



GULF COAST CHAPTER NEWS



Sep 06

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MILITARY COMPTROLLERS

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

ANNETTE BEARD

I'd like to thank the Gulf Coast ASMC Chapter members for giving me the opportunity to serve as President. It is an honor to serve you, the Air Force, and our local community.

I'm looking forward to another exciting year full of challenges, learning opportunities, and fun. As we get started on activities for this year, I'd like to focus you on the purposes of ASMC. The events we plan each year are in direct support of these purposes:

- a. Promote the education and training of the Chapter membership
- b. Promote the development and advancement of the profession of military comptrollership
- c. Promote a spirit of goodwill and fellowship among the members and perpetuate the friendship and traditions of military comptrollership

Our Programs Committee has already outlined a schedule of luncheon topics for the year. The Programs Committee is a busy group and they would appreciate your help, especially with ideas for other topics that are important to you. They are also reviewing other education opportunities to ensure we reach all facets of our membership. Please see the *Programs* section of this newsletter for specifics.

Although the Regional Professional Development Seminar is months away, our two co-chairs – Ms April Chapel and Mr Troy Brown – are busy striving to equal or exceed the high quality standards of our previous years' events. They too need your help to host a successful, educational event.

When I think of goodwill and fellowship, I reflect on areas where we can help each other as well as those less fortunate. Through the efforts of our Chapter, we have a healthy treasury. It is truly a blessing for us to be able to use the resources of the Chapter to invest in our own development and invest in the community through our scholarship programs and donations to non-profit organizations. If you have suggestions on additional areas where ASMC can lend a hand, please contact me.

Finally, the Gulf Coast Chapter can't function without you! I urge you all to get involved – you will find it a rewarding experience.

Respectfully,
Annette Beard, CDFM

President, Gulf Coast Chapter

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

Executive Committee

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| President | Ms Annette Beard | 884-1728 |
| VP-Eglin | Ms April Chapel | 882-5456 |
| VP-Hurlburt | Capt Steven W. Clark | 884-2897 |
| VP-Tenants | Ms Susie Matthews | 883-6454 |
| Secretary | Ms Pati Galvan | 882-4538 |
| Community Relations | Ms Susie Matthews | 883-6454 |
| Education | Mr John Dininger | 883-3542 |
| Education (CDFM) | Ms Amber Green | 882-4261x3319 |
| Membership | Mr Kent Fitzgerald | 883-0571 |
| Programs | Mr Ken Pickler | 883-2193 |
| Publicity | Ms Dedra Hickman | 883-6411 |
| Newsletter | Ms Laura Gamble | 884-2823 |
| Regional PDI | Ms April Chapel | 882-5456 |
| | Mr Troy S. Brown | 883-0839 |
| Treasurer | Ms DeAnna Morales | 883-5907 |
| Treasurer-Deputy | Ms Denise Wagner | 883-0338 |
| Ways & Means | Ms Jennifer Denega | 882-3525 x3175 |
| Webmaster | Ms Kathy Davis | 882-8555 |
| Corp Vanguard | Mr Ken Bailey | 729-5574 |

Eglin VP – April Chapel

I would like to start off by saying a big “Thank You” to the Gulf Coast Chapter members for giving me the opportunity to serve as the Eglin Vice President. I am looking forward to an exciting year and am honored to hold this position.

As this fiscal year comes to a close, everyone will be busy wrapping up duties at work and as the new fiscal year approaches, we hear continuous discussions of manpower changes and reduced funding. It is at this time we must remember the things that are important. Family and friends will help us get through these stressful times, so enjoy the time you spend with them. When there is change, it is important to have a constant in your life, and your family and friends are perfect examples.

Looking ahead to FY07 for the chapter, I encourage you to attend as many chapter meetings as possible. Not only are these meetings great for camaraderie, they are also vital for sharing professional and career development information. After all, knowledge is power!

April Chapel, CDFM, Eglin VP

Hurlburt VP – Capt Steven W. Clark

I would like to take this brief opportunity to introduce myself to most of you since I am relatively new to Hurlburt Field and the Gulf Coast chapter of ASMC. I recently arrived from Hanscom AFB, MA where I spent the last three years in the world of acquisition cost estimating. Prior to that, I was a Budget Officer at HQ AFOSI. Needless to say, I am energized by both the opportunity to again work in Budget and by the prospect of not having to endure another long New England winter. FY07 looks like it will be a very challenging year in many aspects and I look forward to meeting and working with as many of you as possible. Thanks for your support.

Steven W. Clark, Capt, USAF, Hurlburt VP

Tenants VP – Susie Matthews

I am amazed at what a large and diverse group we “tenants” are! AFAA, the 53rd Wing, the 33rd FW, AFRL, OSI, AFOTEC, and many more help make up our organizational culture. There is a synergy that comes from being involved with creative, dedicated people on a professional level. The comprehensive knowledge of personnel from these organizations and from Eglin and Hurlburt all participating in our ASMC chapter is a great source of that positive energy and an excellent medium for sharing information and networking.

Networking is a fact of life in performance of our duties. If mutual interests are involved, if you see others in your workplace, if you ask anyone for assistance (or are perhaps providing assistance to others), you are networking. I attended an ASMC luncheon a couple of months ago and I walked past the table where my audit co-workers were gathered and sat with some AFSOC FM folks instead. This year I would like to encourage everyone to step outside of your comfort zone, walk past that table of co-workers who you see everyday and sit with someone new. Network. Enlighten and be enlightened. The workplace is enhanced for everyone.

Education Committee

I would like to recognize the team of ASMC members that helped on this years' scholarship awards:

Scholarship Publicity Chairperson: Ms. Verna McBride

Scholarship Evaluation Team: Annette Beard, Susan Reidel, Laurie Smith, John Straughn, Mike Napoli, Leah Hodge, Nancy Elliott, Mary Ann Brocketto, and Pati Galvan

Logistics Support: Lt. John Eiler, Deanna Morales, and Dewey Hale

The evaluation team had its work cut out for them as they had to wade through 21 scholarship applications. The process is tedious but rewarding as it gives our chapter a chance to recognize the most deserving applicants. Verna McBride did an outstanding job in getting the word out to the colleges in our region, and this was reflected in the numerous applications that we received.

Thanks to the entire chapter membership in supporting our outstanding scholarship program. Again this year we were able to award \$6,000 in total scholarship dollars: three \$1,000 scholarships and six \$500 scholarships. Since 1996, our chapter has awarded \$32,500 in scholarships! Thanks to each and every one of you!

I don't know if the membership has been informed, but Amber Green, our CDFM chairperson, is on extended medical leave and will be out of commission until February 2007. I would like to have input from the membership as to what kind of programs would be beneficial to the CDFM program, and would also like to solicit a fill-in for Amber until she returns. Please call me at 883-3542 or email

john.dininger@eglin.af.mil.

John Dininger
Education Chairperson

Programs – Ken Pickler

ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter Programs Planning

As Airmen, each of us plays a role in the Global War on Terrorism. As ASMC members, each of us wants to help our nation get the greatest possible return on taxpayer dollars invested in defense. Maj Kevin McKinley (AFSOC/FMAO) and Ms Joan Horn (96CPTS/FME) have volunteered to help me deliver a year of program events which will enhance your professional development. Our first order of business is to get feedback on the proposed chapter luncheon topics.

September – State of the Chapter

October – FM Professional Development Update

November – Expeditionary Comptrollership – a deployed CE Commander’s perspective

December – holiday potluck

January – Comptroller Jeopardy game – audience participation review of key comptrollership facts and issues

February – “We’re Here to Help – Really!” Demystifying the Audit Process

March – Regional PDS

April – Special Operations Resource Management – unique challenges of supporting special operators

May – “How Much is That Missile in the Window?” – panel of acquisition cost analysts/estimators discuss challenges/lessons learned in weapons cost estimating

June – Air Force Budget Overview and Perspectives

July – Scholarship Presentation, Installation of New Officers

We’d like to know (1) if you can suggest speakers for any of these topics, (2) if you have ideas for other topics which might be even better, and (3) if you would like to serve with us on the programs committee this year. Feel free to call or email any or all of us.

Ken Pickler, Programs Chair, 883-2193, kenneth.pickler@eglin.af.mil

Ways & Means

Ms. Jennifer Denega

Ways and Means

Jennifer Denega

Upcoming Events

- ✓ Belk Holiday Charity Sale
 - Planned for Oct 06 (Details will be e-mailed)
 - We need volunteers to pre-sell tickets & work at the Sale
 - All proceeds (\$5.00/ticket) go directly to our Chapter
- ✓ Holiday Gift-Wrapping at Eglin and Hurlburt (Dates TBD)

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 or at 882-3525 ext. 3175 (DSN 872)

Many Blessings for a Beautiful Fall!



Luncheon Meeting Minutes – 29 June 2006

The June 2006 luncheon meeting was held at the Eglin NCO club. Approximately 56 persons were present. Annette Beard (Hurlburt VP) presided.

- Annette Beard opened the program by introducing MSgt Chris Crutchfield, HQ AFSOC/A5TS. A special tactics operator, MSgt Crutchfield shared some of the new technologies for Battlefield Airmen.

- - Video of Machine-to-Machine targeting
 - Avoid human errors when dropping bombs
 - Machines reduce errors in transmitting locations to/from Air Operations Center.
 - Machine-to-machine transmission reduces strike time from 27 to 8 minutes.
- - human-centered battlefield airmen kit
 - reduce weight of equipment carried by airmen – down from 150-lb. packs
 - small UAV fits into rucksack
 - want equipment usable by all Services and working with all aircraft systems
 - Machine-to-machine transmission reduces strike time from 27 to 8 minutes.

- John Dininger then performed a CDFM induction, recognizing Shirley Price, April Chapel, Yvonne Caridi-Anderson, and Sandra Telemacque.

- Deanna Morales announced Gulf Coast Chapter, ASMC, is paying the \$99 connect fee for the ASMC audio conference training sessions. She also reported the chapter's current balance is \$15,901.85. This will be reduced in July: ASMC pays for members' lunches and the \$6,000 in scholarship awards will be presented at that meeting.

-Reminder the July meeting is on Wednesday 12 July at the Coach & Four Steak House in Fort Walton Beach.

Minutes taken by Laura Gamble

Luncheon Meeting Minutes – 12 July 2006

Outgoing President Pati Galvan called the meeting to order at the Coach & Four Steak house in Fort Walton Beach.

John Dininger, Education Committee Chair, announced and introduced the scholarship recipients. The \$500 scholarship winners are Marc Banghart, Brandon A. Rith, Jason Guzzardo, Chantel Telemacque, Ginnie Campbell, and Shari Bozoki. The \$1,000 scholarship winners are Jennifer Reed, Alexandra Mandell, and Holly Carnley.

John also recognized the Gulf Coast chapter ASMC members who evaluated the scholarship applications. They are Annette Beard, Susan Reidel, Laurie Smith, John Straughn, Mike Napoli, Leah Hodge, Nancy Elliott, Mary Ann Brocketto, Lt. John Eiler, Patti Galvan, Verna McBride, Deanna Morales, and Dewey Hale.

Treasurer Deanna Morales then performed the installation of officers. The new officers are Annette Beard, president; April Chapel, VP-Eglin; Susie Matthews, VP-Tenants; and Capt Steve Clark, VP-Hurlburt.

Deanna expressed thanks to all the members for all the work the past year on the PDI, the scholarships, etc., that make our chapter so great. She announced all the current committee chairs and asked for volunteers for the vacant positions.

Minutes taken by Laura Gamble

Treasury Report

The following financial reports (2 pages) are provided for membership review.

| | | September 2006 | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | | E-O-M FY2004 | E-O-M FY2005 | Budget Plan | E-O-M FY2006 |
| | | \$ 30,395.26 | \$ 35,693.47 | \$ 55,195.00 | \$ 47,927.42 |
| INCOME | | | | | |
| Membership Rebate | | \$ 1,278.00 | \$ 1,867.00 | \$ 1,800.00 | 1051.20 |
| -- Renewals in cash | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | 0.00 |
| CDFM Rebate | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | 0.00 |
| Ways and Means | | | | | |
| On-Base | | | | | |
| Eglin Bx Gift Wrapping | | \$ 264.00 | \$ 233.46 | \$ 250.00 | 372.22 |
| Off-Base | | | | | |
| McRae's Charity Sale | | \$ 508.86 | \$ 642.17 | \$ 650.00 | 397.00 |
| Local area Charity Chris | | \$ 135.00 | \$ 34.00 | \$ 50.00 | 0.00 |
| Regional PDI Charity | | \$ 639.00 | \$ 309.00 | \$ 300.00 | 222.00 |
| Regional PDI Booth | | \$ 267.00 | \$ 312.00 | \$ 300.00 | 200.00 |
| Hurricane Katrina | | | | \$ 100.00 | 0.00 |
| National PDI Booth | | | | \$ 200.00 | 0.00 |
| Education | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | 1000.00 |
| Programs | | \$ 27,303.40 | \$ 418.76 | \$ 420.00 | 0.00 |
| RPDI | | | | \$ 49,625.00 | 44100.00 |
| Luncheons | | | | \$ 1,500.00 | 585.00 |
| EXPENSES | | \$ 29,918.61 | \$ 35,402.58 | \$ 45,070.00 | \$ 37,674.24 |
| General Operations | | \$ 1,336.71 | \$ 1,950.24 | \$ 1,975.00 | \$ 253.17 |
| - Postage | | 68.25 | 94.25 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 50.00 |
| - Bank Charges | | 863.45 | 1038.23 | \$ 1,050.00 | \$ 10.00 |
| - Supplies | | 384.08 | 234.14 | \$ 225.00 | \$ - |
| - Plaques, Frames, Engraving | | 20.93 | 583.62 | \$ 600.00 | \$ 193.17 |
| Ways and Means | | \$ 884.18 | \$ 1,412.55 | \$ 1,400.00 | \$ 780.00 |
| - McRae's Charity Sale | | - | 0.00 | \$ - | \$ - |
| - Eglin Base Exchange Gift Wrapping | | - | 0.00 | \$ - | \$ - |
| - Local Volunteers Gift Wrapping | | - | 0.00 | \$ - | \$ - |
| - Booth | | 884.18 | 1412.55 | \$ 1,400.00 | \$ 780.00 |
| Programs | | \$ 5,801.22 | \$ 4,213.65 | \$ 4,300.00 | \$ 2,784.98 |
| - Guest Lunch | | 15.00 | 0.00 | \$ - | \$ - |
| - Charity Donations | | 1,275.00 | 300.00 | \$ 300.00 | \$ 1,059.00 |
| - Door Prizes | | 27.47 | 178.01 | \$ 200.00 | \$ 196.68 |
| - Luncheon | | 4,483.75 | 7857.37 | \$ 3,800.00 | \$ 1,529.30 |
| Education | | \$ 21,671.50 | \$ 27,363.64 | \$ 37,355.00 | \$ 33,676.09 |
| - RPDI | | 14,671.50 | 21363.64 | \$ 31,355.00 | \$ 27,676.09 |
| - Audio conference | | 0.00 | 0.00 | \$ - | \$ - |
| - Scholarship Award | | 7,000.00 | 6000.00 | \$ 6,000.00 | \$ 6,000.00 |
| - CDFM | | - | 0.00 | \$ - | \$ - |
| Membership | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| - Printing | | - | 0.00 | \$ - | \$ - |
| - Dues | | - | 0.00 | \$ - | \$ - |
| - Postage | | - | 0.00 | \$ - | \$ - |
| Publicity | | \$ 225.00 | \$ 462.50 | \$ 40.00 | \$ 180.00 |
| - Web | | 225.00 | 36.55 | \$ 40.00 | \$ 180.00 |
| - Camera | | - | 425.95 | \$ - | \$ - |
| | | - | 0.00 | \$ - | \$ - |
| GAIN / (LOSS) | | \$1,276.65 | (\$3,830.84) | \$10,125.00 | \$ 9,029.18 |

Treasury Report

Financial reports continued...



American Society of Military Comptrollers Gulf Coast Chapter

Comparative Balance Sheet

September 2006

| | E-O-M FY2004 | E-O-M FY2005 | E-O-M FY2006 |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| ASSETS | | | |
| Checking Account | 11,059.37 | 7,228.53 | 16,257.71 |
| Petty Cash | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total ASSETS | \$ 11,059.37 | \$ 7,228.53 | \$ 16,257.71 |
| LIABILITIES | | | |
| | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| NET WORTH | \$ 11,059.37 | \$ 7,228.53 | \$ 16,257.71 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET WORTH | \$ 11,059.37 | \$ 7,228.53 | \$ 16,257.71 |

Past Business: The general treasury ran very well this year and our joint efforts with the NMCA were very successful. Our Chapter brought in proceeds of \$8,978.87 and the NMCA chapter brought in \$3,083.31. The education committee awarded \$6,000 for 2006 scholarships and we contributed \$1,059.00 to non-profit organizations in the past year. Another important aspect we focused on this year was our own membership. We treated membership to lunch in July at a cost of \$1,325 and presented a number of professional seminars in our March conference at a cost of \$27,676. We are now preparing to invest more in our annual conference to bring in additional professional speakers/presentations.

Present Business: We are now forming the committees and plans for next year and need all ideas and budget requests for 2007. Please submit those to DeAnna Morales, deanna.morales@eglin.af.mil or deanna.morales@cox.net NLT 15 Oct.



TREASURER'S REPORT
DeAnna Morales

Current Chapter Funds Balance
\$ 16,257.71

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – 3 August 2006

The meeting was opened at 1430 by Annette Beard.

Attendees: Annette Beard, Capt Steve Clark, Ken Pickler, John Dininger, Vicky Morrison, Kent Fitzgerald, Pati Galvan, April Chapel, Laura Gamble

Old Business:

- CDFM was discussed in detail. John would like to see more CDFM classes conducted locally like the class held at Eglin on 3 Mar 06. Several people from the Gulf Coast, Pensacola, and Tyndall chapters attended the class. It was a great training opportunity for all but may not be repeated because the majority of the individuals did not take the test within 30 days of attending the class. The attendees were aware they would need to test within 30 days but most didn't. ASMC National was not happy about this and said they would probably not conduct another class at Eglin. It was discussed that maybe the chapter could pay for National to come for one day to conduct another class. If Gulf Coast chapter pays, National may agree to return.
- John mentioned that the chapter should be submitted for the Ginnetti Award this year. He feels that our chapter is a good candidate for this award due to all the effort that has been put in to CDFM training. We need to ensure we have 10 professional/technical speakers during the year to be eligible for the Ginnetti Award.

New Business:

- Annette mentioned she would like to have each VP be responsible for a committee.
 - April Chapel, VP-Eglin, will chair the FY07 RPDI, Troy Brown will be her co-chair, and NCMA will also be involved this year as well
 - Susie Matthews, VP-Tenants, will chair the Community Relations Committee
 - Capt Clark, VP-Hurlburt, will chair the National Booth Committee
 - Vicky Morrison has volunteered to be the chair for the RPDI Registration committee.
 - Will need to find a chair for CDFM as Amber Green is out on extended maternity/medical leave
 - Ken Pickler has volunteered to be the Programs chair. He discussed wanting to provide a more "meaty" program than an entertaining talk. He would like to see more information provided to the membership about the current mission for all. Ken asked if it was acceptable to invite retirees to our membership. Annette told him that was allowed. Laura confirmed we do have retirees on our membership rolls.
 - We will continue to invite NCMA to our monthly luncheons and vice versa.
 - All other committee chairs will remain with the committees they currently service.
 - The ASMC board in Bldg 350 needs to be updated to show the most current Gulf Coast Chapter Officers. The board still shows past president Tim Bozoki.
 - The new officers list needs to be sent to our webmaster so she can update the chapter web page.
 - Annette discussed wanting an activity list to be set up and forwarded to National by the due date, 12 Aug 06. Ken will work the list and get it to Annette for review.
 - Annette asked Kent Fitzgerald our current chapter membership total. Membership is currently at 350.
 - Ways & Means has three activities planned for the year: Belk's Charity Sale, Eglin Gift Wrapping, and Hurlburt Gift Wrapping. A 50/50 raffle was also discussed.
- Meeting adjourned at 1600.

Minutes taken by Pati Galvan

Luncheon Minutes – 7 September 2006

- Annette Beard, President ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter, called the meeting to order at 12:30pm. She expressed thanks to Pati Galvan on behalf of the chapter for Pati's tenure as President last year.
- Annette announced three main goals for the 2006-07 year. (1) Retain 5-star chapter designation, (2) Increase participation in ASMC functions, and (3) aim for the Ginnetti Professional Development award, which requires at least 10 membership meetings with Professional/Technical Speakers during the year.
- Annette then stated we have two vacancies on the Executive Committee and asked for volunteers. The Education-CDFM and Webmaster positions are vacant. The Education-CDFM person needs to work with National ASMC soon to coordinate with them on offering sessions at our Regional PDS.
- Ken Pickler is the Programs chair, and is being assisted by Maj Kevin McKinley (Hurlburt) and Ms Joan Horn (Eglin). Ken has drafted proposed luncheon topics for the year (copies were distributed). The Programs committee is still requesting ideas and volunteers.
- National ASMC is hosting three Senior Leader audio conferences this fall. [See *information below.*] These provide an opportunity for both CPE credits and senior leader views on upcoming FM topics.
- April Chapel and Troy Brown are the Regional PDS Co-Chairs. Once again ASMC is partnering with NCMA (National Contract Management Association). They are still looking for volunteers to help make this year's event as great as last year's.
- Treasurer Deanna Morales informed everyone this newsletter (see pages 5-6) has more extensive reporting of our financial information. This is the same information she sends to National. We have the books professionally audited each year.
- Deanna stated we made over \$1,000 in direct donations this past year and would like to review our \$25 donation (in name of guest speaker) for possible increase. Another popular use of our chapter dollars was paying everyone's lunch this year at a membership meeting.
- Deanna then asked all committee chairs to submit a budget for the coming year.
- Annette adjourned at 12:42PM.

Minutes taken by Laura Gamble

Upcoming Audio Conferences

ASMC National is hosting three separate live and interactive audio conferences this fall. If you're interested, let your ASMC president and vice-presidents know.

- Honorable Valerie Baldwin, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller), October 18, 2006 at 2 pm Eastern
- Honorable Richard Greco, Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management and Comptroller), November 9, 2006 at 2 pm Eastern
- Mr. John Vonglis, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Financial Management and Comptroller), November 30, 2006 at 2 pm Eastern

Each of these senior leaders has committed to these dates and times; however, substitutions are possible because of last-minute schedule changes.

Topic: These senior leaders have been asked to discuss what they view as the key issues for FM personnel in their Department, with a focus on base-level issues. Also they were asked to leave time for a live, interactive question and answer period following their presentation.

Bag Drag to Baghdad

* * from ASMC National website

The journey started from Tucson Arizona at 0445, Monday, 10 Oct 05 (Columbus Day) from my apartment when my section chief picked me up. The first bag drag, hereafter identified as BD, was to his vehicle then off we went to the Davis-Monthan AFB Security Forces Armory to pick up my assigned M-9. From there he took me to the airport for a second BD to the check-in counter. I was pleased with the light load (two A-4 bags, two suitcases and one carry-on) for a six month deployment and only cost \$160 in excess baggage. I have been deployed several times before and was proud of my packing prowess distributing the weight evenly among each bag. My trip on day one was to BWI (Baltimore Washington International) airport where I had another BD to the hotel shuttle bus. The final BD for the day was executed at the Airport Sheraton where I was going to spend the night bringing the count to 4 BDs in the first day. I started questioning my judgment of what is actually needed for deployment because my bags didn't seem light anymore and I accepted the porter's help.

On day two I reported to BWI at 1800 hours (BD to shuttle) for a 2200 hour departure (BD to check-in). This leg of the trip took 18.5 hours with short stops at Ramstein, Germany and the Kingdom of Bahrain before landing at Al Udeid AB, Qatar late on 12 Oct. Once at Al Udeid a massive BD ensued as we moved 1,200 green bags from the aircraft into a nearby field. Once the bags were ready, we were released to find our own bags like we were early settlers of the West staking our land claims. Luckily I had prior knowledge of this event and had marked my luggage conspicuously. They were easy to find; however, I had more pieces than when I started. Note to self: Do not bring luggage with wheels because the roller apparatus will get torn from the bag. The next BD (#8) was at 0200 hrs to move the heavy bags from the field to an outside luggage hold area. We were given 10 minutes to go through our bags and pack an overnight bag to keep with us while we waited for transport into Iraq. Note 2 to self: Bring penlight when deploying—cigarette lighter burns fingers after a while. The "overnight" stay lasted 48 hours; however, I didn't mind wearing the same clothes for two days if it meant I didn't have to move my overweight bags again. I am seriously rethinking having those beers while packing.

In the evening of the fourth day we were loaded onto a bus and traveled back to the airfield. Once there we again had to locate our bags, drag them to the pallet and strap them on. We were then issued 20 additional pounds of Individual Body Armor to put on and after a long wait we were herded to a C-130 cargo plane and squeezed in as if trying for inclusion into the Guinness Book of World Records. The two heaping pallets of bags were loaded in the back of the aircraft and we rolled down the airfield at 0310 hours.

The mission landed at Baghdad International Airport early on the morning of day five to the sounds of bombs exploding in the distance. We were all lined up based on destination and instructed to find our bags from the pallets and drag them the distance of a football field to a bus stop. Each of my bags now weighs 50 pounds so I could only carry two at a time. At the bus stop we were instructed to find the appropriate bus, once found another BD was required. The bus brought us to Camp Stryker where we unloaded and dragged the bags to the side of a building to wait 16 hours for an armored bus (Rhino) convoy to take us to our new home in the International Zone (IZ). While waiting I used the time to repack, throw away a piece of luggage that looked like it had

* * * * * Continued on next page * * * * *

Bag Drag to Baghdad

been through a wood chipper and cursed the idiot who packed my bags. BD #13 of the trip was to load the flatbed truck that followed the Rhino into the IZ.

The convoy arrived in the IZ at 0430 in the morning of the sixth day of travel and a complimentary BD was accomplished. It was then that the wheels fell off my other suitcase becoming the second casualty of the trip. We loaded our bags from the flatbed to another truck that brought us to a temporary tent that I affectionately called "the crack house." Finally I would be moving my bags for the last time. I joyfully dropped the gear near one of only two empty beds out of 50 and headed out for breakfast. It had been decided that at 0800 we would go to Phoenix Base to quickly in-process so there was no point in sleeping yet. After breakfast I was headed to the nearby latrine trailer when insurgents showed their appreciation over the ratification of the new Iraqi Constitution by lobbing two mortars into the IZ. The mortars landed 100 meters from my location—the ensuing pucker factor caused mission failure...

At Phoenix Base, the "quick" in-processing lasted 6 hours after which I was less than happy to receive a permanent home at the Riverside Manor—that only meant one thing. So I returned to the crack house to move my bags that now weigh 100 pounds each, one at a time, the distance of two football fields around Sadaam's old palace grounds to a waiting truck. I now understand why they didn't issue me ammo before the end of the trip... Once in Riverside I had to make one last bag drag into the containerized housing unit I currently call home (yes, I am trailer trash). The first order of business was to unpack and deliver pieces of suitcase to the dumpster. Completion of the journey took 6.5 days, 17 bag drags, two suitcase disasters and one scary moment. Toward the end of the journey I was awake and in the same uniform for 50 hours which probably wasn't pleasant for anyone around me.

That was three months ago. For 90 days I've lived in less than desirable conditions, heard small arms fire nearly every day and the occasional mortar or vehicle borne improvised explosive devices that have shook the walls around me. Scary stuff but nothing compared to the thing I dread most—the return trip. That fear hasn't stopped me from counting down the days with great anticipation because this time I will be returning to the United States which I am most thankful to call home. No matter how painful, I look forward to those bag-drags and will be sporting a smile each step of the way.

By MSgt Ted Violette

2006-07 Elections

On Tuesday, June 27, voting opened up for Gulf Coast chapter officers for 2006-07. Nominees were Annette Beard (AFSOC/FMA) for President, April Chapel (AAC/FMAO) for Eglin Vice-President, Susie Matthews (AFAA/AEO) for Tenants Vice-President, and Capt Steven Clark (AFSOC/FMAC) for Hurlburt Vice-President.

Education Committee



The 2006 Scholarship winners were announced at the 12 July 2006 luncheon at the Coach-N-Four restaurant. Three of the award recipients and two of the recipients' family were present to accept the awards and are pictured above. From left to right: Holly Carnley, Alexandra Mandell, Angela Telemacque for Chantel Telemacque, Tim Bozoki for Shari Bozoki, and Jason Guzzardo. Also receiving scholarships but not pictured: Marc Banghart, Brandon Rith, Ginnie Campbell, and Jennifer Reed.

MEET THE RECIPIENTS:

Marc Banghart is from Fort Walton Beach, FL. Marc is a staff sergeant in the US Air Force assigned to the 33rd Maintenance Squadron. He attends Troy University and is pursuing a computer science degree, where he maintains a 3.26 grade point average. He is active in the community and volunteers at the local Salvation Army and Sierra Club chapter. He aspires to become an officer in the Air Force.

Jason Guzzardo is from Shalimar, FL. Jason is a co-op in the 96th Comptroller Squadron. He attends Okaloosa Walton College and is pursuing a computer information systems degree where he maintains a 3.93 grade point average. He volunteers at his church by providing audio/visual support for all church services. Jason was recognized for his work accomplishments by being named AFMC civilian of the quarter, January through March 2006. After graduating from college, Jason hopes to get a permanent civil service position.

Shari Bozoki is from Tallahassee, FL. Shari is a full time student at Florida State University and is pursuing a marketing degree where she maintains a 3.05 grade point average. She volunteers as a Sunday school teacher at her church and is a "big sister" in the big brother/big sister program in Tallahassee. After completing her marketing degree, she hopes to enter Air Force civil service as a Palace Acquire intern.

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Education Committee announces 2006-07 scholarship winners

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Ginnie Campbell is from Crestview, FL. Ginnie is a full time student at the University of West Florida and is pursuing an accounting and finance degree where she maintains a 3.06 grade point average. She works part time at a local CPA firm. Ginnie volunteers at the Crestview Rotary club and participates in their fund raising activities. After completing her undergraduate degrees, Ginnie plans on pursuing a law degree then entering a tax program.

Chantel Telemacque is from Tallahassee, FL. Chantel is a full time student at Florida State University and is pursuing a finance and marketing degree where she maintains a 2.76 grade point average. She works part time as a leasing consultant. Chantel was the fall 2005 pledge class president of the business fraternity Delta Sigma Pi. She volunteers at FSU as a garnet and gold guide which allows her to market FSU to future athletes. After graduation from college, she wants to pursue a career in logistics or supply chain management.

Brandon Rith is from Tallahassee, FL. Brandon is a full time student at Florida State University and is pursuing a finance and marketing degree where he maintains a 3.25 grade point average. He works at the Florida Board of Engineers. Brandon actively volunteers at the Manor nursing home in Niceville. After graduation he wants to become employed on the west coast and travel the world using his finance degree.

Jennifer Reed is from Pensacola, FL. Jennifer is a full time student at the University of West Florida and is pursuing an accounting degree where she maintains a perfect 4.0 grade point average. She works part time at a local CPA firm. Jennifer is the vice president of UWF's Beta Gamma Sigma fraternity, a college of business honors society. Jennifer does volunteer tax work with VITA. After completing her undergraduate degree, she plans on attending graduate school in preparation for the CPA examination.

Alexandra Mandell is from Pensacola, FL. Alexandra is a full time student at the University of West Florida and is pursuing a finance degree where she maintains a 3.96 grade point average. Alexandra is active in both the Phi Theta Kappa and Gamma Beta Phi societies. Alexandra assists individuals impacted by drunk drivers with the local MADD chapter and is a volunteer translator with the Escambia County sheriff's office. After completing her undergraduate degree, she plans on attending law school.

Holly Carnley is from Milton, FL. Holly is a part time student at the University of West Florida and is pursuing an accounting degree where she maintains a 3.43 grade point average. She works full time at an insurance administration firm. Holly volunteers at her church as a deaf interpreter, her daughter's school as a chaperone and musical resource, and at UWF as an aide to disabled students. After completing her accounting degree, she plans to complete her MBA and move up the corporate ladder with her present employer.

Current & Next Meetings and other ASMC events

UPCOMING ASMC LUNCHEONS - planned

October FM Professional Development Update Battlefield Airmen
November Expeditionary Comptrollership – a deployed CE
Commander's perspective
December Holiday potluck

See Ways & Means (page 4) for other events.
Please contact our Program Chair, Ken Pickler, 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: <http://www.gulfcoastasmc.org/>

**ASMC IS SEEKING A WEBMASTER. CONTACT ANNETTE BEARD IF
INTERESTED.**

National News

Check the National website – The online survey asks your opinion about
current professional development opportunities at ASMC and possible new
opportunities. *(It only takes about five minutes. – Ed.)*

PDI 2007 input is requested by ASMC National. Contact Pat Tyler by 18
Sep 06 at asmchq@asmconline.org The 2007 PDI will be held in Kansas
City.

Audio Conferences ASMC is setting up three live interactive audio
conferences with senior FM leaders in October and November.
Specialty.” Oct 18 will feature Honorable Valerie Baldwin, Assistant
Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller). Nov 9 will
feature Honorable Richard Greco, Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial
Management and Comptroller). Nov 30 will feature John Vonglis, Deputy
Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Financial Management and
Comptroller). More to come on these audio conferences.

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

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

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