



# GULF COAST CHAPTER NEWS



Mar 08

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MILITARY COMPTROLLERS

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### APRIL CHAPEL

The RPDS has come and gone and I wanted to say a big "Thank You" to all of the volunteers who made this year's RPDS a huge success. The turn-out this year was extraordinary, and we hope that each year will be bigger and better. We had a few suggestions this year on how to do things differently for next year, and we will be passing on those suggestions. If you would like to volunteer for next year's committee and would like to have a hand in making those changes, please let me know and I will pass your name to 2009 committee.

All in all, the RPDS is a great training event for all PK and FM individuals and it was great to have all of you attend. The National PDI is fast approaching and will be held in Orlando, FL, from 27 to 30 May. If you would like more details, check out the ASMC website at [www.asmonline.org](http://www.asmonline.org).

Again, thank you to all of our volunteers! An event this size could not have been accomplished without your help!

Sincerely,  
April Chapel, CDFM-A  
President

## ***Vice-Presidents: WE NEED YOUR HELP !!!***

You know one of my favorite things about being part of a military community? It's the fact that, just by using the title above, I know almost every person who takes a few minutes to peruse this newsletter is going to see the title and their attention is going to be drawn to this article. Every military community I've had the good fortune of being a part of has had that same sense of community, where if someone needs help, others selflessly step up and help out. Whether it's donating leave to a coworker, taking care of a deployed member's family, or volunteering a Saturday morning to help build a home for someone you don't even know, military communities always seem to rise to the challenge. So with that in mind, I and my fellow Vice Presidents have a challenge for our ASMC community and we need your help to overcome it.

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

### ***Executive Committee***

President	Ms April Chapel	882-3812
VP-Eglin	Ms Leah Hodge	882-3615
VP-Hurlburt	Capt Dan Genest	884-7289
VP-Tenants	Capt Christopher M Hill	883-4040
Secretary	Ms Brenda Dininger	882-3635
Community Relations	Ms Karen Williams	883-3808
	Ms Susie Matthews	883-6454
Education	Mr John Dininger	883-3542
Education (CDFM)	Ms Vanessa Fuentes	882-9841
Education Publicity	Ms Verna McBride	882-3346
Membership	Capt Angie Blackwell	882-0063
Programs	Mr Ken Pickler	883-2193
Publicity	Ms Dedra Hickman	883-6411
Newsletter	Ms Laura Gamble	884-2823
Regional PDI	Dan Harvey	883-0480
	Tim Bozoki	882-4138
	Ms Leah Hodge	882-3615
Treasurer	Ms DeAnna Morales	883-5907
Treasurer-Deputy	Ms Denise Wagner	883-0338
Ways & Means	Ms Jennifer Denega	883-4787
Webmaster	Mr Ken Kennedy	883-0870
	Mr Ron Millis	882-0936
Eglin Enlisted Advisor	TSgt Gina Rodriguez	882-3574
Hurlburt Enl Advisor	A1C Jillian Thompson	884-4110
Corp Vanguard	Mr Ken Bailey	729-5574

### ***Vice-Presidents: We Need Your Help !!! - continued***

One of the goals the Executive Council laid out at the beginning of our term last summer was to increase military membership and participation in our chapter. While all the Vice-Presidents of your chapter hold this as a goal, I am personally writing to you on behalf of the three of us from the military perspective - to encourage increased membership and participation on the part of our military workforce.

As a first step toward this goal, the Executive Council created two new positions to the Executive Council, Enlisted Advisors for both Eglin and Hurlburt. The thought behind the new positions was to involve more military members in the planning of ASMC luncheons and events so we could get input as to what kind of events the military non-ASMC members might be interested in. The second step was to give away 10 free memberships to help entice our young FM'ers, both military and civilian, who might not know what ASMC is all about and may not be willing to shell out an annual membership fee just to find out.

I'm happy to report that since last summer, our military membership has increased 20%, from 47 to 56 military members. I guess we could hang our hats on those numbers and check off that goal as accomplished. However, I can tell you personally I don't think the intent of our goal has been met, and that brings us back to the challenge I mentioned earlier. If you're reading this, chances are pretty good you are already a member of the

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## ***Vice-Presidents: We Need Your Help !!! - continued***

Gulf Coast ASMC Chapter, and maybe you are already one of the more involved members. Whether you are currently involved or not, the challenge I present to all of you is to please help us spread the message to any military members working in your unit, section or building...we want you!

If you're a member then you can probably already tell them about the benefits of being a member, from the monthly luncheons covering FM-related topics, guest speakers, and networking with other FM'ers from around the Gulf Coast area. If they've never been to a luncheon, bring them along the next time you're going. If they've been before and there was something that they didn't like about it, then challenge them to become more active and help us start something new, stop something old, or change something to appeal to a wider audience. Our Gulf Coast Chapter proudly boasts our Five Star status, a status hard earned and maintained by those who came before us. But that doesn't mean we can't, or for that matter shouldn't, continue to change and evolve in order to stay on top and provide a professional organization that we can ALL enjoy and benefit from.

Your Vice Presidents: Leah Hodge, Capt Dan Genest, Capt Chris Hill

## ***2008 Regional Professional Development Seminar***

On Friday March 7, the Gulf Coast Chapter, American Society of Military Comptrollers partnered with the Northwest Florida Chapter of National Contract Management Association for the annual Regional Professional Development Seminar. Also participating were the Northwest Florida Chapter Institute of Internal Auditors and the Society of Cost Estimating and Analysis.

The opening speech was the Vice Commander of Air Force Special Operations Command, Major General Kurt Cichowski. The luncheon speaker was Brigadier General Wendy Masiello, Program Executive Officer for Combat and Mission Support, SAF/AQ. Other guest speakers were Mr Rich Hartley, SES, from SAF/FMC; Ms Patsy Reeves, SES, from WRALC/PK; Ms Glenda Scheiner, SAF/FMPW; Mr Scott Saltz, AFAA/SP; Mr Rick Martin, DFAS; Maj Thomas Meer, USAFSOS AFSOC; Dr David Goetsch, OWC Vice President; Ms Emily Jay, AAC/PK; and Mr Chad Balken, FM Center of Expertise (CoE).

We had a variety of fundraising activities with a total of \$2,980.50 presented to our participating charities. We also had a variety of baskets. The Gourmet Coffee and Chocolate basket was won by Mary Konopatzke, AAC/PK. The BBQ basket was won by Darlene Siniscalchi, 720th. The Bath & Body Works Spa Collection basket was won by Lanya Lester, 689ARSS/PK. The Movie basket was won by Ken Kennedy, AAC/FMC. The Fleece Blanket, made by Linda Hardy (96CG), was won by Ronald Siniscalchi, 1SOCONS. The 50/50 drawing was won by Audrey Wagner, DFAS-Pensacola.

Please enjoy the photos provided by Dedra Hickman! They're on the Gulf Coast ASMC chapter website, same tab as this newsletter.

The chapter received this thank you from Fisher House for our donation from the RPDS.



## Fisher House of the Emerald Coast, Inc.

P. O. Box 2007  
Eglin AFB, FL 32542  
(850) 883-8072

[www.FisherHouseEmeraldCoast.org](http://www.FisherHouseEmeraldCoast.org)

SUPPORTING AMERICA'S MILITARY, VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

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23 March, 2008

ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter  
P.O. Box 1756  
Eglin AFB FL 32542

Dear ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter,

On behalf of the Fisher House of the Emerald Coast, Inc., thank you for your very generous donation of \$1850.00, supporting the Fisher House of the Emerald Coast. This Fisher House will provide a home away from home for families of patients receiving medical treatment at the Regional Hospital and Veterans Clinic located on Eglin.

Our Fisher House is not just a passion of Eglin and the surrounding military communities, but a shared passion of our civilian patriots with whom we work for freedom and liberty. Fisher House of the Emerald Coast, Inc., is a private non-profit organization. It is not part of the Department of Defense or any of its components, nor does it receive funding from the government.

Because we are a charitable organization, we continue to rely on the generosity of kind individuals and businesses, who like you want to show their appreciation to those who have served our country. On behalf of all the service members, veterans, and their families, thank you for making the Fisher House of the Emerald Coast a dream come true. We, together, will build it and we will all be better for having done so...thank you for your help.

Sincerely,



Carolyn M. Troupe  
Fundraising Committee

RECEIPT DATE: 7 Mar 08

Amount: \$1850.00

Fisher House of the Emerald Coast, Inc.  
P. O. Box 2007, Eglin AFB FL 32542  
E-Mail: [FisherHouse@eglin.af.mil](mailto:FisherHouse@eglin.af.mil)  
Tax ID # 26-0283970

NAME/ADDRESS: Navarre Lions Club Activities Fund  
2960 Shearwater Drive  
Navarre FL 32566

No goods or services were provided in return for this donation. We are a newly established corporation and did not file a return last year. Fisher House of the Emerald Coast registration number is CH23713. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within the State of Florida (1-800-435-7352). Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State. Please keep this receipt for tax purposes. If you have any questions, contact us at the address or telephone number provided above.

## **Programs – Mr Ken Pickler**

It's hard to believe we're in the home stretch of our chapter year. The programs team has worked hard to bring you a diverse mix of speakers and topics. We welcome your feedback and suggestions for future programs. Our next program event will be a 17 Apr luncheon at the Hurlburt Soundside. Col Dan Dunaway, Director of the Defense Financial and Comptroller School, has offered to speak to us during his visit to our area. I'll get an announcement out when he finalizes his topic.

On 22 May 08, at the Eglin Officer's Club, Col Mike Shaw, Air Armament Center Director of Financial Management; CMSgt John Writer, 1st Special Operations Comptroller Squadron Superintendent, and I will present a panel discussion on effective recognition strategies. In today's austere resource environment, FM leaders must know how to encourage and reward their teams for going above & beyond the call of duty in performing the mission and serving our customers. If you've ever been to one of Col Shaw's recognition events, you already know this is a luncheon you won't want to miss!

Finally, I encourage you to consider becoming a member of the programs team during the next chapter year. Maj Kevin McKinley, Ms Joan Horn and I have been pleased to serve you the last two years, but new faces and fresh ideas are critical to a vibrant programs team. Feel free to talk to any of us if you think you might be interested!

Ken Pickler,  
Programs Lead  
883-2193 [kenneth.pickler@eglin.af.mil](mailto:kenneth.pickler@eglin.af.mil)

Please contact our Program Chair, Ken Pickler (x3-2193), if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions on program issues.

### **Ways & Means Ms. Jennifer Denega**

#### **Events**

- Our RPDS was our Community Service event this quarter. Thank you to all who participated!

Your suggestions are always welcome for the Ways and Mean Committee. Please send ideas for future fundraisers.

You can reach the Ways and Means Chairperson at:  
[jennifer.denega@eglin.af.mil](mailto:jennifer.denega@eglin.af.mil) or at 883-4787 (DSN 875)

*Jennifer Denega, Gulf Coast Chapter, ASMC Ways and Means Chairperson*

## Scholarship Committee

"The chapter received this thank you note from Ellen Nelson, the mother of Ken Nelson, one of our scholarship winners last year. It's nice to know that our efforts in the chapter are having a positive impact on students' lives."

**John Dininger**

883-3542

THANK YOU

13 January 2008

Dear ASMC,

I wanted to thank you for giving our son Ken your scholarship this last July. Besides being such a help to him and us financially during our transition from active duty to retirement, it means so much to us that he received a scholarship. We all so greatly appreciate it!

Sincerely,  
Ellen Nelson

## SAF/FM announces Lieutenant Colonel Selects

The Honorable John Gibson, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, Financial Management and Comptroller, recently announced the new Lieutenant Colonel Selects. Our congratulations to Theresa Sheppard, HQ AFSOC/FM. Also congratulations to former locals: John Odum was in the 308th Acquisition Wing at Eglin and Louise Shumate was the 16 SOW FSO (AFSOC).

## **CDFM Study Group**

*On April 30 and May 1 of 2008, ASMC will offer intensive training for Module 2 of the CDFM examination by audio lines. The training will take place in two four-hour blocks - each starting at noon Eastern - and will feature instruction as well as interspersed Q&A sessions. Sessions will qualify for CPE credits. The training should be viewed as "top off" training for those who already have training or experience in Module 2 topics. Mr. Joe Mullane, who spent a career in defense FM and has taught extensively, will be the instructor.*

*Location will be sent out to individuals who are interested in attending the session.*

*Send me an email by COB 18 April so I can get a room to accommodate all the people attending the training.*

**Vanessa E. Fuentes –CDFM chair**  
**882-9841**

## **Education Committee**

We received one application for ASMC's National Scholarship Program from Whitney Schmieder, the daughter of Marty and Shirley Schmieder (both chapter members!). Whitney's application was very impressive, with numerous high school awards and honors. Her package is being forwarded to ASMC's national headquarters for consideration. Good luck to her!

Our chapter's local scholarship program will be sending advertising flyers and applications to the nearby colleges during March/April 2008, along with an email with scholarship details to all members of the chapter. Our chapter's scholarship criteria is a little different than the national program, as we award to students that have completed 60 credit hours in pursuit of a degree in financial management. More details will be forthcoming later in March!

Our chapter will again be offering individual scholarships to chapter members only. These scholarships will be available to any member of the chapter who is pursuing a college degree to increase their job skills, including a masters' degree. The application process will be similar to what we do with our present scholarship program. The funding for this program is \$1500, with a minimum award of \$500. More details will be forthcoming later in March.

Again, if you have any questions or concerns about how our scholarship programs are run, feel free to contact me at 883-3542

John Dininger, Education Chairperson  
883-3542



### **TREASURER'S REPORT** **DeAnna Morales**

**Current Chapter Funds Balance: \$56,444.88**

Current Treasury Snapshot=\$56,444.88. This is before the distribution to our co-hosts for the Regional Professional Development Seminar. Anticipating distribution of approximately \$5,500 for this. Our total of funds raised for charities at the RPDS was over \$2,100.

## Guest Columnist

Pentagon management of multiyear procurements questioned  
By Robert Brodsky , *Government Executive Magazine*

The Defense Department spends roughly \$10 billion annually on special multiyear procurements for major weapons systems. But, according to a congressional watchdog agency, the Pentagon's management of these contracts has been inadequate, making it all but impossible to verify that the department saved money using this risky acquisition tactic.

According to a report ([GAO-08-298](#)) released last week by the Government Accountability Office, Defense's multiyear procurement strategy has failed to validate projected savings and in several instances, the cost of the programs has far exceeded original estimates.

Multiyear contracting is big business and promises savings at some risk to the government, yet DoD's management direction and process for justifying multiyear programs to the Congress is limited, raising questions about the appropriateness of some approved multiyear programs and the cost effectiveness of investments made for the risks assumed," the report stated.

Generally, contracts for weapons or other major equipment must be fully funded in the year such items are procured. But under multiyear contracting authority, Defense is allowed to purchase more than one year's worth of requirements under a single contract award without having to exercise an option each year. With Congress' approval, Defense can contract for up to five years' worth of quantities, although funding is still appropriated on an annual basis.

During the past quarter century, Congress has authorized the use of multiyear contracts for approximately 140 acquisition programs, including some more than once, GAO found.

Multiyear procurements potentially can save money and improve systems operations by allowing the contractor to implement a long-term plan for how it will allocate its resources, purchase parts and materials, and attract subcontractors, vendors and suppliers. Defense, meanwhile, is able to avoid the burden associated with administering annual contracts.

Programs are chosen for multiyear procurements based on their expected cost and operations stability over the course of several years, as well as a demonstration of "substantial savings," as compared to a series of annual contracts.

The strategy, however, poses a significant risk of increased costs to the government if a procurement has been changed or is canceled. Multiyear contracts, GAO said, also could limit the department's budget flexibility.

GAO found that it is difficult to determine the financial impact of Defense's multiyear procurements, in part because the department does not track results against original expectations and "makes little effort to validate if actual savings were achieved."

For example, GAO examined multiyear procurements involving the C-17A Globemaster strategic airlifter, the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet strike fighter and the Apache Longbow helicopter. In all three cases, the watchdog found substantial unit cost growth, ranging from 10 percent to 30 percent higher than the original estimates provided to Congress.

## **Guest Columnist**

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GAO found that all three programs were burdened by unexpected cost increases in labor and materials, as well as changes to requirements and funding. Projected savings from the contracts, meanwhile, did not appear to have materialized in budget justifications submitted to Congress, the GAO found.

"While both annual and multiyear contracting are prone to the underestimation of costs and overstatement of benefits ... the stakes are arguably higher for multiyear programs because of the increased upfront investment required, considerable cost increases if a program is significantly restructured, and the greater liabilities incurred if multiyear programs are canceled," the report noted. GAO recommended that Defense provide more information about how decisions are made on multiyear procurements, build a central database for monitoring such contracts, launch a third-party validation process for programs under consideration for use of the technique and conduct after-action assessments. Defense concurred with the first two recommendations, but demurred slightly on the latter two, arguing that they may be of value for some, but not all, multiyear procurement programs.

In a written response, Pentagon officials said the costs and savings of multiyear procurements are reviewed twice early on in the process and that a third-party validation could result in lengthy delays. Additionally, they said, after-action assessments may be of little benefit because of the difficulties in determining actual savings and the lengthy amount of time -- as long as seven to eight years after the contract is first awarded -- until such a review could be completed.

## **Audio Conference: 8 May 2008**

Audio Conference on Congress and Defense Budget

On May 8 at 2 pm Eastern ASMC will host an audio conference on Congress and the defense budget. The conference will be live and interactive and will qualify for CPE credits.

Robert Shue, former Congressional liaison for the DoD Comptroller, will discuss the procedures Congress uses – which should make the conference of interest to those seeking basic information. Mr. Shue – an expert on Congress – will also discuss recent and likely future events as they affect the DoD budget (including the likely ongoing role of supplementals and continuing resolutions) and answer questions. Watch your email for more information.

## **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.

## ***Job Posting***

### **INTERNAL AUDITOR**

TYBRIN Corporation is in need of an Internal Auditor to take responsibility for executing evaluations of internal controls, financial and management practices and reporting, operational effectiveness, and business systems at our corporate headquarters and our major offices across the United States. The individual should have extensive experience in the Government contracting business environment and is extremely familiar with DCAA, DCMA, FAR and CAS rules and regulations. The individual selected will be responsible for preparing an audit plan, executing and reporting on conditions revealed in the audit process. The individual may also be involved in special projects, and department projects and administrative duties. Job location: Tybrin Corporate Office, 1030 Titan Court (off Racetrack Rd, FWB)

#### **Requirements:**

Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or related field  
Five (5) years of audit experience (internal or external audit)  
Extensive experience in Government Contracting Service Industry Rules and Regulations  
Extremely familiar with DCAA, DCMA, FAR, CAS rules and regulations  
Strong knowledge of internal control theory  
Proficient in project management and organizational skills  
Strong analytical, interpersonal and communication skills  
Proficiency with Microsoft Office products required  
Ability to utilize technology and tools to enhance the effectiveness of deliverables and services  
Domestic travel of up to 20% may be required.  
Experience in Deltek Accounting software is a plus  
CPA, CIA, CFE, CISA or working towards a relevant certification is a plus  
Sarbanes-Oxley compliance experience is also a plus  
US CITIZENSHIP REQUIRED. Applicants selected will be subject to a government security investigation and must meet eligibility requirements for access to classified information.  
Online applications only at [www.tybrin.com](http://www.tybrin.com) – for more information contact Carla Scott @ (850)337-2720.

### ***SAF/FM FY2007 Financial Management and Comptroller Award Winners***

The SAF/FM Financial Management and Comptroller Award Winners for FY2007 were recently announced.

Mr William S. Rone, HQ AFSOC Comptroller, received the Mr James E. Short Award for Outstanding Contribution to Mentorship and Professional Development.

Lt Col Stephen Minkin, currently at Defense Financial and Comptroller School, Maxwell AFB and formerly at AFSOC/FM, was named Author of the Year.

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

### **UPCOMING ASMC LUNCHEONS - Mark your calendars:**

17 Apr 08 Hurlburt Soundside. Col Dan Dunaway, Director of the Defense Financial and Comptroller School

22 May 08, Eglin Officer's Club. Col Mike Shaw, Air Armament Center Director of Financial Management; CMSgt John Writer, 1st Special Operations Comptroller Squadron Superintendent, and Ken Pickler, panel discussion on effective recognition strategies.

Please contact our Program Chair, Ken Pickler (x3-2193), 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 webmaster, Ron Millis at 850-882-0936 or Ken Kennedy at 850-883-0870 if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions on chapter website issues.

## ***National News***

Participation in Survey - ASMC, along with Grant Thornton LLP, is doing an online survey of defense financial managers. The short survey asks members to identify the top financial issues and concerns. Take the survey at <http://inquisite.gt.com/cgi-bin/qwebcorporate.cgi?idx=6AY6QH>.

PDI 2008 will be held at the Orlando Marriott World Center in Florida, hosted by the Tampa Bay chapter. ASMC website has registration details. The Silent Auction event replaces the Chapter Fair of past years.

CDFM Module 4 (Acquisition) Open Enrollment Class - Want to improve your knowledge of major systems acquisition and prepare for the optional Module 4 of the CDFM? On April 28 and 29, 2008 ASMC will offer a 1½ day class in Williamsburg, Virginia taught by a former DAU professor. Individuals or groups can attend this Module 4 prep course. Students who take the class and also the Module 4 test on the afternoon of the second day will receive a discount on the test. Watch the ASMC web site and future issues of the ASMC Connection for prices and details. Online registration will open in March.

***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***