

ALAMO GRAM

A Publication of the Alamo City Chapter
of the American Society of Military Comptrollers



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Team ASMC,

Spring sprung, blue bonnets blooming, golf handicap dropping – admittedly, this is my favorite time of year. Of course, it's tough to find a bad time of year in San Antonio, although weather the past several weeks has been kind'a odd even for a Denver native like me. Speaking of Denver, I was really looking forward to a trip home for the PDI this year, particularly as El Presidente. Oh well, my timing has never been particularly good ... just ask my realtor in Florida or the guy who bought my '79 911 Targa when I left Hawaii. Enough about me, let's talk about you. I hope you made it out for one of the sessions with Ms. Scheiner. About 320 of you did, so I'm confident the Department got its money's worth by sending her to educate us on the new FM Certification Program that's just around the corner. Several points Ms. Scheiner made resonated with me, but a few stand out. First, I know you're good, you know you're good, Secretary Hale knows you're good but the general populace needs to know, too ... hence auditable financial statements and certified FM professionals who ensure taxpayers get \$615B worth of value in the President's FY14 Budget. Second, the world is ever-changing and demands a culture that breeds an attitude of lifelong learning ... they say the day you don't learn something is the day you die! Lastly, don't wait ... get your papers together now so when the program kicks off in your organization you're ready with all the information to validate you're already Level 1, 2, or 3 certified. I hope Spring treats you well ... get out and enjoy it before July rolls around and all you want to do is sit around in the A/C!

PAUL L. J. SINOPOLI, CDFM
President, ASMC Alamo Chapter

ASMC Mission Statement: To promote education, training, and professional development in all aspects of military comptrollership.

National web-site: <http://www.asmconline.org>
Chapter web-site: <http://www.alamo-asmc.org>

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NATIONAL NEWS

Message from the ASMC Executive Director – Al Runnels. Jennifer Sizemore, who has been a mainstay on the ASMC staff over the past 22 years, is leaving ASMC effective April 26 for a job opportunity in Pennsylvania. Since taking over as the ASMC Executive Director on October 1, 2012, I have greatly relied upon her knowledge, expertise, and professionalism and I will miss working with her. I also know she will miss serving our Society, as her contributions to the growth, development, and achievements of ASMC over the past 22 years have been remarkable. Jennifer's farewell note is below. I'm sure she has already received notes of appreciation from many of you, but if you were not aware she was leaving or have not had the opportunity to send her a note, I'm sure she looks forward to hearing from you.

- In case you missed the recent webinar on "Sequestration" presented by the Hon Danny Werfel (OMB) and the Hon Robert Hale (DoD), you can access it on the ASMC web site via the Member Portal in the Online Learning area. I highly recommend you do so.
- If you have not done so, please take the time to participate in the annual ASMC Survey conducted for us by Grant Thornton, LLP. See below. Also, check out the info below on an important upcoming audio conference regarding the DoD Budget.

From Jennifer Sizemore. After 22 years and with bittersweet excitement, I have accepted a new career opportunity with SMC Business Councils in Pennsylvania (a nonprofit trade association). ASMC has become synonymous with family to me, and I will deeply miss my connection with you and our entire community. Over the past two decades, I have seen this organization grow from a staff of two (myself and LTG McCall) to a staff of 10.5. Membership has grown by more than 4,000. Chapter leaders and PDI host committees have come and gone, building relationships and memories that will last a lifetime.

- In the words of John Ruskin, "The highest reward for a person's toil is not what they get for it, but what they become by it." I take with me a treasure trove of experience and for that I thank each of you, and the leaders that have come before you.
- My last day full time employment day with ASMC will be April 26 and I will do everything I can to make my departure transition smooth for ASMC and our chapters/members.

Federal procurement office requires agencies to improve their assessment of contractor performance. DoD issued guidance in November 2012 implementing Better Buying Power (BBP) 2.0, the Department's program to achieve greater efficiency and productivity in defense spending. BBP 2.0, identifies seven focus areas for improving the way DoD does business: achieving affordable programs; controlling costs throughout product lifecycles; incentivizing productivity and innovation in both government and industry; eliminating unproductive processes and bureaucracy; promoting effective competition; improving tradecraft in acquisition; and improving professionalism in the acquisition workforce ([Read the full story....](#))

See [Sequestration News](#) and [Defense Financial Highlights](#) on the ASMC website (www.asmconline.org), including the following. Due to the volume of late-breaking news from Washington, we encourage everyone to watch for updates frequently.



- [Air Force Secretary to step down in June](#) (ASMC News & Announcements)
- [Army leaders tell Congress sequestration could require another 100,000 cut to end strength](#) (ASMC News & Announcements)
- [Air Force to implement Reduction in Force authorities to balance workforce](#) (ASMC News & Announcements)
- [Hagel: "Everything on the Table."](#) (Defense News)
- [DoD 2014 Request is \\$52B Over Spending Caps](#) (Defense News)
- [OMB warns agencies of potential antideficiency implications of using social medium platforms](#) (ASMC News & Announcements)
- [Expert: U.S. DoD Should Plan for Large Employee Downsizing](#) (Defense News)
- [DoDEA may have to fit furloughs into just 2 months](#) (Military Times)
- [CNO: Budget crisis creates 'fog bank' of uncertainty](#) (DoD Buzz)

Annual Professional Development Institute Cancelled. Due to the Sequester of federal appropriations, the 2013 ASMC National PDI has been canceled. The ASMC staff and the National Executive Council are considering development of additional training and professional development opportunities for the near-term benefit of our membership. Simultaneously, they are taking a strategic look at PDI and other long term training opportunities and will develop a viable training and development program for the future of our society. Those, especially Certified Defense Financial Managers, who were planning to obtain CPE credits at the 2013 National PDI, should take advantage of other opportunities to fulfill required CPEs. These offerings include local ASMC chapter training events and programs offered through the Online Learning Center, such as the recent Sequestration webinar, PDI 2011 and PDI 2012 recorded sessions, as well as Armed Forces Comptroller journal articles. ASMC National is also developing an audio education series beginning with a "Discussion of the FY2014 DoD Budget" by **Mr. John Roth** which was held on Thursday, **25 April 2013** and "Congress and the Defense Budget: The Congressional Review Process" by which will be presented by **Mr. Bob Shue** on **15 May 2013**.

Local Training Opportunities (see [ASMC Training Website](#)).

- The Air Force is hosting an **Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Courses** (EDFMTCs) in San Antonio on **17-21 June 2013**. The EDFMTC is a five-day, intensive financial management review course taught in three modules. The course is provided by the Department of Defense and is licensed and copyrighted by the ASMC. **NOTE: ASMC cannot place you in one of the DoD centrally funded EDFMTC sessions, individuals interested in these sessions will need to work with the designated service POCs.**
- ASMC is sponsoring a **Module 4 - Acquisition Business Management Course** on **2-3 May 2013** at the Fairfield Inn and Suites in Schertz. This course provides a two-day comprehensive overview of the rules governing the acquisition of major defense systems from the Program Manager's perspective. It incorporates the concepts and rules outlined in the Defense Acquisition Guidebook, as well as DoDI 500.02. The course is designed for DoD financial management personnel as well as those working the Acquisition field. The course may be used as a preparatory tool for the optional CDFM with Acquisition Specialty (CDFM-A). It may also be taken to increase personal knowledge in the subject



matter. If you're interested in attending, send completed [Registration Form](#) (and \$375 registration fee) to [Rich Arns](#), CDFM-A Module Instructor.

CHAPTER MEETINGS

March Meeting. Our Chapter luncheon was held at the Fort Sam Houston Golf Course Restaurant on **21 March 2013**. The speaker for the luncheon was **Will Garrett**, Vice President for Economic Development, San Antonio Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Garrett discussed initiatives and collaborative efforts between the Chamber of Commerce and local military activities. The luncheon was hosted by **Mike Snell**, who filled in for **Karl Devlin**, ARNORTH VP. **Photos below (left to right):** (1) *Kathy Scott (Budget Chair) and Jane Keller (Retiree-At Large VP) wait for the luncheon to start,* (2) *ARNORTH representatives (our luncheon hosts) shared a table,* (3) *Mr. Garrett gave his presentation,* (4) *Col Paul Sinopoli (Chapter President) gave Mr. Garrett a Chapter Coin in appreciation for his presentation.*



April Meeting. The Chapter luncheon was held on 23 April 2013 at the Lackland Gateway Club and was hosted by **Teresa Vega**, AFCEC VP. At the luncheon, **Glenda Scheiner**, SES, CDFM-A; Director, Human Capital and Resource Management; Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) provided a presentation on the **Defense Budget Status and DoD Financial Manager Certification Program**.

- **Defense Budget Status.** Although the Budget 2013 Appropriations Act was passed, the Sequester remains, with a \$41B cut. The Other Contingency Operations (OCO) funding was exempt from the Sequester, further compounding the problem for DoD. Ms. Scheiner described the near term actions, long term effects, and primary mission impacts of the sequester and potential future budget cuts. She stressed that the Sequester is inefficient and will have devastating effects on DoD. Finally, she said the FY2014 President's Budget was released on 10 April 2013. The USD(C)'s goals for this PB are to act as good stewards and to make people the central focus.
- **DOD FM Certification Program.** Tied to audit readiness program, this program will provide a standardized training framework to make good workforce better. The program will be course based, rather than test based, and will focus on 23 key FM competencies and the first 3 of 5 DoD leadership levels. The program applies to all military and civilian personnel in DOD FM (but not to contractor personnel), with all FM positions being coded into one of the 3 certification levels. No one will be grandfathered, but personnel will have 2 years to complete the program requirements (clock starts July 2014) (Limited time waivers may be available). Personnel can enter the program at any level and can receive credit for prior training, academic education, and experience. The program requires completion of various courses, most of which are available on-line in the DoD FM Learning Management System.



It also has “encouraged” elements, including a list of 20 test-based certifications. Personnel will be required to complete an alternate track either in a different discipline or at a different level. To prepare for the required FM certification, personnel should collect training records and certificates, check mapped courses, and begin taking available web-based training.

May Meeting. The monthly luncheon will be on Wednesday, **22 May 2013** at the Randolph Kendrick (NCO) Club and will be hosted by **Ada Fromuth**, 802 CPTS VP. At the luncheon, **MAJ Joseph Topinka**, MEDCOM Deputy Chief Staff Judge Advocate, will speak on Ethics (CDFMs require this training annually). Watch for more information in the event flyer.

June Meeting. This meeting will feature the **Installation of Chapter Officers for 2013-2014**, and will be hosted by **John Smith**, AFISRA VP.

LOCAL NEWS

Chapter Executive Committee Members

Help Wanted. Just a reminder – we still need volunteers to serve as the Vice President for Retirees, At-Large, and Associate members and as our Corporate Liaison to represent corporate members at executive board meetings. It is only through our volunteer leadership on the Chapter Executive Committee that we can fully support all of our Chapter members.

Audio Budget Discussion. Chapter members attended an audio-conference sponsored by ASMC National, in which Mr. John Roth, Deputy Comptroller for Budget, OUSD(C), spoke about the “**Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Request FY 2013 Update**” on **25 April 2013** at the 502 ABW/CPTS Conference Room on JBSA Ft. Sam Houston, where they earned 1.2 CPEs. If you’d like to receive a copy of the briefing slides contact your Organization VP or any of the Chapter Executive Committee Members.

Microsoft Tips & Tricks Class. Teksouth has offered to provide 2 days (6 sessions) of Microsoft training, which will probably be held at the Education Service Center, Region 20. Chapter Members have been polled to determine level of interest and priorities for the Classes. Training on **18 June 2013** will be for Air Force/other, and training on **19 June 2013** will be for Army personnel due to the differences in the financial systems used by the different services. Space is limited to 30 people per course, so individuals will be placed in class(es) based on the priority they provided during our initial canvassing. If any seats remain available for the classes, Chapter Members will have priority. **Mary Ann Casillas** (295-2877 or maryann.casillas.civ@mail.mil) is our POC for this event.

CDFM CORNER

Apologies from the Editor. Due to time constraints and other commitments, we weren’t able to prepare CDFM test questions this month. They will return in the May Alamo Gram.



ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT

Air Force Civil Engineer Center

Source: <http://www.afcec.af.mil/library/factsheets/index.asp>



The Air Force Civil Engineer Center, with its headquarters at JBSA - Lackland, is a field operating agency of the Air Force Civil Engineer. The Center is responsible for providing responsive, flexible full-spectrum installation engineering services. AFCEC missions include facility investment planning, design and construction, operations support, real property management, energy support, environmental compliance and restoration, and audit assertions, acquisition and program management. The unit conducts its operations at more than 75 locations worldwide.

- The **Director of Staff** manages and oversees mission support activities for the Air Force Civil Engineer Center, a field operating agency of the Air Force Civil Engineer. These activities include the execution of the public affairs, human resources management, protocol, civil engineering history, workflow, and strategic engagement programs. The director of staff is also responsible for strategic planning and initiatives, facility management, safety, emergency management, and the director's inspection program.
- The **Energy Directorate**, located at Tyndall AFB FL, consists of engineers, energy experts, contract officers and support staff who provide expertise to installations and major commands. They identify, evaluate and help implement technologies and funding strategies to reduce Air Force energy consumption and costs to meet federal energy goals.
- The **Environmental Directorate** is responsible for managing the Air Force restoration, compliance, sustainability and National Environmental Policy Act programs. The directorate also provides environmental technical assistance and advice to Air Force installations, major commands and other clients. The directorate develops execution strategies for environmental and sustainability issues, projects and programs based on best practices garnered from experience and research.
- The **Facilities Engineering Directorate** provides centralized facility design and construction for military construction, restoration and modernization, sustainment, and military family housing. The center implements standardized designs for similar facility and infrastructure types and seeks other cost-reduction strategies such as packaging multiple single-facility requirements into "whole facility investments" and regional acquisition efforts. The Air Force Comprehensive Asset Management Plan process enables the center and installation civil engineers to improve project delivery by increasing lead times for planning and design, ensuring earlier and more effective construction awards.
- The **Installations Directorate** conducts the strategic acquisition, management, and disposal of Air Force real property. It executes the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations' land and facilities policies through a full suite of services, including appraisals, lease renewals, licenses, easements, title opinions, environmental cleanup and transfer of property impacted by Base Realignment and Closure legislation, and other support services.
- The **Planning & Integration Directorate** provides a comprehensive framework to enable strategic and long-term planning for installation complexes to support the Air Force and its customers at the combined, joint, major command, and installation levels through development of investment strategies.



- The **Readiness Directorate** provides readiness and emergency services support to the Air Force civil engineer community through technical information and standardized methodology, enabling civil engineers worldwide to execute their expeditionary combat support and emergency services missions safely, effectively and efficiently.

RETIREE ACTIVITIES

Note to Retirees. To stay connected to ASMC after retirement, it is imperative that members change their contact data in their ASMC on-line membership profiles **BEFORE** they retire. Once they leave their jobs, their government e-mails should be cleared as they are no longer useful. Phone numbers must be changed from work numbers to home/cell numbers. **PLEASE CHANGE DUTY STATION to “RETIRED.”** That is the column looked at to add new retirees to the group e-mail lists.

Welcome to a New Retiree. ***Ms. Cassandra Boujai-Byrd***, a Senior Budget Analyst in the US Army South Office of the ACoS G8, Program Budget Division, retired on March, 30 2013 after serving the US Government in several capacities as a civilian employee for 35 years. Well-informed and experienced, she made significant contributions in the Consolidated Budget Branch. One of the most knowledgeable General Fund Enterprise Business System (GFEBS) users, essential contributor in the transition of financial operations from the Standard Financial System (STANFINS) to GFEBS. Sandy’s performance was consistently extraordinary always showing a commitment to excellence and initiative. The ARSOUTH family wishes her the best in her retirement years!!!!



COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Alamo City Chapter offers a wide variety of community service opportunities throughout the year. You are not expected to participate in all of the events, but we hope you’ll support at least one and perhaps several that enthruse you. Families and friends of ASMC members are also welcome to join us in any of our community service events.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENTS:

- **New Fisher House at the VA Hospital.** We’re asking for donations to help support the new Fisher House at the VA Hospital. A list of items needed has been distributed through the Chapter VPs. Although not specifically included on the list, they would also be glad to get toiletries (hotel shampoos, soaps, etc.). Items collected should be brought to the May Executive Committee Meeting (**1 May 2013**) or Chapter Luncheon (**22 May 2013**). The POC for this project is ***Tamara Lewis-Ibrahim*** (tamara.lewis_ibrahim.1@us.af.mil or 210-652-0497), our Chapter Community Service Chair.



- **Roy Maas Youth Alternatives.** The RMYA Thrift Shop is gratefully accepting donations to support the RMYA programs and services for abused and neglected children. Donated items that can be used in the program will be sent directly to the children who need them. Any other donations are sold, with the proceeds going to the benefit of the supported children. All donations are tax deductible. Donations should be brought to the May Executive Committee Meeting (**1 May 2013**) or Chapter Luncheon (**22 May 2013**). The POC for this project is **Tamara Lewis-Ibrahim** (tamara.lewis_ibrahim.1@us.af.mil or 210-652-0497), our Chapter Community Service Chair.

COMMUNITY SERVICE NEEDS YOU: Do you feel overwhelmed? Please don't. We offer a variety of community service efforts and urge you to try each one at least once. Then please let your VP know which events you most enjoy supporting. We hope that through varying our community support, you will each find a niche that suits you so you can contribute too. Finally, if you have any suggestions for community service activities or if you would like to host one of our events, please don't hesitate to e-mail or call **Tamara Lewis-Ibrahim**, our Community Service Chair, at teeemobile@aol.com or call her at 652-0947 or 875-7545.
Thank you!!

ABOUT FACES

Various Executive Committee Members



Welcomes: None reported.

Welcome Back: None reported.

Local Moves: None reported.

Farewells: None reported.

Promotions: None reported.

Retirements: *Cassandra Boujai-Byrd*, ARSOUTH G8, 30 March 2013, 35 years service

Congratulations: None reported.

Announcements: None reported.



2012-2013 CHAPTER OFFICERS

ELECTED OFFICERS:

President:	Col Paul Sinopoli	652-2161
Secretary:	Nicole Morrow	652-3610
President-Elect:	Pat Reynolds #	(nominee)
Secretary-Elect:	Mike Snell	221-2331
General Counsel:	Vaughn Caudill	808-7552
Treasurer:	Doug Ochodnick	395-7581
VP 47 CPTS:	Maj Dimitri Martini	298-5330*
VP 502 ABW:	Jackie Nonnon	221-3678
VP 802 CPTS:	## MSgt Christina Gamez	671-9214
VP 902 CPTS:	Ada Fromuth	652-0224
VP AETC/AFSAT:	Capt Leria Diaz	652-4733
VP AFCEC:	Teresa Vega	395-8498
VP AFISRA:	John Smith	977-4254
VP AFMOA:	Tanya Williams	395-9236
VP AFSVD:	Michelle Lester	395-7576
VP AFAA:	Jenny Luvisi	652-0478
VP ARNORTH:	Karl Devlin	221-0762
VP ARSOUTH:	Dilia Applewhite	295-6014
VP Galveston COE:	Patricia McDonald	766-3122**
VP IMCOM:	Joan Price	466-1666
VP MEDCOM:	Amber Hodge	295-2853
VP Retiree/At Large:	Jane Keller	573-6702

APPOINTED OFFICERS:

Exec Officer:	Capt Matthew Diehl	652-8878
Alt. Treasurer:	Celeste Carrola	925-7160
Auditor:	Jill Deuel	652-5068
Awards:	Mike Snell	221-2331
Budget:	Kathy Scott	295-2860
Certification:	Joan Navarro	652-0433
Chapter Competition:	Bernard Davey	652-2717
Community Service:	Tamara Lewis-Ibrahim	652-0947
Corporate Liaison:	## Teresa Meshako	395-2331
Elections:	Teresa Vega	395-8498
Historian:	Betty Ann Rosales	422-9017
Membership:	Ada Fromuth	652-4408
Navy Liaison:	## LTJG April Pratt	808-0603
Newsletter:	Ellen Hester	663-9425
PDI Liaison:	Joy Berbersek	724-9955
PDS Chair:	Capt Tara Phlegar	977-2001
Photography:	Betty Ann Rosales	422-9017
Programs:	Linda Martinez	652-2622
Publicity:	## Michelle Carter	652-0561
Scholarship:	Bill Pazeretsky	659-6242
Web-Master:	Mary Ann Casillas	295-2877

* - Area Code 830, DSN prefix 732

** - Area Code 409

- Pending formal election to this position.

- New to this position

