



GULF COAST CHAPTER NEWS



Oct 08

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MILITARY COMPTROLLERS

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

DAN GENEST

It is already October, can you believe it? I hope everyone had a low-stress, successful closeout this year...either way, it's over now! I've realized that the good thing about being the chapter President is that the year flies by, however the bad thing is that the year FLIES by!

I just want to use this opportunity to thank everyone who helped organize last month's excellent luncheon on Estate Planning. Mr. Fisher was an entertaining speaker and the subject was definitely one that affects most of us in one way or another at some point in our lives. For our next meeting on 21 Oct, please note that the Fiscal Law audio conference will be offered at Eglin AND Hurlburt for everyone's convenience. Look for the upcoming flyer with details on time/location.

Supervisors - please don't forget that the chapter is sending chapter funded care packages to ALL deployed FM'ers from the Gulf Coast area this year, whether they are ASMC members or not. If you have, or know of any deployed FM'ers in your work area, please contact Jennifer Denega so we can send them a package. She will need a deployed address, dates of the deployment and preferably a list of items that the member would like to receive.

I'll close with my normal ASMC push for the year...volunteers and feedback! If you would like to get involved with ASMC and would like to volunteer to help out, we can always use the help no matter how much or little time you can commit. And if you see something that we're doing that you don't like, you really like, or you think we can do better, let us know...we always appreciate member feedback.

Thanks,
--Dan

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

Executive Committee

President	Capt Dan Genest	884-2804
VP-Eglin	Mr Ken Pickler	883-2193
VP-Hurlburt	Ms Lisa Regulus	884-1726
VP-Tenants	Ms Dedra Hickman	883-6411
Secretary	Ms Brenda Dininger	882-3635
Community Service	Ms Vanessa Fuentes	882-9841
Education	Mr John Dininger	883-3542
CDFM	Mr Ron Millis	882-0936
Membership	Ms Woxie Williams	883-3449
	Mr Troy Brown	883-0839
Programs	Ms Leah Hodge	882-3615
	Ms Tammy Robbins	885-4335
Publicity	Ms Pati Galvan	882-5456
Newsletter	Ms Laura Gamble	884-2823
Regional PDI	Ms LaTanya Bryant	882-8964
	Ms Deborah Washington	882-3525 x3175
Treasurer	Ms April Chapel	882-3812
	Capt Tommy Dawson	882-3663
Ways & Means	Ms Jennifer Denega	883-4787
Webmaster	Mr Doug Craighead	882-5296
Eglin Enlisted Advisor	Ms Patricia Brown	883-5820
Hurlburt Enl Advisor	SSgt Shane Slade	884-2988
Awards Committee	Mr Lewis Williams	883-0204

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.

Community Service – Vanessa Fuentes

- 1) We are going to participate in Give a Child a Christmas - more to come on this when I get all the deals. The plan is to sponsor a child and them shopping and to movies for the day. I have a couple of people who have volunteers to assist with this project.
- 2) Waiting approval from the Exec committee if we can adopt the two families. If I get the approval I will be sending information on the families (i.e. size, ages, immediate needs, etc).

Programs – Leah Hodge & Tammy Robbins

Programs have several items on the calendar on the ASMC website! You can go to that calendar to get a preview of planned events with details to follow.
Watch for 21 Oct ASMC audio conference, subject Fiscal Law; November meeting will be presentation on Teleworking and will be held 18 Nov at the Eglin Enlisted Club;
December 17th is the date to reserve for our Christmas event – we're planning details and they will follow
We're already working a great line up of programs for our 6 Mar 09 RPDS – please make note of the date!

CDFM Study Group

The ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter will bring Mr John Matherne to Eglin AFB between 3-7 Nov 2008 to provide CDFM-A instruction. John developed the CDFM Module 4 text, training class for ASMC, exam questions, and at the moment is the sole instructor. The class is one and one-half days long (12 class hours) and students are granted 12 CPEs for completing the class. He will arrange with ASMC to administer the CDFM Module 4 exam the afternoon of the second day for those interested. You would need to pay the exam fee to ASMC before taking the test. Books, student materials, CPE certification, and certificates will be provided to ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter members at no cost. Class size is limited to 50 so those chapter members who responded first will be scheduled as primary and those remaining as stand-by. Contact Ron Millis at 882-4538 or ronald.millis@eglin.af.mil for details.

Ron Millis, CDFM chair

Ways & Means

Events

08/09 Ways and Means Projects (More information to follow (specific dates & responsibilities))

- Belk Charity Sale
- Care Packages for our Deployed FM Troops
- Gift-Wrapping at the Eglin BX

08/09 Possible Ways and Means Projects

- Bowling Tournament; Eglin Air Show Booth; Golf Tournament

Thank you to all who volunteered for our Ways and Means Projects.

Please contact Jennifer Denega if you would like to volunteer:

jennifer.denega@eglin.af.mil or call at 883-4787

Your suggestions are always welcome for the Ways and Means Committee.
Many Blessings for a beautiful Fall Season!



Why ASMC Matters . . .

Why ASMC Matters—Networking as a Force Multiplier
Ken Pickler, VP-Eglin

There are many reasons to join ASMC and participate in a wide variety of chapter activities. Here's why opportunities to build a great network top my list:

1. **Everyone needs help and advice.** The most challenging decisions I've faced usually involved gray areas where the regulations or instructions were simply a running start in the race to make timely, effective decisions. In home station and deployed assignments, you need seasoned professionals that take your calls and quickly respond to your e-mails. They'll help you make timely, well-informed decisions that directly promote the mission. Important Reminder: after you digest the advice you get, the decision is yours alone.
2. **It's easier to advise—and get advice from—people you know.** Many comptroller decisions involve complicated or sensitive matters. Sometimes, leaders ask you to “push the envelope.” This is particularly true in a deployed environment, where it appears the FM has an unlimited supply of blank checks. Sage advice from fellow comptrollers can help you offer different, but acceptable solutions to the commander's requirement. Sometimes, you simply have to stand your ground and say, “Not on my watch.” When Ron Millis, Jon Slingerland, and I were deployed to Al Udeid AB, the Support Group commander sent us two purchase requests for \$36K worth of New Years' Eve party hats and horns. We huddled. Sure, AFI 65-601 permitted APF purchases of seasonal decorations for dining halls. However, an earlier GAO audit of contingency spending pointed out such “creative” purchases as improper if not illegal. I stopped the transaction and our Wing commander applauded our efforts to keep spending under control.
3. **Few challenges are truly original.** Many of your fellow ASMCers have decades of experience in a phenomenal variety of situations and circumstances. If they haven't dealt with a problem you're working, they'll likely know someone who has. The few minutes you invest in “networking” your problem will pay huge dividends in resolving your issues. Another Al Udeid AB story is instructive. When we arrived, Al Udeid was the largest deployed base in the AOR, but the previous FM teams had not established a Financial Management Board or Financial Working Group to help manage the Wing's finances. I contacted Leah Hodge, then the 96th ABW CFO, for help. In less than a day, she had sent me sample slides, process guides, etc. she used to conduct her FMBs, and similar products from the FWGs. In short order, Ron had formed the 379th AEW FWG, and he & Sling had all the RAs working as a team rather than individuals. I had monthly FMBs incorporated into the Wing Staff meetings, and we were corporately reviewing all large purchases to eliminate duplication and purchases of dubious value to our mission.

None of us is perfect, but our customers expect us to be right consistently. We should expect no less of ourselves. ASMC membership provides opportunities to improve our game. Get to know your fellow comptrollers and develop your own “killer” network!!

Membership – Woxie Williams, Troy Brown

Member Spotlight

BRENDA J. DININGER

Duty Assignment/Title: Air Armament Center, Budget Analyst, Policy and Integration, assigned to Eglin 8 years

Duties: FM Policy
Previous assignment : Lead Budget Analyst, 53d Test & Evaluation Group, 53d Wing, Eglin; AFSOC/FMAO, Staff Budget Technician, Hurlburt; Chief of Logistics, 28 CES/CEOM, Ellsworth

Hobbies: Gardening and hiking



SARA HARRIS

Duty Assignment: 678 ARSS JDAM Contracting Officer

Duties: Reviewing and awarding JDAM contracts

Previous assignment : JASSM Contract Specialist

Hobbies: Painting, reading and interior design



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Member Spotlight

RUTH HUGHES

Duty Assignment: 46 TW/ Budget Analyst assigned at Eglin over 20 yrs I have accepted a position as a Budget Analyst @ Ramstein and will be departing by EOM October 2008

Duties: Provide advice, assistance, and administration work involving the monitoring of obligations and actual expenditure of funds for 780th TS

Previous assignment : 96 CPTS Travel Voucher Auditor, Resource Advisor , RMG Det 1 (Hurlburt) and Chief of Reserve Pay (Duke Field)

Hobbies: Traveling, painting, reading, shoe shopping, golf, attending sporting events, and volunteering



MERCEDITA M. SABIJON

Duty Assignment: 96 CPTS, Chief Financial Analyst Flight

I have accepted a position as a Budget Comptroller @ Homestead Air Reserve Base and will be departing October 2008

Duties: Overseer of all funds all groups and tenant units under the 96 ABW also provides guidance and recommendations for all funding policies, AFI s, DoD, etc

Previous assignment : Prior enlisted members working in the FM career. My experience expands in all areas of the FM field (O&M and NAF) with duty assignments in Hawaii, Clark AB, McConnell AFB, Guam AB, Lackland AFB, and Kadena AB

Hobbies: Singing, dancing, eating, and volunteerin



Current & Next Meetings and other ASMC events

UPCOMING ASMC LUNCHEONS –

Mark your calendars:

21 OCT 08: Audio Conference “Fiscal Law” – watch email for details.

18 NOV 08: Luncheon “Teleworking” – Eglin Enlisted Club

17 DEC 08: Christmas Party/Luncheon - watch for details

6 MAR 09: RPDS

Please contact our Program Chairs, Leah Hodge (x2-3615) or Tammy Robbins (x5-4335), 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, Doug Craighead at 850- 882-5296 if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions on chapter website issues.

National News

For more details, see www.asmconline.org.

A number of senior government executives have worked with George Mason University to provide a conference on Oct. 29 to address the topic of Enterprise Risk Management in the federal government. This conference is targeted for senior management and staff to share best practices and lessons learned from both the government and industry, and is designed to facilitate the discussion of risk and prepare for the transition between administrations. .

Fiscal Law Audio Conference will be 21 October 2008 at 2PM eastern, 1PM central. CPE credits will be awarded. The conference will be led by Mr. Keith M. Dunn, currently the Counsel to the Navy Surgeon General. He is the Department of Navy’s senior lecturer in fiscal law. [Note: Gulf Coast Chapter will host audio conference at both Eglin (Bldg 349) and Hurlburt (Bldg 1).

Remember our local website is <http://www.gulfcoastasmc.org/>

And ASMC national is <http://www.asmconline.org/>

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