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Save the Date:

CDFM Module 2 on-site testing
on Wednesday, 1 August at
9:30 am in room 331.

After hours social on the "Rush
Hour Cruise" aboard the Good-
time III, Friday, 3 August from
5:15 pm – 8:00 pm.

Monthly Luncheon will be held at
Karl's Inn of the Barristers located
at 1264 West 3rd
Street on Wednesday, 15 August
at
11:45am.

Future Meeting Announcements:

ASMC Board Meeting
Wednesday,
22 August 2012
11-12:30 pm
Room 2911 G

**The ASMC Times is the newsletter of the Cleveland Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers. Views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of federal agencies. Items for inclusion are welcome and should be sent to: ASMC Cleveland Chapter, P.O. Box 99907, Cleveland, Ohio 44199-0907. Phone number is (216) 204-7639. We reserve the right to edit submissions for content, length, grammar and spelling.*

ASMC CLEVELAND TIMES



July President's Message

Fellow ASMC Members,

This month I want to reflect on something that has helped me immensely with my personal and professional growth. I have been fortunate enough to have a handful of fabulous mentors who have selflessly dedicated their time to helping me cultivate skills that I strive to exhibit as your humble leader. Having a mentor to provide advice and assistance has been incredibly helpful. My mentors have worn many hats, acting as role models, intermediaries, trusted allies and advocates, and most importantly, individuals who care. I have been able to leverage their experience and apply it to situations I encounter because I have received sound advice from these individuals. While I have undoubtedly made and will continue to make many mistakes, these individuals encourage me to see them as learning experiences. I can always count on feedback, which comes in the form of constructive criticism, compliments, or something in between.

Interestingly, many renowned government officials, business leaders, athletes, and authors have mentors, further demonstrating the impact a mentor can have. Harvard Law School Professor Charles Ogletree mentored both President Obama and first lady Michelle Robinson Obama. Another example is Warren Buffett, CEO of Berkshire Hathaway, who I had the distinct pleasure of meeting a few years ago. His mentors included Benjamin Graham, a Columbia University professor, and his dad Howard Buffett. NBA Coach Phil Jackson has acted as a mentor to Michael Jordan. Moreover, the author of *Good to Great*, Jim Collins, was mentored by writer and management consultant Peter Drucker. These are just a few examples to illustrate how leaders across various professions have relied upon mentors.

Mentoring can be a formal process or an informal one. There are benefits to both, but I would encourage everyone to take advantage of the fantastic mentoring program that DFAS offers to promote formal mentoring relationships. It



is important to remember that mentors can be found among the senior level staff as well as among peers. If you would like more information about the Open Mentoring System that DFAS utilizes, sponsored by Triple Creek, please visit <https://www.3creekmentoring.com/DFAS/>.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank two individuals who have acted as my mentors: John Luckas and Jason Denmeade. Mentors have the ability to make a positive impact in your life. While we all have informal mentors, I would encourage everyone to expand their horizons this month. Consider seeking a new mentor (you can never have too many), obtaining a formal mentor, or committing to mentor someone else. We can all learn from each other!

Have a wonderful month and I hope to see you at one of our upcoming events!

Respectfully yours,

Jaclyn Donadio



July 1, 2011 -
June 30, 2012

Where we've come from...

Achievements

- Five Star Status Recognition
- Community Service Award
- Launch of the ASMC Cleveland Chapter Facebook page
- Enhanced Marketing Efforts

July 1, 2012 -
June 30, 2013

Where we're going...

CDFM

- 6 module tests offered onsite
- 12 Certifications earned
- 26 active CDFMs
- 1 CDFM Social Event held
- 5 EDFM Training Course Textbooks received (9 Total)

- Achieve Five Star Status
- Earn the Community Service Award
- Increase corporate sponsorship
- Leverage the experience of corporate sponsor Bryant & Stratton in awarding our high school level scholarship

Finances

Revenues	\$35,806.98
Expenses	20,793.26
Net Profit	15,013.72
▪ Charitable contributions	
- Misawa Chapter Start-up Funds	\$500
- Team Operation Home front	\$500
- University Hospital (Rainbow)	\$300
- Blue Star Mothers	\$500

- Enhanced Defense Financial Manager Training Class will be held at DFAS Cleveland in FY13
- Upcoming on-site CDFM testing
 - Module 2 - August 1, 2012
 - Module 3 - September, 19 2012
 - Will offer Modules 1-3 again after EDFMTC is held in FY13
- Continue to purchase and request donations of CDFM books

Membership

- Focus on recruiting active duty military members
 - July membership drive
 - Salute the Troop Luncheon, Oct
- Survey to gauge member satisfaction/wants/needs
- Contacted outgoing/past members to retain/return
- Acknowledged member birthdays with personal cards

- Expand membership base by providing clarification regarding the purpose of ASMC and the requirements for joining
 - Advertise in DFAS-CL newsletters
- Focus on member retention, possibly offering an incentive to members who renew
- Recruit members from NASA and Bratenahl

ASMC Cleveland Annual Progress Report

ASMC NATIONAL PDI EXPERIENCES



L to R: Jaclyn Donadio, Martha Smith, Al Tucker, and Kim Hawley

By: Jaclyn Donadio

The ASMC Officers were afforded the opportunity to attend the ASMC National PDI held in Anaheim, CA from May 28-June 1, 2012. While there, I had the pleasure of attending many educational sessions and enjoying unparalleled networking opportunities. Perhaps my most significant takeaway was that networking is a powerful tool that enables our agency and organization to be more efficient and effective. This lesson was clearly demonstrated during the PDI.

While I had the distinct privilege of attending a variety of courses that enabled me gain knowledge pertinent to my role at DFAS, my favorite part of the PDI occurred during DFAS Service Day. I had the pleasure of listening to Jeffrey Mittman deliver a captivating message from the perspective of a soldier who was severely injured while defending his country. The veteran began his speech by declaring that he was the luckiest man in the entire room, and by the time he was finished with his discussion we would concur with this bold statement.

Jeffrey spent 21 years in the U.S. Army. After multiple tours overseas, including a deployment during the first Gulf War, he was stationed in Iraq as an advisor to an Iraqi battalion. On July 7, 2005, Jeffrey was severely injured by a roadside bomb. He lost his left eye, central vision in his right eye, his nose, most of his teeth and suffered damage to his right arm. Throughout the next few years, Jeffrey underwent multiple reconstructive surgeries and rehabilitation, first at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and then in Indiana. He shared his heart wrenching story, detailing his road to recovery and the integral role his family played in helping him get back on his feet. Jeffrey says the great motivator in his life is family and mentioned his wife Christy and his two daughters countless times throughout his speech.

Jeffrey epitomizes determination. He firmly believes that that his experience is meant to serve as an example. He has served in a variety of capacities advocating for disabled individuals. He is now employed by DFAS in Indianapolis, which is where he was born and raised. He works as a Communications Specialist for the Shared Services HR Center and is clearly a valuable asset to the team.

Sometimes we need to take a step back and recall why we come to work every day. The key takeaway from Jeffrey's remarkable presentation was that he is the reason we do what we do. It's not just about meeting audit deadlines, documenting controls, implementing corrective actions, or developing reconciliations that do not currently exist. While all of these tasks are important, our ultimate responsibility is to the men and women who so bravely defend our country. Our jobs are important because we support America's Heroes. Jeffrey's story was a tearful reminder of that. He motivates us to overcome adversities we may be facing because our challenges pale in comparison to the hardships over which he has prevailed.

ASMC NATIONAL PDI EXPERIENCES

By: Jason Denmeade

The most memorable moment for me from the PDI was on DFAS Service Day as Mr. Jeffrey Mittman shared his perspective as a newly hired DFAS employee and wounded warrior. From the day he woke up in Walter Reed after an IED explosion that nearly cost him his life, to the day he joined the DFAS team as a part of the "Hiring Heroes" program, Mr. Mittman truly challenges us all to find better ways of doing business for and with, our American Heroes. He illustrated his story of being a lucky man and how his family endured his injury. I was particularly moved by his kids and the story he told about how, when they first were reunited, he said, 'Hi, babies!' And they both came running over and gave him a hug and that was it. They started teasing him,

started playing with him, wanted him to chase them. He said his daughter Peyton wanted to play hide and go seek but he didn't think she caught on that he couldn't find her at all if he tried. They were 8 and 3 at the time and their adjustment was almost automatic. Since he spoke, and they realized that's Dad, that was it. There was no fear, no apprehension whatsoever. It made it easier on him, and that's part of the reason he thinks he adjusted as well as he did, because of a 3 year old and an 8 year old. So they've been wonderful. It's not the end of the world, you have to keep going. You know you take from the experience where you can and realize that there's always tomorrow.



L to R: Jason Denmeade, Under Secretary of Defense Robert Hale, Jeffery Hayden

By: Cathy Furr

This PDI was special to me because it will probably be my last as a DFAS employee.

I attended the PDI as an assistant instructor (AI) representing ASMC National. It is truly worth signing up as an AI. You get to interact with a diverse group of individuals, improve on your presentation skills, see the overall impact of assisting with behind-the-scene events and the satisfaction of knowing you were a contributing factor in a successful conference.



L to R; Jaclyn Donadio, Jason Denmeade, Diana Jin, Cheryl Halsey, Martha Smith, Kim Hawley, Holly Burch, Cathy Furr, and Jeffery Hayden

ASMC NATIONAL PDI EXPERIENCES

By: Pat Candelmo

I attended the PDI 2012 in Anaheim, California as a LIM. There were a lot of great moments at the PDI. As a LIM, I was able to both work behind the scenes and take in presentations. Some of my responsibilities included setting up and taking down the DFAS booth, running the microphones during the DFAS Service Day, and handing out folders to all the guests during Mrs. McKay's presentation, "Personal Accountability and Ethics in the Workplace" where she reminded us about the importance of staying focused in our mission without giving up our ethics.

During the DFAS Service Day, it was nice to see Mr. Murphy try his hand in acting. He kept the audience laughing and played a great Hollywood director. One of my most memorable experiences was listening to Master Sergeant Jeff Mittman. His story and will to survive an unspeakable situation kept the packed room on an emotional roll coaster. If you would like to read more about Jeff Mittman's story, I wrote an article for the DBJ and it can be found at
<https://eportal.dfas.mil/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=252&PageID=779389&cached=true&mode=2>

I encourage anyone with an opportunity to go. Definitely go! If you go as a LIM, be prepared to work but take the time to listen to any presentation you can. I was able to meet a lot of great people there and gained a lot of knowledge from my experience.



L to R: Holly Burch, Jaclyn Donadio, Monte Mitchell, Cathy Furr, Tom Murphy, Cheryl Halsey, Kim Hawley, Diana Jin and Jason Denmeade



ASMC LOCAL PDI SEMINAR

By: John Giammo

The Cleveland Chapters of the American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) and the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) once again sponsored a Spring Seminar on Wednesday, March 21, 2012 at the Wolstein Center on Cleveland State University's campus. The theme of this year's conference was "Beat the Clock." A total of eight Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credits were awarded for attendance. All guests were given a blue, black, and gray backpack and certificate of attendance to commemorate the event.

Jaclyn Donadio (ASMC-Secretary) and Michael Hoffman (AGA-President) co-hosted the event. Jaclyn did an excellent job filling in for ASMC Cleveland Chapter President Jason Denmeade, who was TDY at the time. Michael provided the opening remarks to the crowd and introduced talented vocalist Mark Werderitsch, who did a fantastic job singing the National Anthem. Mr. Werderitsch is an Accountant in Departmental Reporting for DFAS Cleveland. Jaclyn then introduced the first speaker, Mr. Gregory Curtis, an FBI Special Agent. Mr. Curtis gave an enlightening speech on Cuyahoga County's corruption featuring Jimmy Dimora and his court trial. A green portfolio binder with the blue ASMC logo was presented to each speaker.

During the first session, attendees were given the choice of listening to Mr. Keith McGill, Auditor of Kearney & Co. or Mr. Robert Skerda, a financial specialist at Edwards Jones. Mr. McGill spoke on the topic of external auditing, while Mr. Skerda spoke on the topic of personal investments.

During the second session, participants were given the option to listen to Mr. Jeffrey Carrillo, Process Improvement Specialist in the Lean 6 office here at DFAS Cleveland or Lauri Molnar, Regional Manager at Hattie Larlham. Mr. Carrillo's speech described process improvement, while Ms. Molnar's presentation described how reliable employees build a stronger team.

Lunch was then served in the West Wing Room. At the end of the meal, fashion expert Mrs. Frankie Denmeade (ASMC-Community Service) provided an informative presentation on how to dress for success in the business environment. After Frankie's speech, Mr. David Yost, Ohio Auditor of State, gave a presentation describing how the state is working for Ohioans to achieve a "skinnier" and smarter government. More information is available at www.skinnyohio.org.

During the third session, attendees were given the opportunity to attend presentations by Cleveland State University Provost, Mr. Geoffrey Mearns or Mr. Clarke Price, CEO of the Ohio Society of CPAs. Mr. Mearns detailed the Oklahoma City Bombing Case from the prosecutor's perspective. Mr. Price discussed the biggest challenges facing CPAs today.

During the fourth session, attendees were given the choice of attending one of two speakers. Professor Frank Klaus from Cleveland State University and Ms. Cheryl Scheidt from Deloitte were the options. Professor Klaus discussed fraud prevention, while Ms. Scheidt spoke about financial analytics.

The final speaker of the day was Mr. Trevor Braun. Mr. Braun is an Accountant in Departmental Reporting for DFAS Cleveland who discussed proper table etiquette for the business environment. Subsequently, Michael Hoffman announced the two winners of the AGA/ASMC collaborative scholarship. Congratulations to Michael Warn and Paul Labate who each received \$750 towards higher education.

Finally, special thanks to Francisco Rivera-Hernandez (ASMC-Event Chair) and Kim Carpenter (ASMC-Event Chair) for their efforts in organizing this successful event.

Pictures from the event can be viewed on the following page. For additional pictures, please visit the ASMC website and Facebook page.

ASMC LOCAL PDI SEMINAR PHOTOS



Ms. Jaclyn Donadio



Mr. David Yost



Mr. Robert Skerda & Mrs. Cheryl Halsey



Mr. Keith McGill



Mr. Clarke Price & Ms. Diana Jin



Mrs. Frankie Denmeade & Ms. Jaclyn Donadio

News from ASMC National Headquarters



DoD and defense industry officials warn of security risks and job losses if sequestration occurs

Department of Defense and defense industry leaders have stepped up their warnings about the security and economic consequences of the \$55 billion in automatic cuts to the DoD budget set to go into effect in early January 2013. Another \$55 billion in cuts to non-defense budgets would also occur in January. Total budget reductions if Congress does not act to approve an alternative to sequestration, would be, over the next nine years, \$1 trillion. ([Read the full story.](#))

See more *Defense and Budget Financial Management Highlights* on the ASMC website (www.asmconline.org), including the following:

- House committee proposes 30% cut to federal travel and restrictions on conference participation
- Phased retirement for federal employees approved by Congress
- House and Senate committees are not providing FY2013 federal civilian pay raise
- House passes FY2013 Military Construction/VA spending bill and draws veto threat

PDI 2012 Update

This year's PDI was a huge success with more than 3,100 attendees participating in 120+ education sessions. In addition, volunteers and ASMC chapters raised more than \$11,000 in this year's charity raffle and other philanthropic endeavors. All available presentations may be downloaded on the [PDI Web site](#) and recorded sessions are now available to more than 900 Virtual PDI registrants. Photographs taken throughout the PDI, including awards at general sessions, are available on the [ASMC Facebook page](#).

Mark your calendars now for PDI 2013 in Denver on May 29 – May 31.

ASMC - Grant Thornton LLP Annual Survey

The results from our 2012 Grant Thornton survey are now available. The report, titled "[Step Up to the Plate](#)," was distributed at last week's PDI and is also [available online](#). More than 700 individuals participated in the survey, the 10th such survey since 2003.

New National Headquarters Hire

We are pleased to announce the hire of Debra Grandy, our new Assistant Director of Certification. Debra can be reached at grandy@asmconline.org or by calling (703) 549-0360, ext. 109.

Member News

Member News

Welcome aboard new members!

ASMC Cleveland chapter welcomes the following members for July:

Michelle Moore
Thelma Robinson
Patricia Wasniak
Shane Zigler

* Please note that there is a lag time between the ASMC National and Local registries. We extend our apologies if you are a new member and your name does not yet appear on the list.

Scholarship Winner John Giammo!



The ASMC Cleveland Chapter Member Scholarship is awarded annually to an active Cleveland Chapter Member who is continuing his or her education. The 2012 Scholarship went to John Giammo. Congratulations, John!

L to R: Shellice Forrester, Toris Johnson, John Giammo, Diana Jin

Engagements

George Harris is engaged to Hillary Heeren and they are planning to wed on August 18, 2012.

Module 3 Onsite Testing

On Wednesday, 19 September 2012, the CDFM committee will be hosting an on-site group exam for Module 3. If you are an ASMC member and interested in taking this exam, please look for information as we get closer to the date.

Prepare for the CDFM Exam

ASMC recommends using the Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Course (EDFMTC) textbook as a study guide. If you do not already own one it can be purchased for \$65. Directions for purchasing the textbook can be found at: <http://www.asmconline.org/publications/textbooks/>. Additionally, the study plan "How to Be-come a CDFM in Eight Weeks" to be used in conjunction with the EDFMTC textbook can be found at: http://www.asmconline.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Toney_Williams_How_to_Become_a_CDFM_in_Eight_Weeks_6-7-11.pdf

If you have a question pertaining to the CDFM exam or certification process please contact us at askasmc@asmc-cleveland.org.

Donate EDFMTC Textbooks

The ASMC Cleveland Chapter is asking members to donate any EDFM Training Course textbooks that they are no longer using. The textbooks will be lent out to assist ASMC members who are currently studying for the CDFM Certification. Please contact Tonya.Peterson@dfas.mil or Laura.Farrell@dfas.mil if you have a textbook that you would like to donate.

ASMC Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday June, 27, 2012

Attendees: John Giammo, Amanda Preis, Laura Farrell, Jaclyn Donadio, Donna Hardick, Jaime Kudary, Frankie Denmeade, Cathy Furr, Elena Baykal, Lance Jones, Zachary Bendzuck, Shayna McCauley, Shana Gronostaj, Cheryl Halsey, Jessica Rust, Tracy Johnson

Opening Remarks: Jaclyn opened by expressing how she was looking forward to the coming year as President.

Board members went around and introduced themselves to those new to the Board

Donna was introduced as a new member on the newsletter team

We are still looking for feedback from members

An option to reach out to members is putting a message in the newsletter

Jaclyn requested that Board members send her feedback on one thing they like and one thing they would like to enhance

A vast majority of the Board will be returning for the next year

There will be an application process to fill vacancies, with the goal being to have new members of the Board chosen by August 1.

The application process will start in two weeks

Membership

Trying to get members who expired in the past six months to come back

Offered a \$5 gift card to Stone Oven

Five people have renewed but will check the membership list in case people have renewed but not emailed. Jaime Cathy will send Jaime an email to get the final three books once she cleans them up

Newsletter

The newsletter will be posted online tonight

Treasurer

Bank accounts will be transferred to the new treasurer on Friday

Community Service

An email was sent to the members requesting volunteers for Walk for Wishes, which is on July 21, 2012

So far 5 people have volunteered

Last year we participated in Step Out for Diabetes and we are looking to participate again

Last year the walk was in Hudson but thinking about doing the Cleveland walk this year since it is more centrally located

Thinking about asking members to vote on their preferred location for the walk

Looking into the possibility of the Chapter matching funds raised for events in the future

This might inspire members to donate more or collect more money

ASMC CLEVELAND TIMES

Programs

A potential speaker we had is no longer an option

Looking to possibly have the vice-president of the Rock in Roll Hall of Fame be a speaker

Still finalizing the contract with the Doubletree and possibly alternating every other month between the Doubletree and a different location

The contract is needed to lower the cost of the luncheon for members by committing to 6 events there a year
Debated the necessity of giving members a two-week lead time for luncheons

Decided that two weeks is the right amount of time for members to be notified to RSVP for luncheons

The target is to announce the next luncheon's information during the current luncheon

Need a meeting place for the Casino social

Will clarify with George and send a message to members

Trying to have a social once every quarter

Marketing

More pictures are posted online from past events though there are access issues when trying to access other pictures on the shared drive for editing

Some board members need access to the shared drive

Jaime will email Systems to get them access

Harold Briner can also help with access issues

Thinking about offering red ASMC shirts for members to buy and wear on Fridays to support the troops

We will send an email to see if people are interested in buying shirts

We will possibly use the contact from the last tshirt order

Possibly offset the purchase costs and donate part of the proceeds to the USO

Looking to post flyers for future events

We have templates to advertise events to use and want to use them to make flyers

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Visit Us Online At:

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