



# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MILITARY COMPTROLLERS

*To Promote Education, Training and Professional Development in All Aspects of Military Comptrollership*



January 2018

## Washington Chapter

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## President's Message

*Krystyna Kolesar*



In our Washington D.C. Chapter geographic area, we are beginning the calendar year under an arctic blast with plummeting temperatures well below freezing with the wind chill. What a frigid launch to our new year! I hope that each one of you had an opportunity to take well-deserved leave and enjoy time with your loved ones over the holiday season.

Here we are in January -- a full quarter of the new fiscal year 2018 under our belt. Yet, we continue FY2018 under a Continuing Resolution (CR) until 19 January. We are all too painfully aware of how problematic this situation is in our line of work but it is unclear when it will be resolved.

Importantly, I want to bring your attention to the upcoming release of the first National Defense Strategy in a decade. In a recent notification, the Deputy Secretary of Defense stated that the National Defense Strategy will lay the groundwork for future defense budgets along with establishing our top-line priorities. He emphasized that our priorities are to make additional gains in lethality, create opportunities for rapid innovation, and – with Congressional support – rebuild military readiness. The Deputy Secretary of Defense also reiterated the Secretary's message to pursue three lines of effort: "restoring military readiness as we build a more lethal force, expanding and strengthening our alliances and partnerships, and bringing business innovation and affordability to the Department of Defense." This is clear guidance for us to align our resources in the financial management arena.

At this time, I am pleased to note that registration is underway for our 2018 ASMC National Capital Region PDI with the theme: **BEYOND AUDIT – MISSION FOCUS!** The event will be held on Thursday March 8, 2018 at the Ronald Reagan Center in Washington D.C. This eagerly-awaited opportunity enables our active ASMC members in the Washington metropolitan area to rally for an exciting day for "learning, dialogue, collaboration, networking, and certification [7 CPEs]." Ms. Debra Del Mar is our enthusiastic chairperson who is working with many capable and engaging professionals on a stellar agenda for this upcoming PDI.

Furthermore, your ASMC Chapter continues to offer excellent training opportunities with our luncheon speakers with our next scheduled luncheon on 18 January 2018 hosted by the Marine Corps. Our guest speaker is Mr. Edward Gardiner, Assistant Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources, HQ USMC.

In closing, I encourage you to join us in establishing our Washington D.C. Chapter as a critical foundation for your financial management training requirements! As always, we ask that you contact us with any comments or ideas.

Best, Krystyna

[www.Washington-ASMC.org](http://www.Washington-ASMC.org)

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Date	Upcoming Events / Sponsor / Speaker / CPEs	Location
18 Jan 18	Monthly Meeting / USMC / Mr. Gardiner	Westin, Crystal City
20 Jan 18	Wreath clean-up for Wreaths Across America	Arlington National Cemetery
31 Jan 18	Washington Chapter Award Submission Deadline	
1 Feb 18	Washington Chapter Executive Board Meeting	
15 Feb 18	Monthly Meeting / USCG / TBD	Westin, Crystal City
8 Mar 18	ASMC NCR PDI	Reagan Building, Washington DC
30 May – 1 Jun 18	National PDI	Denver, CO

### January 2018 Meeting



[Full USMC Bio](#)

**Speaker:** *Mr. Edward C. Gardiner, SES*

*Assistant Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources, HQ USMC*

**Time:** *Social 11:30am, Lunch 11:45am*

**Date:** *Thursday, January 18, 2018*

**Location:** *Westin  
1800 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Arlington, VA 22202*

Mr. Gardiner's responsibilities include advising the Commandant, Assistant Commandant, and Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources on budget, financial operations and financial audit issues impacting the Marine Corps. His daily duties include oversight of the Marine Corps' Budget and Execution Division, Fiscal Division, and the Technology Services Organization. He also advocates for the Financial Management Community across the Marine Corps.

Mr. Gardiner holds a B.A. in Political Science from Northwestern University and a M.S. in Financial Management from the Naval Postgraduate School. His awards and ribbons include the Legion of Merit, two Meritorious Service Medals, and the Combat Action Ribbon. He serves as a Vice President on the National Executive Committee for the American Society of Military Comptrollers.

**Please register at** [WWW.WASHINGTON-ASMC.ORG](http://WWW.WASHINGTON-ASMC.ORG)

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### November Meeting Recap

#### 16 November 2017 Guest Speaker: Stephen Herrera



**Mr. Stephen Herrera**, a member of the Senior Executive Service, is the Executive Director for Headquarters Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC), Hurlburt Field, Fla. Mr. Herrera assists the AFSOC commander as the senior civilian focal point for ensuring all force development, combat capabilities, and resourcing allocations are effectively synchronized and integrated to meet warfighter requirements. He plans, develops, and implements mechanisms to validate current and future requirements; leveraging science and technology in support of equipment modernization and training transformation initiatives.

Mr. Herrera shared his thoughts on leadership and his unique experience as an “FMer” in his current assignment as the Executive Director at AFSOC. The underlying theme to his discussion was that comptroller personnel have both the technical skills and big-picture situational awareness that are highly valued outside of the comptroller career field. He urged luncheon attendees to not underestimate the value they bring to the leadership table and to seek out career diversifying opportunities that broaden their mission perspective.



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2018 ASMC National Capital Region PDI

Beyond Audit: MISSION FOCUS

Our 2018 ASMC National Capital Region PDI is a partnership across key ASMC Washington metropolitan area chapters (Washington, Potomac, Mount Vernon) - to optimize our DoD enterprise education and learning, dialogue, networking, as well as enhance our fund-raising for charities and scholarships.

Last year our event sold out, with over 1,500 government and industry professionals attending this worthwhile conference to interact, share insights, and help advance critical business outcomes needed for our warfighters.

Our 2018 ASMC National Capital Region PDI theme is ***Beyond Audit: MISSION FOCUS***.

The DoD Financial Management triumvirate – military, civilian, and contractor professionals – has been challenged by DoD leadership to cut spending, smartly modernize, accelerate audit, and enhance professional advancement. We must embrace the real change -- essential to reform our business environment faster, cheaper, and with less risk -- in order to achieve operating effectiveness, auditability, and reprogram critical funds for national security.

Operational readiness begins with fiscal readiness!

PLEASE join us on Thursday March 8, 2018 at the Ronald Reagan Center in Washington D.C. for a terrific day of learning, dialogue, collaboration, networking, and certification [7 CPEs]. There is no cost for our government ASMC members to ensure attendance. Invited keynote speakers this year include the Honorable Patrick Shanahan, Deputy Secretary of Defense, and the Honorable David Norquist, Under Secretary of Defense for Financial Management.

2018 NCR PDI Registration <https://secure3.rhq.com/ireg/public/index.cgi?evid=R18-03-08-2018>



### Primary Charity for the 2018 NCR PDI

#### Healing Vets and Saving Pets

At Pets for Vets, we believe our country owes military veterans a debt of gratitude. Our troops have been brave but many of them have returned with physical and emotional injuries that have made it difficult to transition back to civilian life. Some estimates state that as many as 20% of returning military veterans suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).



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### AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MILITARY COMPTROLLERS WASHINGTON CHAPTER HOST THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY SOCIAL

*Food, Fun and Fellowship were had by all who attended the Holiday Social!*



Thank you to all of our corporate members for their generous donation of several dozen raffle prizes!



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### NOW ACCEPTING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Washington Chapter annually recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of the defense financial management community through its chapter awards program. Achievement awards are presented annually to individuals and teams who have been nominated for outstanding accomplishment within one of the functional fields of comptrollership. Nomination packages need to be submitted to Ms. Wendy Pouliot, [wendy.pouliot.civ@mail.mil](mailto:wendy.pouliot.civ@mail.mil), no later than 31 January 2018. Find the achievement award nominations categories, guidelines, and forms here: [www.washington-asmc.org](http://www.washington-asmc.org)

## Featured Article

### 5 Tips for Better Work-Life Balance

Beat burnout by making more time for the activities and people that matter most to you.

*By Jen Uscher*

If you're finding it more challenging than ever to juggle the demands of your job and the rest of your life, you're not alone. Many people are putting in extra hours, or using their smartphones to be on call when they're not physically at work.

"A lot of people are having a more difficult time finding balance in their lives because there have been cutbacks or layoffs where they work. They're afraid it may happen to them, so they're putting in more hours," says psychologist Robert Brooks, PhD, co-author of *The Power of Resilience: Achieving Balance, Confidence, and Personal Strength in Your Life*. "But even if you don't have much control over the hours you have to work, you can ask yourself: In what other ways am I bringing greater enjoyment into my life?" Brooks says. "Focus your time and attention on things you can control."

Here are five ways to bring a little more balance to your daily routine:

**1. Build downtime into your schedule.** When you plan your week, make it a point to schedule time with your family and friends, and activities that help you recharge. If a date night with your spouse or a softball game with friends is on your calendar, you'll have something to look forward to and an extra incentive to manage your time well so you don't have to cancel.

"It helps to be proactive about scheduling," says Laura Stack, a productivity expert in Denver and author of *SuperCompetent: The Six Keys to Perform at Your Productive Best*. "When I go out with my girlfriends, we all whip out our cell phones and put another girls' night out on the calendar for 1 month later."

Stack also plans an activity with her family, like going to a movie or the park, every Sunday afternoon. "We do this because if there's nothing on the schedule, time tends to get frittered away and the weekend may end without us spending quality time together," she says.

Michael Neithardt, an actor and television commercial producer in New York City, wakes up 3 hours before he has to leave for work so he can go for a run and spend some time with his wife and baby. "A lot of my friends tend to wake up, shower, and go straight to work. And they often complain about having no time to do anything," he says. "I find that if I can get those 3 hours in the morning, I have a more productive and peaceful workday. I can sure tell the difference when I don't."

*Continued next page.*



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## Featured Article

*Continued...*

**2. Drop activities that sap your time or energy.** "Many people waste their time on activities or people that add no value -- for example, spending too much time at work with a colleague who is constantly venting and gossiping," says Marilyn Puder-York, PhD, a psychologist and executive coach in New York and Connecticut.

Her advice: Take stock of activities that don't enhance your career or personal life, and minimize the time you spend on them.

You may even be able to leave work earlier if you make a conscious effort to limit the time you spend on the web and social media sites, making personal calls, or checking your bank balance. "We often get sucked into these habits that are making us much less efficient without realizing it," Stack says.

**3. Rethink your errands.** Consider whether you can outsource any of your time-consuming household chores or errands.

Could you order your groceries online and have them delivered? Hire a kid down the street to mow your lawn? Have your dry cleaning picked up and dropped off at your home or office? Order your stamps online so you don't have to go to the post office? Even if you're on a tight budget, you may discover that the time you'll save will make it worth it.

Stack also suggests trading services with friends. Offer to do tasks that you enjoy or that you were planning to do anyway.

"You could exchange gardening services for babysitting services," Stack says. "If you like to cook, you could prepare and freeze a couple of meals and give them to a friend in exchange for wrapping your holiday gifts."

**4. Get moving.** It's hard to make time for exercise when you have a jam-packed schedule, but it may ultimately help you get more done by boosting your energy level and ability to concentrate.

"Research shows exercise can help you to be more alert," Brooks says. "And I've noticed that when I don't exercise because I'm trying to squeeze in another half hour of writing, I don't feel as alert."

Samantha Harris, a lawyer who works for a nonprofit organization in Philadelphia, goes to her gym 2 or 3 mornings a week before her family wakes up. "It's been a real boost in terms of the way I feel for the rest of the day," she says. "I feel like my head is clearer and I've had a little time to myself."

**5. Remember that a little relaxation goes a long way.** Don't assume that you need to make big changes to bring more balance to your life. Brooks recommends setting realistic goals, like leaving the office earlier 1 night per week.

"Slowly build more activities into your schedule that are important to you," he says. "Maybe you can start by spending an hour a week on your hobby of carpentry, or planning a weekend getaway with your spouse once a year."

Even during a hectic day, you can take 10 or 15 minutes to do something that will recharge your batteries. "Take a bath, read a trashy novel, go for a walk, or listen to music," Stack says. "You have to make a little time for the things that ignite your joy."



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### Training & Education

Our chapter's Training & Education Committee is working with Defense Acquisition University (DAU) to provide training opportunities on site at DAU's Fort Belvoir, VA facilities. Specific dates will be provided in the near future. Watch for details on our web site and in 2018 newsletters. The four workshops will cover the following areas:

- 1) Budget Execution
- 2) Earned Value and the Acquisition Program
- 3) Financial Management and Program Management: Integration and Intersections
- 4) Shaping Future Program Success: Cost, Budget and Opportunity Considerations in the Acquisition Strategy

## CDFM Module 1, 2, and 3 Refresher Courses

**Now available in Two Formats!**

### Live Online Training

[Click here for more information on Live Online Training](#)

### Instructor-Led Classroom Training

[Click here for more information on Instructor-Led Classroom Training](#)



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### Training & Education



## FY18 Class Schedule



### SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY DEFENSE PROGRAMS

ACC 18-I 27 Nov–15 Dec 2017  
ACC 18-II 5 Feb–23 Feb 2018  
ACC 18-III 16 Apr–4 May 2018  
ACC 18-IV 30 Jul–17 Aug 2018

ECC 18-I 8 Jan–26 Jan 2018  
ECC 18-II 5 Mar–23 Mar 2018  
ECC 18-III 7 May–25 May 2018  
ECC 18-IV 4 Jun–22 Jun 2018

SRMC 9 Apr–13 Apr 2018

Defense Comptroller Program (DCP) - 2019  
16 May 2018 – 31 July 2019



### DEFENSE PROGRAMS

Army Comptroller Course (ACC) - 3 weeks  
GS 9-12; LT-CPT; SFC-MSG  
Entry Level Resource Management

Executive Comptroller Course (ECC) - 3 weeks  
GS 12-13; CPT-MAJ; MSG-SGM  
Advanced Resource Management

Senior Resource Managers Course (SRMC) - 1 week  
GS 14-15; LTC-COL; SGM  
Senior Level Resource Management

Defense Comptroller Program (DCP) - 14 months  
GS 11-14; CPT-MAJ; SFC-MSG  
Dual-Master Degree Program

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
Command CJEC member

Army Comptroller Proponency Office (ASAFM.ARMY.MIL)  
Syracuse University Defense Programs (FAMACHIN@SYR.EDU)

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Other Services and Private Sector POC: [famachin@syr.edu](mailto:famachin@syr.edu) (315) 443-2898

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### ASMC National News



## American Society of Military Comptrollers

To promote education, training and professional development in all aspects of military comptrollership.

[Click here to access the National ASMC home page](#)



ASMC National 2017 PDI took place May 31 – June 2, 2017 in San Diego, California. Presentation slides are available at <http://pdi2017.org/workshop-slides>.

### ASMC Online Learning Center

Members earn continuing professional education credits by viewing and testing recorded educational sessions and the Armed Forces Comptroller.

## Upcoming Training Events

### [Module 4 Acquisition Business Management Course](#)

**January 17 2018**

Rosslyn, VA (Archway Training Associates)

### [Open Enrollment Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Course \(EDFMTTC\)](#)

**January 22 2018**

Washington, DC (Graduate School USA)

## ASMC NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

As a reminder, ASMC National Achievement Award Nominations **are due 31 January 2018**. Nominate colleagues who deserve recognition for excellence in financial management and those selected by our Awards committees will be honored at PDI 2018 in Denver, Colorado.

ASMC annually recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of its chapters and members of the defense financial management community through its national awards program. This program encompasses individual and team achievement awards, scholarships, educational grants, an essay contest, chapter recognition, and a variety of other individual based awards. ASMC achievement awards are presented annually to individuals and teams who have been nominated for outstanding accomplishment within one of the functional fields of comptrollership. By the way, award recipients for ASMC National Awards pay no registration fee to attend National PDI.

Nomination information and award details can be found here: <https://asmc.secure-platform.com/a/organizations/main/home>.



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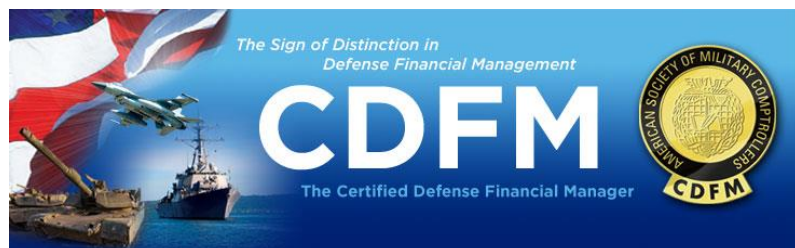
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ASMC offers the Certified Defense Financial Manager (CDFM) educational program and certification designation to those persons desiring to demonstrate proficiency in the core aspects of Defense Financial Management.

For more information, visit: <http://www.asmconline.org/certification/cdfm-information/>

## Congratulations to our newest CDFMs!



Stephanie Ajello  
Jennifer Allen  
Keegan Brooks  
Katarzyna Browning  
Kimberly Donovan  
Miranda Edwards  
Marvin Gibson  
Lester Jacobs  
Christian Libby  
Selali Mensah

Danielle Mrla  
Ngoc-Han Nguyen  
Heather Porter  
Urvashi Sehdev  
Melissa Simmons  
Kametra Sims  
Jaime Soto  
Barbara Taylor  
Brian Tothoro  
Andrew Turlington

While most candidates in the CDFM program are civilian or military/reserve members of the Department of Defense, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps or employees of defense contractors or suppliers, the CDFM program is open to all candidates who have a high school diploma (or equivalent) and meet the following work experience qualifications:

Have the required number of years of defense-related financial management experience outlined below:

- **Two (2) years if you hold an Associate's degree or higher;** or
- **Three (3) years if you do not have a degree.**

OR

Do not have defense-related financial management experience, but can meet the following criteria outlined below:

- **Four (4) years of Federal government-related financial management experience;** and
- **An Associate's degree or higher.**

**There are three steps involved with earning your CDFM:**

**1. Enroll in the CDFM Program.** Your enrollment is valid for two (2) years, during which time you must take, and successfully pass, the three CDFM module examinations.

**2. Submit Your Verification of Financial Management Experience Form.** This form, which must be signed by a supervisor who can verify your work experience, must be returned to ASMC after enrolling in the CDFM program. You do not have to submit this form prior to taking a CDFM examination, but it is required prior to the awarding of the CDFM designation.

**3. Purchase and Schedule the CDFM Examinations.** Be sure to carefully – and completely – read the criteria associated with each testing option for the CDFM examinations. Failure to do so can result in the purchase of the wrong CDFM examination and/or the inability to test at your preferred location



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### Chapter Officers



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**Air Force Assistant Secretary** Ms. Pat Corey, [patricia.a.corey5.civ@mail.mil](mailto:patricia.a.corey5.civ@mail.mil), 703-614-7941

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*To Promote Education, Training and Professional Development in All Aspects of Military Comptrollership*

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## Washington Chapter



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