



ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter Newsletter

Fall
2020

**ASMC Gulf Coast
Chapter**

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SMSgt Dustin Hindel

President's Corner

Written by SMSgt Dustin Hindel, Eglin Vice President

ASMC Gulf Coast Members,

It is my honor to serve as a Vice President for this great chapter! As a returning member to the Gulf Coast Chapter, I've been amazed to see that many of the same faces and even more new ones are continuing to serve and help this organization thrive. When I put my name in the hat to be a Vice President, I had no idea what 2020 had in store for us. We've experienced challenges that we never thought we would and have learned to redefine how we connect, how we educate ourselves, and how we keep our organizations running.

For those of you that don't know, I am the Superintendent of the 96th Comptroller Squadron, and I am proud to be back at Eglin after a tour in the Middle East, and 3 brutal years in Hawaii. I am a career Financial Manager, and have experience across the spectrum, from Financial Operations, Financial Analysis, Resource Management, Non-Appropriated Funds and Disbursing. I spent four years at Keesler Air Force Base as a Financial Management Instructor.

What I have learned in my almost 19 years is that Financial Managers, in any form, are vitally important to tackling the National Defense Strategy and furthering the Air Force mission. In my opinion, Eglin Air Force Base and the missions you support are more diverse than any other installation you will ever be a part of. From our day-to-day base level Financial Operations and Analysis, to our far-reaching Research, Test, and Evaluation mission...we have an opportunity to attain Financial Management experience that many of our peers will never get. The organizations we work in, and the missions we support across the spectrum are by far the most complex you may ever see, and from where I sit, you are all crushing it each and every day!

3 Key Lessons I Learned On/After 9/11

Written by Ken Pickler, Programs Chair

Like many of you, I have some vivid memories of that fateful day and its aftermath. As a 40+ year Airman and 30+ year financial manager, I thought I would share a few of the things I have learned since the first jet hit the World Trade Center.



We need to separate the crystal from the jelly jars, in life and career.

The “crystal” for the Center FM leadership that morning was filling our quota of seats in an acquisition training event at the base theater. Center acquisition executives were panelists in a game-show format training, and we certainly wanted to take advantage of the material. I was an active duty Lt Col, and my job was to ensure everyone assigned one of our seats was heading over to the theater that morning.

As Col Greg Williams and I prepared to drive over, our conference room screen displayed the first tower burning. News reports were guessing a Cessna had struck the building. We saw the second plane hit the second tower on live coverage. We knew this was no accident. Our world had changed. But the show must go on, and we headed over to the theater together. We took our seats.

The training began, but vice commander Brig Gen Kevin Sullivan was repeatedly called off the stage. The Pentagon was now burning, but we didn’t know. The Eglin Battle Staff was being recalled. Kathy Nichols came to get me so I could get my car and head to the command post. I spent the rest of the day there. I called my wife, Linda, on my way over to let her know I had no idea when I would be home that day.

As many learned that day, the finest crystal includes going home to your family and thanking God for the blessing of having another day together. Lots of things I had previously thought were crystal were really jelly jars.

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Announcements

- Next ASMC virtual Meeting is 19 Nov
Speaker Leah Hodge, AFLCMC/EBF
- Award packages are due to Maika Andrews and Danielle Hindel by 3 Dec
- Fisher House Meal Delivery slots available, contact Arielle MacKendree
- Check out the last newsletter on our GC chapter website under the Newsletter tab.
- Please shop our Amazon Smile link to support our GC Chapter!
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-2139423>

amazon smile



We are surrounded by great Airmen that help us succeed.

At that time, my only time in a comptroller squadron had been as a customer. I entered the FM cost career field after 4+ years on the USAF Academy economics department. I'd had several

stints as the chief financial officer in large acquisition organizations. I didn't have an opportunity to serve in a CPTS or installation budget office. Imagine my (and Col Williams') surprise when I got the call from AFMC/FM notifying me that I would be deploying to Al Udeid AB in Qatar as the CPTS commander in June '02!

I learned quickly that I had nothing to worry about. The Air Force had placed countless FM Airmen in my life, and was deploying me with a superb 5-person enlisted team from my own organization at Eglin. We trained together before leaving for "The Deid," and arrived within a week of each other. They helped me find my bags among the hundreds piled high in the desert at 0200 hours--after a 24 hour journey during which I discovered the person in my row whose deodorant had failed them--was me!

We had a fabulous deployment and accomplished much. Things we hadn't done before were much easier due to our wingmen back home. The prior 379th Expeditionary CPTS crew had not established formal FM decision structures like a Financial Working Group or Financial Management Board. We sorely needed them as the largest AF base in the AOR was growing in mission and financial resources.



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I picked up the phone and called Leah Hodge, who was the 96th Air Base Wing budget officer then. I explained my predicament and she quickly packaged and sent me a custom “How to build a FWG and FMB” kit and sent it to me. Stuff I couldn’t have gotten from AFIs. Less than a month after hitting the ground there, TSgt Ron Millis and I were conducting Al Udeid’s first FWG and I had established the FMB with the Wing and Group commanders.

A team whose members look out for each other cannot be beat.

The squadron made me continually proud to be associated with them. Mentorship went both ways, but my Airmen, NCOs, and Senior NCO taught me much more than I could have possibly taught them. We established personal and professional bonds that persist to this day.

During my first week there, my troops highlighted a pay decision my predecessor made that didn’t seem quite right. Fully half of our civil engineers had been denied entitlements we thought were due to them. The easy path would have been to move on to other things and blame the previous crew. Instead, we pored over all the pay regs and built a concrete case that led the AF to clarify the rules for members arriving in their assigned AOR but not on the tarmac by month’s end. The planeload of civil engineers were made whole and we had the absolute best CE response times of any squadron when our air conditioners died! That CE squadron commander later came to Eglin as the 96th CE Group commander and spoke at one of our ASMC luncheons...small AF.

When the going got tough, my troops always rose to the occasion. When one of our folks learned his wife was likely to miscarry one of the twins they were expecting, we sent him home knowing the rest of the folks would have to work longer shifts. When I got a call from a CONUS CPTS/CC telling me our inbound Airman was not coming due to a medical issue, no one whined. That guy was to replace an outbound Air National Guard NCO that was packed and ready for her reunion with her infant child and her spouse. I could have kept her longer for mission reasons. Instead, my Eglin wingmen took longer shifts again.

When one of our less experienced Airmen came up significantly short after their shift in the cashier station, MSgt Ron Foorman spent his evening quietly and patiently looking over every check we’d cashed. He found the mistake, found the customer we’d overpaid and fixed it. Service Before Self personified.

In closing, I think you can tell I’m very proud of our comptroller community. Some of the people mentioned above are still heroes among us. They continue to inspire and support me, and I thought these stories might inspire you.



REMEMBERING 9/11

Membership

Seven More Membership Benefits

ASMC membership allows you to:

- Have access to online educational opportunities, where members can participate at their own pace, start and stop sessions, and download presentations.
- Join in one of the more than 100 chapters worldwide. Chapter benefits could include monthly luncheons, local education activities, chapter publications, philanthropic endeavors and more.
- Receive discounts on Certified Defense Financial Manager (CDFM) Program training textbooks, enrollment, and recertification. The CDFM is one of the DoD-approved Test-Based Certifications recommended for Certification Levels 2 and 3 of the DoD FM Certification Program.
- Have the opportunity to participate in the National Awards Program. This program includes achievement awards, an essay contest, corporate member award, members' continuing education grants, high school scholarships and many chapter program awards.
- Gain access to the CPE management tool, which allows members to manage, track and record their continuing education experience.
- Have an opportunity to demonstrate leadership as a chapter officer or committee member.
- Network with military comptrollers/financial managers and other business organizations interested in military comptrollership.





Program / Speaker Lineup

29 Oct: Carolyn Gleason,
SES, SAF/MG, Former
AFLCMC/FM

19 Nov: Leah Hodge,
AFLCMC/EBF

16 Dec: Holiday
Celebration ; LaTanya
Bryant, AFSOC/FM-1

Jan: Steve Herrera, SES,
SAF/FMB ; Carlos
Rodgers, SES, SAF/FMBI

Feb: Bill Rone, SES,
Retired, Former
AFSOC/FM

Mar: Brig Gen Heath
Collins, AFPEO/SS *
AFLCMC/EB

Apr: RPDI

May: Maj Amy Justus,
96CPTS/CC

June: 2021 Installation of
Officers / Scholarship
Presentations

Education

Training from TekSouth

Did you know that TekSouth offers training courses? You can register for upcoming sessions at:

<https://www.teksouth.com/vtt-reg/>

Enter your information and select your ASMC local chapter from the dropdown list. Previous session topics:

- On Point: Maximizing PowerPoint
- 4-Star Scorecard
- Dashboard Basics
- Pivot Tables
- Ed Fritts' Tips and Tricks

See what you have missed at:

<https://www.teksouth.com/tipsand-tricks/>

Virtual EDFMTC Now Available!

Live, Instructor-Led course taught in three modules via Zoom ► 40 hours of Continuing Professional Education units (video webcam required) ► One (1) 2020 EDFMTC Textbook w/standard shipping rate (See technical capabilities for Zoom) Register today for at <https://imis.asmconline.org/net/Products.aspx?category=vedfmtc>

Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training!

\$1,100 USD per 5-day course (includes FREE **2020 EDFMTC Textbook) (Fee is non-refundable and not transferable)

ASMC's Virtual EDFMTC is aligned to the DoD FM Certification Program!

Download the crosswalk on the DoD FM alignment page [here](#).

Now available! Online proctored testing for CDFM exams (exam cost not included) For more information, <https://asmconline.org/pd/training/edfmtc/>

COVID-19: Up Close and Personal...It's NO JOKE!

Written by Denise Ward, ASMC President, 2018-2020

With over 8 million US COVID-19 cases and 220K deaths, there are still so many people who are NOT taking COVID-19 seriously but this is serious...IT'S VERY SERIOUS!!! I never would have thought that my grandbaby's 3rd birthday party (held at her GG's house in Georgia) would have turned into a COVID-19 breeding ground. During early March, COVID-19 was just being discussed in the news but to the extent in which it quickly escalated. Certainly if we had known how life-threatening the virus was at that time, we would NOT have had a huge birthday party with bouncy houses, face-painting and hundreds of adults & kids. A kid's birthday party held on March 7th, resulted in 4 people diagnosed and hospitalized with COVID-19 all within 10 days of each other.

My sister-in-law was the first to start experiencing symptoms on Sunday March 8th and was hospitalized a few days later. By Monday March 9th, my aunt was sick and admitted into the hospital on March 13th. On March 14th, the day after my mom went with her sister to the hospital, she started to feel ill and on Tuesday March 17th, my best friend was admitted to the hospital. All diagnosed with COVID-19!!!

My Mom Rosa, who is 76 years old and in great health, complained of a stomach ache. She couldn't eat or drink anything for weeks before she ended up in the hospital from dehydration. She complained of no sense of smell or taste long before those symptoms were ever mentioned in the news. What we thought was a stomach bug turned out to be COVID-19 with the onset of pneumonia shortly after arriving at hospital via ambulance. Still now, 7 months later, I fear what would have happened if we had waited just one more day before convincing her to go to the hospital.

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My Aunt Emma, who is 66 years old, had a few underlying medical conditions and ended up in ICU and on a ventilator for 36 days. She is our walking miracle. She finally came home from hospital on May 22nd after almost 3 months in the hospital intensive care unit.



I share this story with you to stress how serious this is. I know we all have our own opinions and political beliefs but this isn't about that. This is about the lives of our friends and love ones. This is about staying safe and healthy. This is about doing whatever we can to minimize the spreading this deadly virus to our co-workers, friends, grandparents and great-grandparents. I personally can't imagine what it would feel like to NOT be able to breath. Can you? Just think that...so many people were needing ventilators and none were available. Can you imagine a person dying from suffocation/asphyxiation? Wouldn't that be a horrible way to die? Why would we want to put others at risk or in danger of contracting such a deadly virus that is literally taking lives daily?

Of course we all know how annoying it can be to wear the mask and to remember to put it on when heading to the next meeting but by not wearing your mask, not washing your hands and sanitizing, you put others at risk and in grave danger....people you know personally, people you love dearly as well as people you don't know at all. It truly doesn't seem IMPORTANT until it's one of your family members suffering. It doesn't become REAL until it's your mom, dad, sister, brother, grandma or your grandpa fighting for their lives. It actually doesn't become TANGIBLE until you're attending the funeral of your lost loved one. Let's not wait until it's too late to at least TRY to do something to help mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19. Let's be proactive whether you believe COVID-19 is real or not. I ASK. I BEG. I PLEAD with each of you. Let's do our part to help keep everyone SAFE and COVID-FREE!

~COVID-19 is REAL. It's no JOKE!~



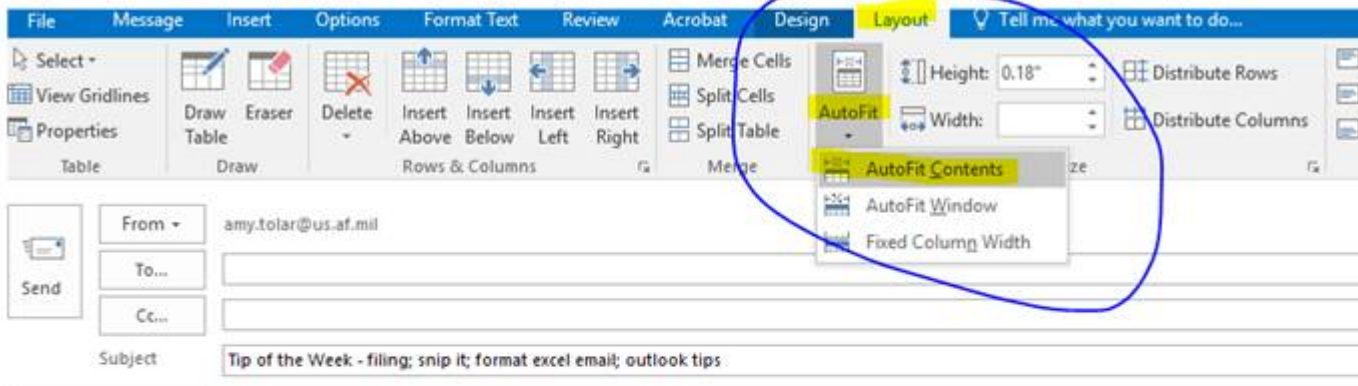
Tips of the Week– Outlook

by Amy Tolar

Formatting tables in an Outlook email

Do you have wasted space in excel/tables in your email that you are sending out?

- Select your data (left), right click autofit and autofit contents
- (or go to layout, auto fit and click auto fit content)



Need a good filing system?
chronologically log your documents like this:
20200810 Doc info

Formatting an excel in an email:
If you have wasted space in excel/tables

FA865112D00430011AW	69	2015	20688404	J5W006	622068	6TRWWS	079864	845263	82100	B	\$	3,091.36	
FA865112D00430013AG	69	2017	20689956	J7W147	622068	6TRWWI	313171	195164	82100	B	\$	2,109.23	
FA865113C0012	AE	69	2015	30050615	J5W353	663005	6TRWWG	223517	602827	82100	B	\$	9,873.76
FA86511420006	AM	69	2017	2502SCEP	J7P035	622502	6TRWPB	147093	105830	82100	B	\$	144,769.76

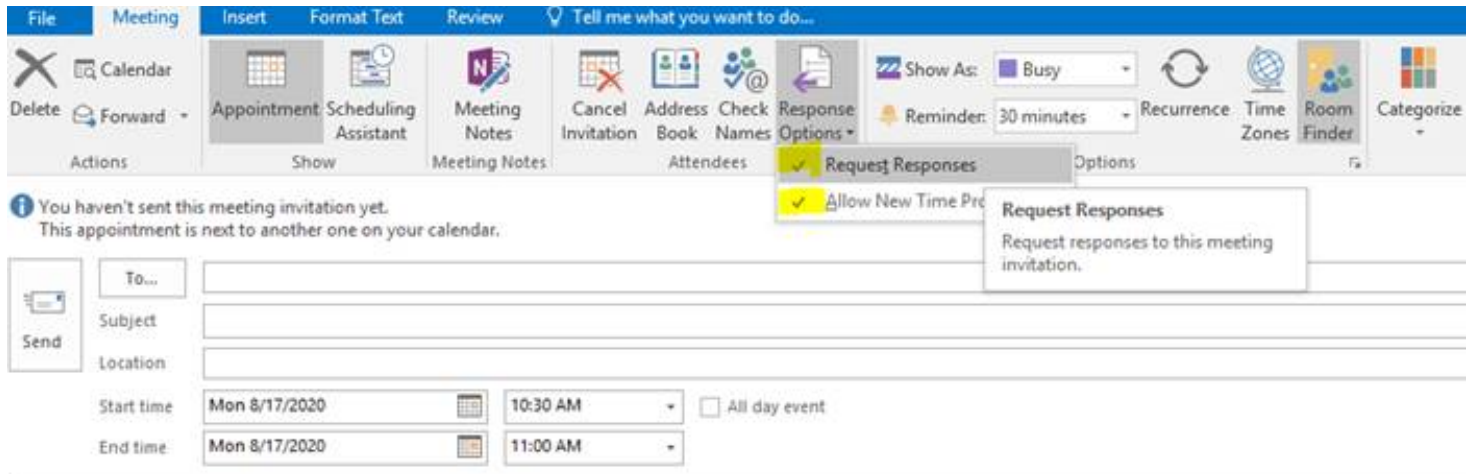
Do you have wasted space on a print screen?

- Remove part of the picture by right clicking and selecting crop
- You will be able to see the space you are removing



Under Outlook Options you can:

- set up your calendar for your actual work hours Mon-Fri.
- uncheck Allow attendees to propose new times for meetings in your default settings.
- set up reminders 15 Min instead of 30.

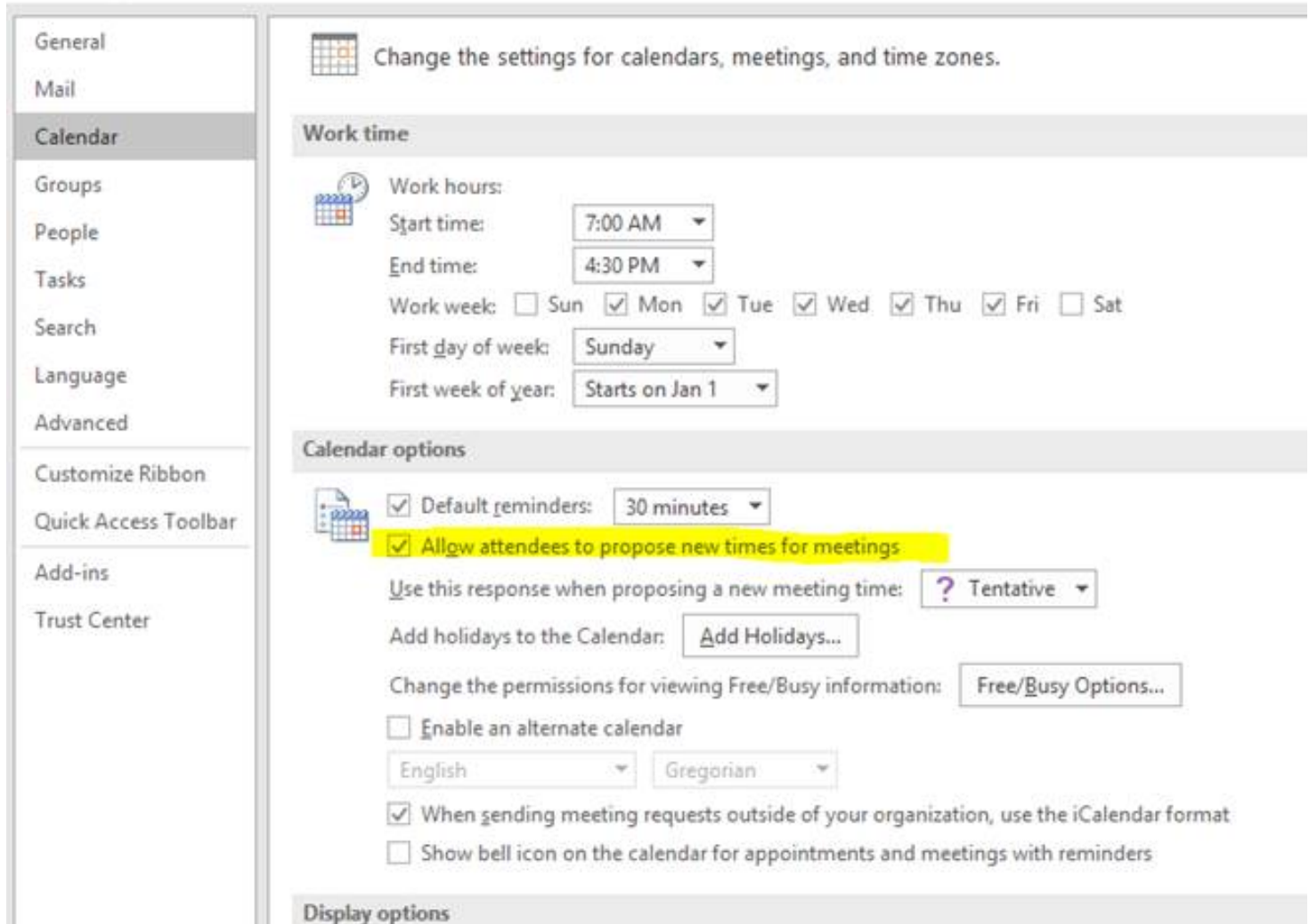


The screenshot shows the Outlook Meeting ribbon with the following options checked:

- Request Responses
- Allow New Time Proposals

The ribbon also includes options for Show As (Busy), Reminder (30 minutes), Recurrence, Time Zones, Room Finder, and Categorize. Below the ribbon, a message box states: "You haven't sent this meeting invitation yet. This appointment is next to another one on your calendar." The meeting details form shows the start time as 10:30 AM and the end time as 11:00 AM on Monday, 8/17/2020.

Outlook Options



The screenshot shows the Outlook Options dialog box with the Calendar tab selected. The options are as follows:

- Work time**
 - Work hours:
 - Start time: 7:00 AM
 - End time: 4:30 PM
 - Work week: Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat
 - First day of week: Sunday
 - First week of year: Starts on Jan 1
- Calendar options**
 - Default reminders: 30 minutes
 - Allow attendees to propose new times for meetings
 - Use this response when proposing a new meeting time: Tentative
 - Add holidays to the Calendar: Add Holidays...
 - Change the permissions for viewing Free/Busy information: Free/Busy Options...
 - Enable an alternate calendar
 - Language: English
 - Calendar: Gregorian
 - When sending meeting requests outside of your organization, use the iCalendar format
 - Show bell icon on the calendar for appointments and meetings with reminders
- Display options**



Need to send an email later - on a specific day or time?

- Select Delay delivery and set up the date and time you need the email to send out.
- Make sure you are in outlook (and VPN) for it to send. Check the outbox if it did not send. Select send if needed.

Need your reply to go to a specific person?

- Check Have replies sent to and then “add name”

The screenshot shows the Outlook 'Compose' window. The ribbon includes 'File', 'Message', 'Insert', 'Options', 'Format Text', 'Review', 'Acrobat', and 'Tell me what you want to do...'. The 'Options' group is active, showing 'From' and 'Delay Delivery' options. The 'Delay Delivery' button is highlighted. The 'To' field is empty, and the 'Subject' is 'drafting an email to send later'. The 'Properties' dialog box is open, showing 'Settings' and 'Security' tabs. Under 'Settings', 'Importance' and 'Sensitivity' are set to 'Normal'. Under 'Delivery options', 'Have replies sent to' is checked and set to 'MANFREDI, DANE L GS-12 USAF AFMC AFRL/RWF'. 'Do not deliver before' is set to '8/18/2020 1:30 PM'. 'Save copy of sent message' is also checked. The 'Categories' are set to 'None'. The 'Security' tab shows 'Change security settings for this message' and a 'Security Settings...' button. The 'Close' button is visible in the bottom right corner of the dialog box.

Respectfully,
Amy Tolar
AFRL/RWF Financial Analyst

The Outlook logo is displayed in the bottom left corner of the screenshot.

National News

Electromagnetic Spectrum Superiority Strategy Released

By www.defense.gov

OCT. 29, 2020

Today the Department of Defense announced the release of the DOD Electromagnetic Spectrum Superiority Strategy.

“The rise of mobile systems and digital technology across the globe has placed enormous strain on the available spectrum for DOD’s command, control, and communication needs. This strategy will help set the conditions needed to ensure our warfighters have freedom of action within the electromagnetic spectrum to successfully conduct operations and training in congested, contested and constrained multi-domain environments across the globe,” said Hon. Dana Deasy, DOD chief information officer.

The purpose of the strategy is to align DOD electromagnetic spectrum (EMS) activities with the objectives of the 2017 National Security Strategy, the 2018 National Defense Strategy, and national economic and technology policy goals.

“This Strategy addresses how DOD will: develop superior EMS capabilities; evolve to an agile, fully integrated EMS infrastructure; pursue total force EMS readiness; secure enduring partnerships for EMS advantage; and establish effective EMS governance to support strategic and operational objectives. Investment in these areas will speed decision-quality information to the warfighter, establish effective electromagnetic battle management, enable EMS sharing with commercial partners, advance EMS warfighting capabilities, and ensure our forces maintain EMS superiority,” Secretary of Defense Mark T. Esper, wrote in the forward of the document.

The strategy attests to the need for freedom of action in the electromagnetic spectrum, at the time, place, and parameters of DOD’s choosing as a required precursor to the successful conduct of operations in all domains.

“The Department is dedicated to a unified, holistic electromagnetic spectrum operations (EMSO) approach which ensures our Freedom of Action in the EMS at the time and place of our choosing,” said, Air Force Gen. John E. Hyten, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. “We cannot expect military success in any domain if we fail to take bold action to ensure that the United States and its Allies have freedom to act in the spectrum. Implementing the EMS Superiority Strategy enables us to take that bold action so we are able to dominate the spectrum in all domains and, if challenged, win against our enemies.”

The Strategy builds upon existing joint and Service doctrine and operational concepts that incorporate the full range of military activities in the EMS.

Continue reading at:

<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2397850/electromagnetic-spectrum-superiority-strategy-released/>