to sharpen your financial management skills, enhance your leadership abilities, or simply looking for networking opportunities within the defense financial management community, this event is crafted with you in mind.

Expect dynamic presentations, engaging workshops, and interactive discussions that will inspire and empower you to excel in your professional endeavors. This is an invaluable opportunity to expand your knowledge base, connect with peers, and stay ahead in the ever-evolving landscape of financial management.

President's Message Continued Next Page...

President's Corner Continued

The Year of Recharging Coming to an End.....

As we embrace the spirit of renewal and growth this April, let us reflect on the journey we've embarked on throughout the year of recharging. Over the past months, we've prioritized self-care, personal development, and fostering a supportive community within ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter. Together, we've recharged our energies, reignited our passions, and refocused our goals.

As this rejuvenating year draws to a close, let us carry forward the lessons learned, the friendships forged, and the memories cherished. As we transition into the next phase of our chapter's journey, let us remain committed to continuous improvement, professional excellence, and unwavering support for one another.

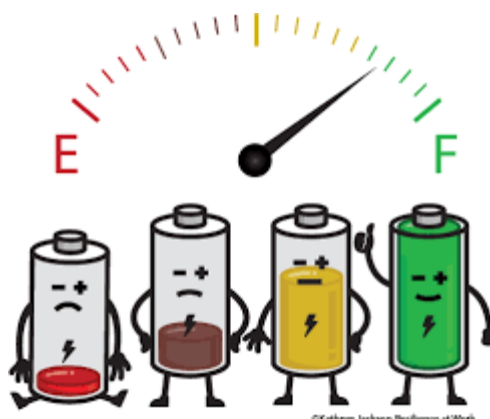
Stay tuned for more updates on our upcoming events and opportunities to engage with your fellow members. Your active participation fuels the vibrancy of our chapter, and we are grateful for your continued dedication and enthusiasm.

We look forward to seeing you at the Mini Professional Development Training and witnessing the positive impact it will have on your career growth.

Let's Continue to Recharge,

Deborah Washington

President,
Gulf Coast Chapter



4 Key Habits for Resiliency

Habit #1 — Debrief Daily.

Before going to bed, think about the ups and downs of your day. Record your thoughts in a journal. This will help you realize your stressors and the events that uplifted you. Reflection of stress triggers will prepare you to deal better with them in the future.

Habit #2 — Be Good to Yourself.

Discover new activities that renew and refresh you. Enjoy at least one of them daily such as time with your pet, having an exercise routine, spending time with someone special in your life, etc.

Habit #3 — Live in the Moment.

Stop yourself from constantly worrying about the future and pay attention to what is going on right now in your life. Focus on good things happening in the moment.

Habit #4 — Give thanks.

Write down things, people and situations that you are happy about in your life. Do it every day. This activity helps to keep life in perspective.

Resource: Bounce: Living the Resilient Life, by Robert Wicks, PsyD

Program News

Past Meeting Summary



Unfortunately, our last chapter professional development session was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts. It's all about the mission! Flexibility is the key to airpower!

Future Meeting Announcement

The next meeting will be our RPDI. It will take place on 17 April 2024 at the Hurlburt Field Soundside from 0730-1545. You do not want to miss out on this unparalleled experience designed to empower and inspire FM professionals. Please review the RPDI News section in the newsletter for more information.



Education News

ASMC Gulf Coast Scholarships



The Gulf Coast Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers is pleased to announce that we are in the process of awarding our annual academic scholarship. Seniors at Crestview, Niceville, Choctawhatchee, Navarre, Baker, Laurel Hill, Destin and Fort Walton Beach High Schools who will be seeking undergraduate degrees in academic disciplines relating to financial/resource management such as business administration, economics, public administration, accounting, or finance are eligible to apply. Additionally, undergraduate students at Northwest Florida State College, Pensacola State College, and the University of West Florida majoring in the afore mentioned academic disciplines are also eligible for this scholarship.

The scholarship applications are located at the link below. Please distribute this information to students who meet the eligibility criteria and have them complete and submit the application **no later than April 15, 2024**, to the point of contact listed on the application.

<http://www.gulfcoastasmc.org/education.html>

For more information, please contact:

Karen Lee (850-883-0972 or karen.lee.14@us.af.mil), or

Pamela Summers (850-883-5391 or pamela.summers.4@us.af.mil)

RPDI News

Unlock Your Professional Potential with ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter's RPDI: Recharging the Work Force! Are you ready to embark on a transformative journey towards professional excellence? Join us at the Regional Professional Development Institute (RPDI) for an unparalleled experience designed to empower and inspire professionals like you.

**Details: 17 April 2024 (0730 – 1545)
@ Hurlburt Field Soundside**

Attendees will earn 6 CPEs at this in person event

Please see the below list of speakers and their topics:

Ms. Kimberly Keck (HQ AFMC/FM)

Military & Civilian Panel (Career Progression)

Mr. Charles Welling (Data Analytics)

Mr. Eugene Bassham (Comedian)

Mr. Michael Panarisi (TSP & Retirement Planning)

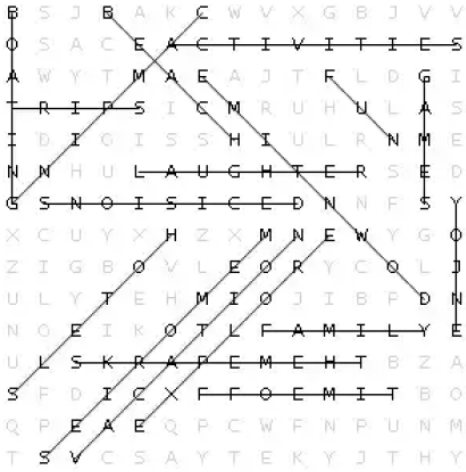
MSgt Samuel Spaethe (AI & its Future with DoD FM)

Mr. Weinberg (Caring about People)

Community News

Answers to March's word search

Water you doing spring break?



Care Packages

If you would like to donate to care packages that go to our deployed FM members, please contact Patrick DeWitt.

Thank you for being the reason someone smiled!

FREE EVENT



Saturday, April 20th, 2024
11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

MILITARY FAMILY APPRECIATION DAY

The Landing

139 Brooks Street, Fort Walton Beach



RUN4HEALTH

5K Color Run and Walk

Saturday, April 20
Spanish Trail Park
Crestview

\$25 registration through March 16
\$30 after March 16
Register online at <https://bit.ly/3UNE1PY>

Race starts at 8 a.m.
Youth and adult age categories

This race is in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month and National Public Health Week. Funds raised will benefit the Early Learning Coalition of the Emerald Coast.

48th Annual Saturday in the Park

FREE ADMISSION
FOOD & CRAFT VENDORS
CAR SHOW
KIDS CRAFTS
BAKE SALE
LIVE MUSIC
& MORE!

SATURDAY APRIL 27, 2024 10:00AM-4:00PM
5 K RUN STARTS AT 8:00 AM
For More Information call 850-678-2615
115 Westview Ave, Valparaiso, FL 32580

children's boutique presents

Mommy & Me PICNIC

A special event for **MOTHERS SONS & DAUGHTERS**

picnic fare, arts +crafts, & more!

Sunday, April 14th at 2 pm

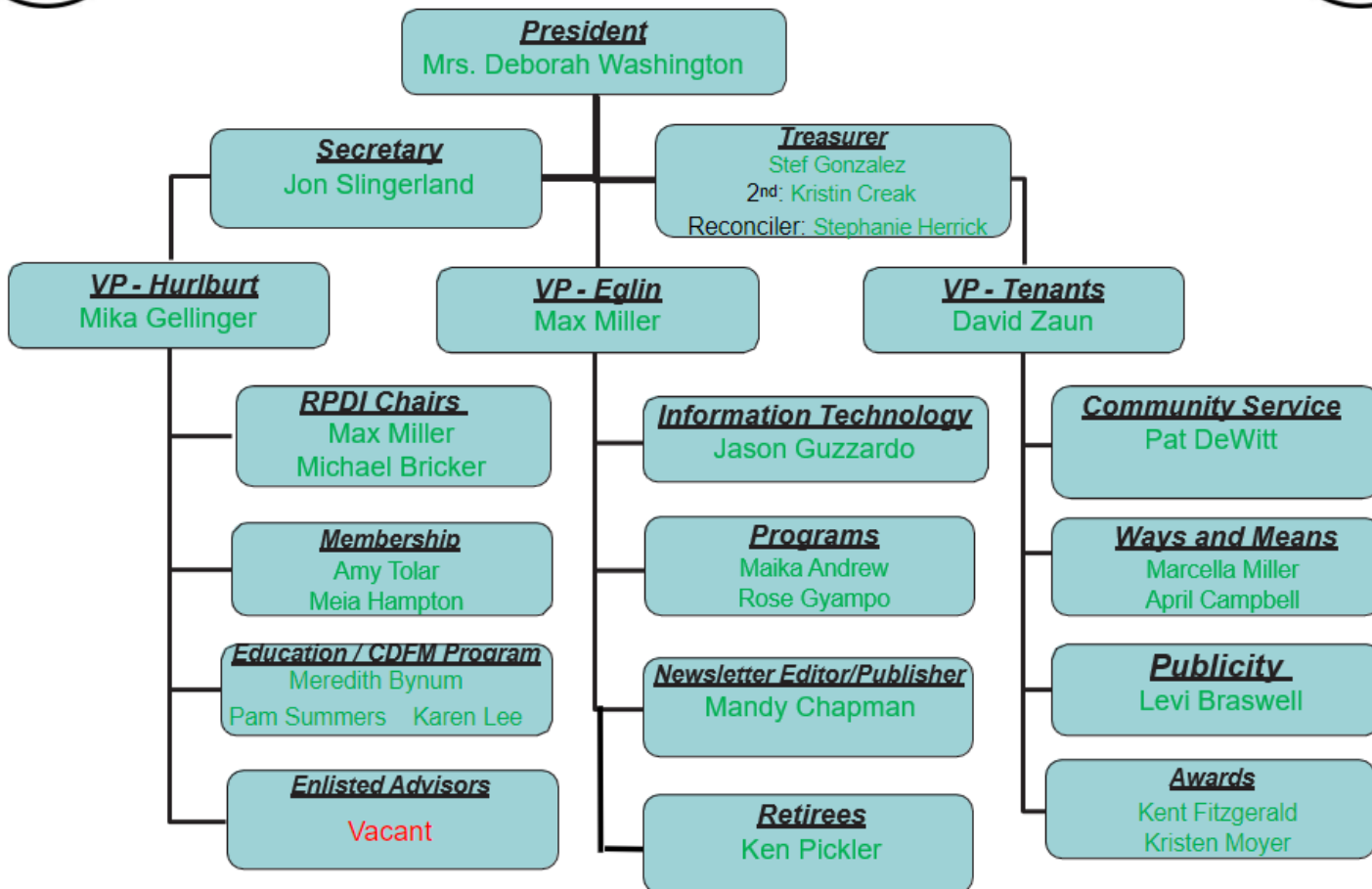
Join us at **Grand Park GRAND BOULEVARD**

*Sponsorship opportunities available!
VISIT laluna4kids.com for updates!

Org Chart



2023-2024 Gulf Coast Chapter



As of September 2023

April Showers Bring May Flowers

C H E E R F U L N R G Z S A O
 T N R E T S A E I R E R Y L R
 U O S I H G B L A J E Z D L E
 N O O E L T Q S R W E P S E N
 S E I F I L S F O E Q X N R E
 D S D L E L A L R L B F B G W
 R E L R I R F B G E P L S I W
 I E K S A V A R E A O E G E E
 B B C A U G E B E S T E R S O
 E V M J C N O L S T A R P Y M
 F C K P C P S O Y E T B E U O
 Z R O K O I M H V Z C U Z X O
 R M J T A S R Q I W O M B R L
 G N I N A E L C G N I R P S B
 A G U L D S P O L L E N D X A

Directions:

Find the word in the puzzle.

Words can go in any direction.

Words can share letters as they cross over each other.

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|-------------|
| Abloom | Allergies | Barefoot |
| Baseball | Bees | Birds |
| Blossoms | Breezy | Butterflies |
| Cheerful | Easter | Flowers |
| Garden | Grass | Lively |
| Pollen | Rain | Renew |
| Spring Cleaning | Sunshine | |

Why Does a Cost Estimate Take So Long?!

By Mrs. Ashley Sandell

In my experience, the time it takes to develop a new cost estimate has been 4-6 months when I worked in AFLCMC/XZW (now EBZ) and 6-9 months here in AFRL. But why does it take this long? “Don’t you have a database for that?” as I’ve been asked by a former Lt Col. On the program office side, yes, there is a database, the Cost Assessment Data Enterprise (CADE), which houses cost reports such as the current FlexFiles and legacy Cost Data Summary Reports (CDSR aka 1921) and Functional Cost Hour Reports (FCHR aka 1921-1). These reports don’t just appear though. They must be included on the Contractor Data Requirements List (CDRL) at the time of the Request for Proposal (RFP). The government pays for these reports as part of the contract cost. Older reports aren’t as helpful as newer reports. Only within the last 20 years or so has a more structured approach been implemented to maintain consistency of submittals using a more detailed Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) defined by MIL-STD-881. Newer formatted data is scarce when we think about how often new programs are created and how long it takes to receive the first and subsequent cost reports, with final reports being the most accurate as they reflect actuals.

This process is even harder on the AFRL side for two reasons: 1) a lot of work is done in-house and 2) every bit of funding goes toward the advancement of Science & Technology (S&T) versus receiving certain reports. This is where other types of data may come in handy.

FM Article Continued...

However, it takes a long time to research this information. Sometimes these rabbit holes lead to nowhere, or almost a month is spent researching an analogous program's budgetary data and trying to gain insight from the former PM, FM, and Tech POCs for the data to only be used on 3 of 57 WBS elements (true story). As you can imagine, if it takes this long for each WBS element, the estimate will take quite a while to complete. To help shorten this timeline, among other reasons, AFRL/RWF has begun creating their CcAR records by WBS element. This will help future estimates by categorizing how much funding is going toward the development of a particular subsystem (guidance, payload, propulsion, etc.), as context is key in determining whether a piece of data is usable for a cost estimate.

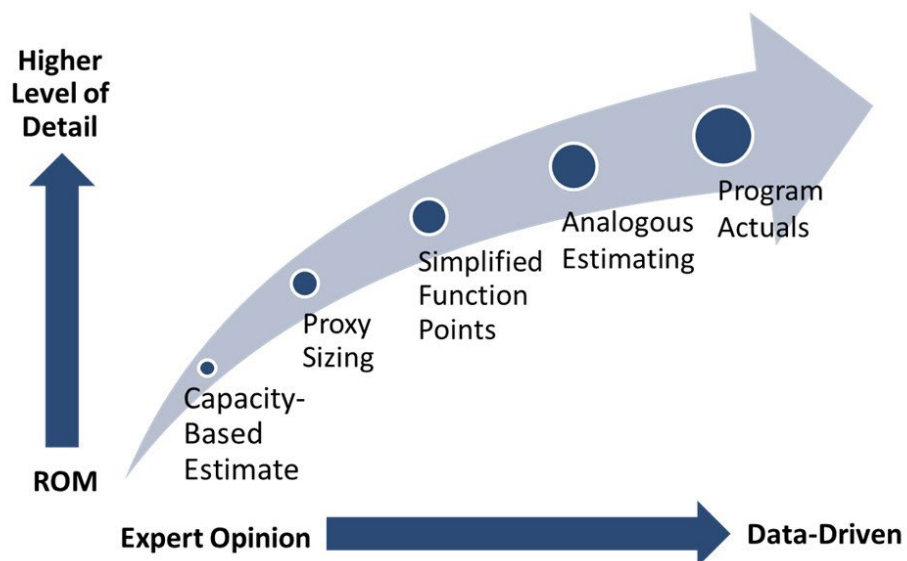
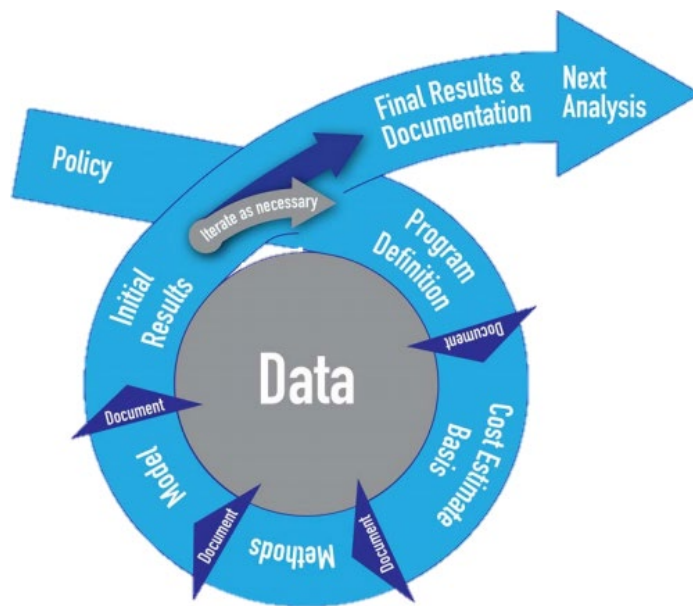
In addition to increased availability of cost reports, we hope over time more organizations will adapt their budgetary records to better inform future cost estimates, in turn shortening the cost estimating timeline. To do this, three main things are needed as part of the data:

- 1) Context! – What part(s) of the weapon system is(are) being funded? (Get this from your PM/Technical team.)
- 2) Funding – How much was obligated/expended? (The easy part, right?)
- 3) Fiscal Year – What is the FY of the funding? (This is for normalization of the data within the estimate, which is another topic for another day.)

Continue next page...

FM Article Continued...

Back to the question at hand, it really does come down to the amount of time it takes to research and find *usable* data. Once the cost analyst has the right data in hand, the estimate build typically takes only a few days to a couple of weeks.



National ASMC Events



Fiscal Law

April 23-25 8AM - 4PM ET Virtual
[<https://asmconline.org/event/24156/>]

Federal CFO Academy

April 29 9AM - 5PM ET Washington, DC
[<https://asmconline.org/event/24156/>]

PDI 2024

May 29 - 31 Phoenix, AZ
[<https://asmconline.org/event/pdi-2024/>]

CDFM Module 1 Refresher 2024

May 28-29, 2024
[<https://asmconline.org/event/cdfm-module-1-refresher-course-may-28-29-2024/>]

CDFM Module 2 Refresher 2024

May 30-31, 2024
[<https://asmconline.org/event/cdfm-module-2-refresher-course-may-30-31-2024/>]

CDFM Module 3 Refresher 2024

June 3-4, 2024
[<https://asmconline.org/event/cdfm-module-3-refresher-course-june-3-4-2024/>]

Fiscal Law

July 9-11 8AM - 4PM ET Virtual
[<https://asmconline.org/event/fiscal-law-course-july-1-11-2024/>]



Program/Speaker Lineup

Future Meetings

GC RPDI
17 Apr 2024
0730-1545
Hurlburt Field
Soundside

TBD May
Location/Time
TBA

Past Meetings

March Madness
F...nt



W...el

Member News



ASMC Gulf Coast Scholarship Application It's Scholarship Time!!

The scholarship applications are located at <http://www.gulfcoastasmc.org/education.html>. Please distribute this information to students who meet the eligibility criteria and have them complete and submit the application no later than April 15, 2024, to the point of contact listed on the application.

Did you or someone you know recently move to another organization at Eglin? If so, you or someone you know may have dropped off the ASMC distro. Be sure to send an email to aac.asmcgulfcoast@us.af.mil so you don't miss any future communication and announcements.



New to the Eglin AFB FM team? Visit the link below to enroll to be an ASMC member. Select Gulf Coast Chapter or log into your account to transfer to our chapter.

Contact Jameia Hampton, membership chair.
<https://asmconline.org/membership/>

2024 RPD I
17 Apr 2024 @ Hurlburt field Soundside
(0730-1545)

Ms. Kimberly Keck
HQ AFMC/FM

MSgt Samuel Spaethe
AI & its Future with the DoD FM

Mr. Charles Welling
Data Analytics

Mr. Michael Panarisi
TSP and Financial Planning

Mr. Eugene Bassham
Comedian

Military & Civilian Panel
Career Progression

Mr. Weinberg
Caring about People

\$75 for members
\$100 for nonmembers

Breakfast snack and lunch will be provided.

AFI34-223 13 DECEMBER 2018

"THIS IS A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION. IT IS NOT A PART OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OR ANY OF ITS COMPONENTS AND IT HAS NO GOVERNMENTAL STATUS"

BUILDING UNITY IN THE FM COMMUNITY

Phoenix, AZ

May 29-31, 2024

The National Professional Development Institute (PDI) is the American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC)'s premier, annual training event for the defense financial management community which will be held May 29-31, 2024, at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Arizona.

National ASMC Article

ASMC Newsroom

News, Defense Financial Highlights

Business of Defense Podcast with Leigh Ann Hope of FTS Federal

By Heather Ireland

March 14, 2024

On this month's episode of **The Business of Defense Rich Brady** speaks with **Leigh Ann Hope**, CEO and Founder of FTSFederal, Inc. about her early days of federal contracting.

Pay tuition? What does that have to do with thriving as a government contractor and, more specifically, how to succeed as a small GovCon on Defense Department programs?

Everything said FTS Federal's Leigh Ann Hope. The founder and CEO of FTS Federal views earning institutional knowledge and stockpiling best practices and lessons learned as paying tuition.

"I call it tuition that I've learned from scraped elbows and knees, of mistakes made, of lessons learned," she said of her experiences having now launched two GovCon businesses in the Defense sector.

"I earned a Ph.D. in tuition and running a small business," Hope said.

What's the takeaway from that "tuition" that Hope paid over the years? She shared a few during an interview for the American Society of Military Comptrollers' The Business of Defense podcast on Federal News Network.

Pay tuition Tip 1: Embrace the business aspects of your GovCon work

Continue reading for more early lessons learned from Hope about the business of federal contracting: <https://federalnewsnetwork.com/the-business-of-defense/2024/03/want-to-succeed-as-a-small-govcon-be-ready-to-pay-tuition-says-fts-federals-leigh-ann-hope/>

National News

Air & Space Forces Magazine

Air Force's 2025 Budget Lags Inflation But Is 'Acceptable' Within New Constraints

By John A. Tirpak

March 11, 2024

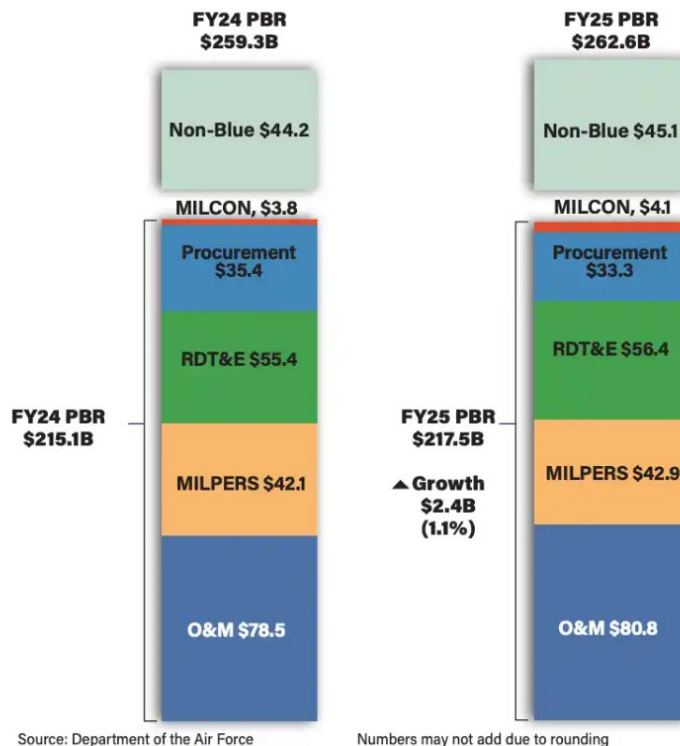
The Air Force's fiscal 2025 budget request is adequate and defensible but doesn't provide the speed with which senior leaders would like to bring on new systems to compete with the likes of China, they said in rolling out the new spending plan.

All told, the Department of the Air Force is requesting a budget of \$262.6 billion for 2025. That total includes \$188.1 billion for the Air Force, \$29.4 billion for the Space Force, and \$45.1 billion in "pass through" funding that the Air Force does not control.

The Air Force request marks 1.6 percent growth, or \$3 billion over the fiscal 2024 budget request, while the Space Force request marks a decline of \$600 million, or 2 percent. All figures are in constant dollars, not adjusted for inflation, indicating both services would actually see a decline in buying power.

"We are not quite keeping up with inflation," acting Air Force undersecretary Krysten Jones told reporters.

Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall hinted as much March 7 at the McAleese defense programs conference when he told attendees there was "no real growth" in the budget.



However, Kendall told reporters ahead of the budget rollout that "I consider this to be an acceptable budget. I can defend it." The spending plan is "moving forward on the things that we prioritize. Again, I'd like to be able to move faster, but you know, we do have constraints."

The Fiscal Responsibility Act, passed by Congress last summer—but after the Department of the Air Force had already largely built a budget—required DAF leaders to "make some hard choices to fit within those boundaries," Kendall said.

National News

Air Force acquisition executive Andrew Hunter told the McAleese defense conference on March 7 that the service had to cut around 2 percent from its budget topline due to the FRA. Though that percentage “sounds small,” Hunter said, the service could not touch personnel accounts, so the cuts fell disproportionately on modernization and readiness.

Air Force budget director Maj. Gen. Michael A. Greiner said the FRA reductions amounted to just over \$2 billion.

However, those cuts will not have a dramatic effect on the Department of the Air Force’s recently-announced restructuring plans, Kendall said. Though new organizations will be created, “they’re going to be created out of pieces we already have,” he said, “so we’re not talking about big manpower increases, and we’re going to minimize, to the extent we can, the movement of people and the acquisition of real estate and so on.”

The “Re-Optimization for Great Power Competition” effort will not be “zero cost,” Kendall added, but he expected the chief expenses will come in the form of adding capabilities and resources to deployable wings. That cost won’t be known for a while as the service classifies wings and takes stock of what it needs.

In general, the Air Force’s budget outlook beyond 2025 appears challenging.

“We’ve got some tough choices ... when we get to [FY] ’26, which we’re building now,” Kendall said. Among the challenges in that budget will be accommodating a nearly \$40 billion overrun on the Sentinel intercontinental ballistic missile program, although the Air Force is looking for economies and that bill doesn’t have to be paid in a single year.

In making choices, Kendall said his priority “is to get to a next generation of capabilities” to offset China’s military advances. As a result, the budget seeks to “protect” Kendall’s seven Operational Imperatives—the key modernization investments he first outlined in 2022. Consequently, there was “a tradeoff” between what he called “the mid-term force”—things that are already developed and which the Air Force is buying—and research and development of “the longer-term force.”

“What we’re doing, essentially ... is buying options for people to procure things in the future. So all that research and development essentially doesn’t give you anything immediately, it gives you an option to then exercise for production later,” he said.

As an example of leadership’s thinking, the budget reduces buying in-production F-35 and F-15EX fighters, but preserves previously-planned developmental funding for the Next-Generation Air Dominance (NGAD) fighter and the Collaborative Combat Aircraft program. The Air Force buy of F-35s drops from 48 in 2024 to 42 in 2025, and the buy of F-15EXs will drop from 24 to 18.

That will also reduce the program of record for the F-15EX from 104 to 98, with production ending in 2025, said Greiner. At one time, the Air Force expected to buy upwards of 180 F-15EXs.

Funding of NGAD and CCA development amounts to \$3.3 billion in 2025, up \$815 million and \$165 million, respectively, from FY’24 requested levels. But for both programs, “life gets a lot harder after ’25,” Kendall said, without elaborating.

Jones said it will cost about \$1 billion extra to achieve the same levels of readiness and flying hours in fiscal ’25 as it did in ’24. This drove “difficult decisions” in munitions, for example, where “we are buying, in some cases, slightly fewer munitions for the same price” as in fiscal 2024, she said.

Kendall said the Air Force is “trying to continue what we hope will be multiyear” contracts for the AIM-120 AMRAAM air-to-air missile, the AGM-158 JASSM-ER stealth ground-attack missile, and its variant, the LRASM anti-ship missile.

Absent congressional authority to do multiyear procurement—which allows buying in bigger lots and economic order quantities for materials—the funding that we have laid in there [previously] will not be able to buy the items that we had planned for,” Greiner said.

“But either way, we have money in there, we’re going to continue to procure those munitions that we know are critical,” he said.

National News

Strategic Funding

Developmental funding for the Sentinel ICBM stayed flat at \$3.7 billion from fiscal 2024 to 2025. That's in addition to \$700 million in military construction costs.

Research, development, test, and evaluation funding for the B-21 bomber will decline from \$3 billion to \$2.7 billion. The budget also includes money for B-21 low-rate initial production procurement, but the number of aircraft and the amount of funding is classified.

B-52 engine, radar, and other upgrade development stays flat at \$1 billion. The Long-Range Stand-Off missile (LRSO), the nuclear cruise missile that will equip the B-52 and later, the B-21, was funded at \$623 million to continue design, development, and test.

Pilot Training

Asked about the ongoing pilot shortage, Kendall noted that flying hours tick up slightly in the '25 budget, from 9 hours per month to 9.2 per pilot, for a total of 1.1 million flying hours, which officials hope will help retention and readiness. Kendall said he promised Air Force pilots that "we would not cut flying hours," and former Chief of Staff—now Chairman of the Joint Chiefs—Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. told Kendall there would be increased risk if flying hours were reduced any further.

But Kendall also argued that the term "pilot shortage" is a misnomer. The Air Force can fill its cockpits, he said. Rather it has "a shortage of staff officers who were supposed to be pilots."

There's also no shortage of people who want to be pilots, Kendall added.

"The problem is the pipeline to produce," he said, "And the biggest impediment in that is the T-38, and its reliability." The T-38 is old, its engines are getting hard to repair, and the Air Force is "waiting for the T-7 to come online and replace it."

The Air Force is in flight test with the T-7A, and the 2025 budget includes \$233 million for seven airplanes. But the T-7 has been delayed and its initial operating capability, initially planned for this calendar year, will be deferred several years, forcing extended reliance on the T-38.

'Right Direction'

Overall "we're very, very fixated on being competitive with the pacing challenge" of China, Kendall said of the 2025 budget.

"I think the budget that we've submitted moves us forward; not quite as fast as we would like to, but it moves us forward, in the right direction, while maintaining the current capabilities that are essential to the nation. So, I'm pretty comfortable with what we're asking for, given the constraints that we have," he said.

