



# GULF COAST CHAPTER NEWS



DEC 11

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MILITARY COMPTROLLERS

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

A continued theme for FY12 and the next couple of years will be the tough fiscal times – for our nation, for DoD and the USAF. FMers are at the center of the battle, providing solid decision support for the tough decisions ahead of us. To meet the challenge, FMers need to ensure we are trained and equipped to handle our role! ASMC offers a variety of training opportunities to keep you up on all the latest news ... next Thursday, 8 December, is the AV conference regarding outcome of the Super Committee. Another great event is our RPDS coming up in March!

Speaking of RPDS! We are again partnering with NCMA and this year's event will be on Thurs, March 8, 2012. In this newsletter you will find a listing of the programs and some information from your RPDS committee. Please read this article and look over the program line-up. The agenda is tight and packed with viable training and speakers to enhance our job performance. There is no fluff or frills and it's a great opportunity to get low cost training, at home, all in one day! Registration will open on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Be ready with your approved attendance and session desires when it does!

I hope to see you at the ASMC Christmas luncheon next Tuesday ... and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas, a Happy Holiday and a great New Year.

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**ASMC, P.O. Box 1756, Eglin AFB FL 32542**

## ***Executive Committee***

President	Ms Leah Hodge	883-3384
VP-Eglin	Ms Lynn Becker	882-4400
VP-Hurlburt	Ms Rebecca Ostrander	884-6030
VP-Tenants	Mr David Herndon	882-4070
Secretary	Ms Sharon Pedersen	882-3812
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	Ms April Chapel	882-6768
Regional PDS	Ms Dedra Hickman	882-4851
	Ms Alyce Frederick	884-7377
	Ms Ivonne Caridi-Anderson	882-9839
Membership	Mr Kent Fitzgerald	883-3809
Education	Ms Sandra Telemacque	882-3511
	Ms Donna Schulist	882-4538
Eglin Enlisted Advisor	MSgt Robert Laufer	882-2055
Hurlburt Enl Advisor	MSgt Julio Nimbley	884-4053
Programs	Mr Jon Slingerland	882-3301
	Ms Jenna Colon	883-0356
	Ms Kaci Harris	882-1525
CDFM	Mr Ron Millis	882-1896
	Ms Lisa Gamon	883-3465
Ways & Means	Ms Jennifer Denega	883-4787
	Ms Cleo Battle	883-0371
Publicity	Ms Melinda Gagnon	882-2087
	Ms Denise Wagner	882-6835
Community Service	Ms Nicole Smith	882-2001
	Ms Brianna Hoppel	883-3411
	Ms Maika Andrew	882-7211
Awards	Maj Yolanda Glenn	884-2804
Newsletter	Ms Laura Gamble	884-6869
	Ms Sharon Winnicki	882-1100
Webmaster	Mr Jason Guzzardo	882-0055
	Mr David Loch	882-0057

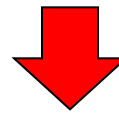
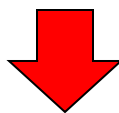
### ***Minutes: Executive Council & Regular Meetings***

The ASMC Luncheon Meeting minutes and the Executive committee meeting minutes are now posted on the Gulf Coast Chapter webpage. To review them, please go to the website <http://www.gulfcoastasmc.org/> and click on the tab marked "Minutes" along the top.



## 2011 Holiday Party

You are invited to join us at the **2011 ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter Holiday Party**. This is free for members and \$5 for non-members. Hope you RSVP'd for this event to be held Tuesday, 6 December. We hope to see you there! Any questions, contact Kaci Harris or Jon Slingerland.



## Directions to Luke's Place – Holiday Party

From the West (Shalimar) Gate:

- Continue on Eglin Blvd approximately 4.2 miles.
- Turn **RIGHT** at the intersection of Eglin Blvd and 8th St (there will be a sign for the Resale Lot).
- Turn **RIGHT** immediately before the Resale Lot.
- You will see a door on the building in front of you and slightly to the left that says "LUKE'S" - This is Luke's Place.

From the East (ValP) Gate:

- 1st light **AFTER** gas station, turn left onto 8th St.
- Turn **RIGHT** immediately before the Resale Lot.
- You will see a door on the building in front of you and slightly to the left that says "LUKE'S" - This is Luke's Place.

## ***2012 Regional Professional Development Seminar***

The 2012 Regional Professional Development Seminar (RPDS) will be held on Thursday, March 8 2012 at the Emerald Coast Conference Center. Registration is scheduled to open December 15. In accordance with current fiscal demands, this year's event will cost only \$110.00 providing an outstanding day of training both beneficial and economical. We offer a one stop shop to get 6.0 CPE's and valuable job related training to support our daily mission.

A first this year will be the offering of the proctored Certified Defense Financial Management (CDFM) testing at the RPDS. This is a great opportunity for those who still need one or two tests to be awarded their CDFM to sit for the test. You can pick from the four modules, depending on need. Additionally, contact Ron Millis if interested in trying to obtain a seat, with supervisor's approval of course, to the February EDFMT coming to Eglin – perfect opportunity to complete those tests if you are attending that course! Also, please remember these tests are \$95.00 each. When you register, Ron Millis will contact you prior to the RPDS to get the payment as these must be paid for in advance. So if you need to test, please make sure to choose the CDFM-testing in Session 3 or 4 when registering.

Attached is the program schedule showing subjects for each session. We anticipate no major changes from this to when registration opens but we do still have a couple of speakers to confirm. We suggest you print the schedule, highlight the classes you would like to attend and seek approval now from your supervisors and leaders to register and attend! We have been committed throughout the program building process to keeping this as valuable, viable training-at a very low cost.

Make sure you watch for registration to open and get signed up! We are looking forward to seeing you in March!

RPDS Co-Chairs, Dedra Hickman, Ivonne Caridi-Anderson, Alyce Frederick,  
Dana Alexander

# 2012 Regional Professional Development Seminar

**0800 to 0930 Opening speaker Major General Joseph Ward, Commandant, Joint Forces Staff College, National Defense University**

**8:30 to 9:45 Break/Move to Session 1**

**9:45 to 10:35 Session 1**

Microsoft Excel Tips and Tricks

Financial Planning

EVM - Importance to Program Mgt

Changes in Cost Estimating

Financial Improvement Audit Readiness

Certified Defense Financial Management—Why it's Important

Deployed Panel – Experiences from the Front

DEAMS - What is it and how does it affect FMs?

Contractor's Perspective of Gov't Contracting

Defense Contract Audit Agency

Small Business Perspective

**10:35 to 10:45 Break/Move to Session 2**

**10:45 to 11:35 Session 2**

Financial Planning

EVM - Importance to Program Mgt

Defense Contract Audit Agency

Changes in Cost Estimating

Small Business Perspective

Certified Defense Financial Management—Why it's Important

DEAMS - What is it and how does it affect FMs?

Air Force Center of Excellence – What They Offer

Deployed Panel – Experiences from the Front

Contractor's Perspective of Gov't Contracting

Financial Improvement Audit Readiness

**11:35 to 1:00 Luncheon with Speaker Peg Drummond:**

**Super Meetings – Making Teams Work!**

**1:00 to 1:15 Break/Move to Session 3**

**1:15 to 2:05 Session 3**

EVM - Importance to Program Mgt

Changes in Cost Estimating

Defense Contract Audit Agency

Standing up the JSF FM office

Small Business Perspective

Certified Defense Financial Management -- Testing

Air Force Center of Excellence – What They Offer

Deployed Panel – Experiences from the Front

DEAMS - What is it and how does it affect FMs?

Contractor's Perspective of Gov't Contracting

Financial Improvement Audit Readiness

**2:05 to 2:15 Move to General Session**

**2:15 to 2:45 General Session for Awards and Recognition**

**2:45 to 3:00 Snack/Break/Move to Session 4**

**3:00 to 3:50 Session 4**

EVM - Importance to Program Mgt

Changes in Cost Estimating

Standing up the JSF FM office

Defense Contract Audit Agency

Small Business Perspective

Deployed Panel – Experiences from the Front

DEAMS - What is it and how does it affect FMs?

Contractor's Perspective of Gov't Contracting

Financial Improvement Audit Readiness

Certified Defense Financial Management -- Testing

## ***Ways & Means – Jennifer Denega, Cleo Battle***

-- Krispy Kreme Donut Sale on 12 Dec (Monday)  
Volunteers needed to take orders for your building!  
Please contact Cleo Battle, 3-0371 or Jennifer Denega, 3-0158

-- Eglin BX Gift-wrapping Dates

Gift-wrapping elves needed!

Please contact Cleo Battle or Jennifer Denega to volunteer

14 Dec 11: 1600-1800

19 Dec 11: 0900-1200

19 Dec 11: 1600-1800

19 Dec 11: 1800-2000

The committee is always looking for members and volunteers to help with our fundraising events. POCs are [aurelia.battle@eglin.af.mil](mailto:aurelia.battle@eglin.af.mil) (883-0371) and [jennifer.denega@eglin.af.mil](mailto:jennifer.denega@eglin.af.mil) (883-4787). **Your ideas are always welcome!**

## ***ASMC National Telecon***

ASMC members,

We have a unique opportunity to hear Mr. Bob Shue give a presentation on a very relevant topic - Deficit Reduction Proposals for DoD. Please mark your calendars for Thursday, 8 Dec at 1pm to attend this telecon which will be presented at Eglin and Hurlburt. Below are the details along with the A3 link to sign up for the training.

ASMC National Telecon - **Date: December 8, 2011 1:00 CT**

Eglin Location: Bldg 349 RM: 215

Subject: Update on Deficit Reduction Proposals for DoD

Speaker: Mr. Bob Shue

Hurlburt Field Location: Bldg 1 Chindit Conf Room 3rd Floor

Subject: Update on Deficit Reduction Proposals for DoD

Speaker: Mr. Bob Shue

A3 Link: <https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil/ASPs/Reg/Register.asp?Filter=OO-ED-AA-A2&Eventid=189&Groupid=243&Class=292052&TypeName=Class>



## CDFM

ASMC National Headquarters will offer CDFM Module reviews through a two day, eight hour audio session. If you are interested in any of these classes please let me know ASAP. Study guides are not provided but can be purchased through ASMC.

December 13-14, 2011 - Module 3 - Accounting and Finance

Text Books - <http://www.asmconline.org/publications/text-books/>

The five day Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Course originally scheduled for 12-16 December 2011 has been rescheduled for 13-17 Feb 2012 . The course is provided by the Department of Defense and is licensed and copyrighted by the American Society of Military Comptrollers. If you are interested in attending this course please register using the EDFMT Registration link below. There are 30 seats available for USAF personnel and shared between Eglin and Hurlburt Field. Attendees will be expected to complete CDFM certification within a reasonable timeframe after course completion.

Date: 13-17 Feb 12

Location: Bldg 871 Rm 1, Eglin AFB

Time: 0800-1630 hrs

EDFMT Registration

<https://www.atrrs.army.mil/edfmt/>

Module 1 - <http://www.asmconline.org/certification/cdfm-modules/module-1-resource-management-environment/>

Module 2 - <http://www.asmconline.org/certification/cdfm-modules/module-2-budget-cost-analysis/>

Module 3 - <http://www.asmconline.org/certification/cdfm-modules/module-3-accounting-finance/>

\*\*\*NEW\*\*\* CDFM Testing (All MODs) will be available immediately following the RPDS in March 2012. Please contact Ron Millis or Lisa Gamon for details using the contact information below.

If you have any questions contact Ron Millis at 875-1896 or Lisa Gamon 875-3465

## Community Service

A big thanks goes to our volunteers who assisted during month of November. Your willingness to help makes these events a huge success! At the December Luncheon we will be having a Toy Drive for ECCAC – see the registration email for more information.

### **UP-COMING EVENTS:**

**GIVE A CHILD A CHRISTMAS (GACAC):** ASMC is sponsoring the craft activities at this year's children's party on December 10<sup>th</sup>. We are looking for volunteers to assist with a craft. The times will be from 1300-1600 with a small break in the middle. If interested, please forward name to Maika at [Maika.Andrew@eglin.af.mil](mailto:Maika.Andrew@eglin.af.mil).

**PET WELFARE ANIMAL SHELTER (EGLIN):** The shelter is seeking volunteers to help with grounds maintenance and clean-up. Our chapter has committed to Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Our goal is to help out quarterly, so if interested please forward name to Maika at [Maika.Andrew@eglin.af.mil](mailto:Maika.Andrew@eglin.af.mil).

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:** Our chapter has an opportunity to help build the next Habitat for Humanity Home in Fort Walton Beach! Construction is planned to begin after the holidays, although specific dates have not been scheduled yet. If interested in assisting, please forward name to Maika at [Maika.Andrew@eglin.af.mil](mailto:Maika.Andrew@eglin.af.mil).

### **ON-GOING EVENTS:**

**DEPLOYABLE CARE PACKAGES:** Items requested include reading materials (sports, fitness/health, car/motorcycle magazines), snacks (nuts, crackers, cookies ect.), toiletries (travel size, shower gel, shampoo, tooth paste, and foot powder/spray ect) and 3 in 1 laundry/dryer sheets. Continue to send names of FM troops that are deployed. POC: [Patrick.Dewitt@eglin.af.mil](mailto:Patrick.Dewitt@eglin.af.mil) and Gabi at [Gabriella.geier-dureitz@eglin.af.mil](mailto:Gabriella.geier-dureitz@eglin.af.mil)

### **PROGRAMS SUPPORTED:**

1. Emerald Coast Children Advocacy (ECCAC)
2. Habitat for Humanity - creating affordable housing opportunities
3. Relay for Life - fight against cancer
4. Fisher House - providing home away from home that enables family members to be close to a love one during stressful times

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## Community Service

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5. Blankets of Hope - handmade blankets supporting wounded soldiers/vets
6. Shelter House - survivors of domestic violence
7. Opportunity Inc - helping the homeless
8. Deployable Care Packages - sent to FM (deployed) troops
9. Give a Child a Christmas
10. Pyramid – provides daily living skills to nearly 100 Emerald Coast adults with disabilities through art programs

Finally, help us keep track of your volunteer hours – email us. As always your suggestions welcomed!

**POCs:** Brianna Hoppel, [Brianna.hoppel@eglin.af.mil](mailto:Brianna.hoppel@eglin.af.mil), 883-4787  
Maika Andrew, [Maika.andrew@eglin.af.mil](mailto:Maika.andrew@eglin.af.mil), 882-1755  
Nicole Smith, [Nicole.smith@eglin.af.mil](mailto:Nicole.smith@eglin.af.mil), 882-2001

## ASMC Awards

EXTRA! EXTRA! What time is it? It is time to reward the hard work of our financial managers throughout Eglin and Hurlburt. I know we have some outstanding performers for 2011 and it is time to recognize them for their tireless efforts. Commanders and supervisors as you construct those 1206s for our Air Force awards please consider taking the time to tailor that information and submit your outstanding FMer for one of our chapter awards.

The Gulf Coast Chapter Annual Award nominations for 2011 are due to Maj Yolanda Glenn NLT13 Jan 2012. Awards will be presented at the Regional PDS on 8 March 2012. Please see the attached nomination form and instructions. You do not need to be a supervisor to nominate someone for an award. Categories are Accounting and Finance, Acquisition/Cost Analysis, Auditing, Budgeting, Comptroller/Deputy Comptroller, Contractor Support, Financial Systems, Intern/Trainee, Resource Management, Team Achievement (Small: 2-10; Large: 11-20).

ASMC National Awards program also has several upcoming deadlines. Nominations for the Essay Contest are due 31 Jan 2012; National Scholarship Program nominations are due 31 March 2012; Members Continuing Education Grant nominations are due 31 March 2012, and nominations for Chapter Competition Program are due 31 March 2011. All nominations must be submitted through the National ASMC Awards Online website at <http://awards.asmconline.org>. Contact Maj Glenn at 884-4940 or by email at [yolanda.glenn@hurlburt.af.mil](mailto:yolanda.glenn@hurlburt.af.mil) with your questions.

## **Membership**

*Chair, Kent Fitzgerald*

Membership is available to individuals who are actively employed in military comptrollership, as active duty or civilian personnel for DoD or USCG. Associate membership is available for persons who do not meet the qualifications but are currently employed in a defense related financial management field. Employees of private sector companies who are interested in ASMC membership may join under the corporate membership program.

New military members E1-E4 and civilian GS1-GS7 can be reimbursed for half of their yearly membership fee. \*New members only.\* I will be providing information about upcoming membership drives and other activities as they are planned. If you have any questions, call me, 883-3809.

## **Guest Article: From Launch to Load**

In early January 2010, I was a Captain sitting in a 65WX slot (cost analyst) fulfilling duties as the Acting Cost Chief in the Launch and Range System Wing (LRSW) at Los Angeles Air Force Base. My greatest daily challenge was getting my team to successfully answer HQ AF Space Command's cost "question of the day" and becoming the best Excel/PowerPoint ranger on earth. On 19 January 2010, I was selected to support a short notice tasking to an undisclosed location as their Comptroller. Little did I know at the time that the deployment would be the most challenging and rewarding work I would come across in my military career to date. This personal narrative will highlight how my responsibilities and daily activities changed as I transitioned from in-garrison acquisition cost with Space Command to a deployed location enabling Special Operations Forces (SOF). Due to the sensitivity of continuing operations and the classification of certain information, specific locations, information and details will be omitted.

First, a glimpse at in-garrison life. Being the Acting Cost Chief of LRSW was akin to being a band conductor. I did little in the way of running cost excursions and tweaking the ACEIT cost model but I was expected to lead the folks who accomplished those activities. LRSW was receiving daily scrutiny and inquiry from MAJCOM and Air Staff as recent cost data predicted that our launch service costs were about to "launch."

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Our Future Years Defense Program inputs did not reflect those rising costs and we needed to lock our best estimate and program resources as soon as possible to preserve support of the national space launch manifest. LRSW was one of the few wings in space acquisitions where “stuff” was happening quickly, but quickly relative to what? It wasn’t uncommon to provide the program control chief with an updated estimate within five to seven days. That position would then be mulled over for another week by the deputy commander and by the time they were approved by the wing commander, assumptions in the estimate were stale and we needed to rerun our estimates. Each day was reminiscent of the previous one; attend meetings, request tasker extensions and lastly make sure I understood the products my team was creating so I could brief them. Does the movie Groundhog Day ring a bell? It was a great job with its own specific challenges but, in my opinion, the work did not seem earth shattering and it was difficult for me to fathom that my work was directly helping an airman or soldier with boots on the ground in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Upon arriving at Camp “X” in Afghanistan I received a high five from the current comptroller as he boarded the same bird I had arrived on 18 hours earlier. It was just enough transition time for me to realize I was the only financial manager assigned to the Joint Task Force (JTF) Headquarters and its approximately 15 Forward Operating Bases (FOBs). If the ship sunk in financial terms it was entirely my fault, if it didn’t, I successfully did my job. As a side note, the JTF mission was to conduct clandestine operations in support of the Global War on Terrorism. During those first few days I often wondered how I could have lasting positive effects on the JTF. A quick review of the current state of financial affairs got me wondering as to why money reserved for Special Operations (I would later come to know these funds as MFP-11 funds) was being used to build out FOBs, lease vehicles and pay for FOB security. The focus of the 11 months that followed was to wean the JTF off of MFP-11 funds, redirecting all the support functions to the appropriate funding source, the theater (Executive Agent). Easier said than done!

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Working Joint means working the way the Army wants to do business. I knew this as I had previously deployed as the Comptroller of the Joint PSYOP Headquarters in Qatar. Although daunting at first, Air Force financial managers usually do very well in this environment as the tools and skill sets we bring to the fight are second to none. No Army Commander has ever been disappointed when told his budget has increased or he can buy more “stuff” because of sound financial management. Mind you, he or she may or may not give credit to the Air Force FMer who made it happen; but they usually do! A typical day in the JTF was a symphony of collaboration between the JTF engineer, contracting and me in order to find a way to execute the needs of the Commander (CC) and the Chief of Staff (CoS). One of CC’s top objectives was to expand the capabilities of the JTF to areas of Afghanistan where no such capability was present. You can’t get bad guys without having good guys within arm’s reach so build out the darn FOBs ASAP so they can support SOF. Building out a FOB requires money and I quickly became best friends with a document called a PR&C. The Army Form 3953, Purchase, Request, and Commitment is the sister document to an Air Force Form 9.

The next 11 months were spent creating numerous Joint Acquisition Review Board (JARB) packages in an effort to get purchases and projects over \$100K validated. Requirements under the \$100K threshold could be approved by a Commanding O-6 or above. After packages were built, briefed and validated by the JARB, I would then lobby, fight and beg for U.S. Forces-Afghanistan (USFOR-A) operations and maintenance funding; good old O&M! The significance of cracking the code on getting funds from USFOR-A was that each dollar supplied by the theater freed up an MFP-11 dollar to be spent on SOF combat/mission requirements. I was even able to build, brief and fund a Super Combined Acquisition Review Board (Super CARB) package which is the validating board for requirements that exceed the \$10M threshold. By the end of the deployment I had secured \$90M worth of USFOR-A funds. The frantic pace at which these packages were built was at what we called the “Speed of War.” When the JTF CC, through the CoS, voiced a request, I looked to find funding and get the project or purchase completed and on contract within 30 days. Adaptability, a critical SOF attribute, is key to

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meeting the needs of SOF's rapidly developing and ever changing requirements. Financial Managers are the lynch pin in this process as I know of no operation that does not require funding.

I look back at the 11 months I spent in the JTF with great fondness. Never have I had the ability to affect a joint team of Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen more greatly than while on that deployment as a Comptroller. The FOBs that we funded and built may have housed the quiet operators who set the stage and helped take down Osama Bin Laden. The up armored vehicles we procured have probably saved many lives by protecting U. S. military forces from ambush or from the impacts of improvised explosive devices. My #1 goal as the JTF/FM was to revolutionize how the JTF viewed funding--as a weapon of sorts and to show leadership that financial managers can be force multipliers and game changers. In the end, I believe I was successful at meeting that ambitious goal and was rewarded with knowing I made a positive and lasting impact. In this current era of budgetary constraints, we all need to contribute our best to make positive changes whether in-garrison or deployed.

*Author:*

*Capt Anthony C. Costanza*

*MAJCOM Budget Analyst*

*HQ AFSOC/FMAO*

## ***Current & Next Meetings and other ASMC events***

**UPCOMING ASMC LUNCHEON –** Mark your calendars:

Dec 6: Holiday Party, pasta bar, Luke's Place, Eglin AFB. Please participate in the dessert challenge and bring a toy for Child Advocacy Center.

Please contact our Program Chairs Jon Slingerland, Kaci Harris, or Jenna Colon if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions on program issues.

## ***ASMC Websites***

ASMC National Headquarters website is <http://www.asmconline.org/>

Our chapter website is <http://www.gulfcoastasmc.org/>

We are looking for new ideas to include on our webpage. Please contact our webmasters Jason Guzzardo (882-0055) or David Loch (882-0057) if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions on chapter website issues.

## ***National News***

For more details, see [www.asmconline.org](http://www.asmconline.org).

The ASMC Online Learning Center currently offers recorded sessions from the past two PDIs as well as access to quarterly ASMC Journals and a short exam associated with them. PDI workshops and the Journal exams offer Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credit and a certificate to validate user participation.

<http://www.asmconline.org/educationtraining/online-education/pdi-online/>

Some of the PDI 2011 workshops and the keynote speaker address (Hon Robert Hale, DoD Comptroller) may be accessed from this website, too.

***Remember our local website is <http://www.gulfcoastasmc.org/>  
and ASMC national is <http://www.asmconline.org/>***

***ASMC, P.O. Box 1756, Eglin AFB FL 32542***