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**Save the Date:**

CDFM Module 1 on-site testing on  
Wednesday, 24 April 2013.  
Location TBD.

ASMC/AGA Spring Seminar on  
Wednesday, 20 March 2013  
at the Wolstein Center, 2000  
Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio  
44115. Rooms will be located on  
the 4th floor in the East and West  
wings. Attendees may start signing  
in at 7:45 am. The conference  
begins at 8:30 am and lasts until  
4:30 pm.

**Future Meeting Announcements:**

ASMC Board Meeting  
Tuesday, 26 March 2013  
9:00 am - 10:00 am  
Room 2911G

\*\*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



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Educational Opportunities

If you've ever thought about becoming a Certified Defense Financial Manager (CDFM) but haven't acted on that urge, now is the time to move. As you saw in an email last week, ASMC Cleveland's CDFM committee has created and released a study tool to help members prep for the three Modules that make up the CDFM exam. The CDFM Committee won't toot their own horn, so I'll do it for them - In December, a pilot group of four was given access to the tool to study for the Module 2 exam. All four went on to pass that exam.



The perfect storm is brewing for CDFM certification. Besides the study tool, the Enhanced Defense Financial Manager Training (EDFMT) course hits DFAS Cleveland on March 11<sup>th</sup>, and all 3 Module exams will be proctored onsite this fiscal year. So what are you waiting for?

If you're already a CDFM or need to earn CPEs to maintain another certification, I encourage you to register for this year's AGA/ASMC Spring Seminar. It's scheduled to take place on Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. Registration will be on a first-come first-served basis with priority given to AGA and ASMC members and those needing CPEs. Take advantage of the perks of membership and register today!

Jessica Rust, CDFM  
President, ASMC Cleveland

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

During the holiday season, many of you donated items that were used to make cheer bags for children and families in need. Guidestone Ohio, the non-profit charitable organization that received and distributed your donations, sent us letter of thanks. Please see the letter if you're interested in reading about how your kindness makes a difference in the lives of others.

Thanks again for your time and generosity!



Monday, December 24, 2012

American Society of Military Comptrollers Cleveland Chapter  
PO Box 99907  
Cleveland, OH 44199

Dear Friends,

I would like to extend my warm thanks to you for your donation of children's clothing. This contribution brought joy to the hearts of the children and families in our care. We value our partnership with you, and thank you for your recent act of kindness.

Since our founding in 1864, we have been dedicated to caring for our community's most vulnerable members. In Fiscal Year 2012, we served over 16,000 children, families and adults. Ninety percent of those we serve live at or below the poverty level. Your philanthropic efforts teach our children and families that good exists in this world and helps to put them on the pathway to a better life. Thanks to your generosity, we change lives every day!

I have enclosed a success story from one of our clients. Be sure to check us out online at [www.GuidestoneOhio.org](http://www.GuidestoneOhio.org) to find more information on our cause. Without you, many of these stories would not be possible. We are truly fortunate to be blessed by your kindness.

Sincerely,

Laurel A. Wirtanen-Siloy  
Special Gifts Officer

In keeping with IRS regulations, this letter confirms you did not receive any goods or services in exchange for this gift. Guidestone is a tax exempt 501 (c)(3) charitable organization. Federal ID #26-0720959.

[www.GuidestoneOhio.org](http://www.GuidestoneOhio.org)

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## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

### February Luncheon



John Luckas

The monthly ASMC luncheon was held at DoubleTree and our featured speaker was John Luckas, Director of Audit Readiness at DFAS. The topic for the luncheon was “Career Growth.” The first topic on the agenda was “Opportunities.” Occasional opportunities might happen from normal attrition or organization opportunities might happen such as realignments. Another opportunity that could happen would be change or situational, where an employee is provided an opportunity to do a different job. Mr. Luckas used himself as the example, as he had the opportunity to travel to Europe to provide training to different commands. He also mentioned the opportunities for DFAS employees to take advantage of the unique opportunity for DFAS employees interested in a lateral reassignment in DFAS Japan. One question to keep in mind is: “What might be the next major opportunity and more importantly, will I be ready for it?”

The next topic was “Preparing for Opportunities.” Mr. Luckas gave us examples on how to prepare for opportunities, such as education and certifications, working on technical expertise, and learning breadth of knowledge before taking on new tasks. Building your “brand” was another excellent point, working on what will distinguish you from others and your reputation. In building your brand, he went over “10 Rules for Building a Successful Personal Brand” from the book *Career Warfare* by David F. D’Alessandro.

The last topic was “Long Term Focus Areas”. Some of the points were:

- Leading change
- Customer service
- Results driven
- Accountability

Mr. Luckas is a great example of career growth. He started off in 1988 as an auditor and took advantage of the many opportunities that came his way and now is serving as the Director of Audit Readiness.



## CDFM INFORMATION



### **Are you interested in becoming a Certified Defense Financial Manager (CDFM)?**

**The American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC)–Cleveland Chapter has developed a tool to help you study for the CDFM exams! It is available for free to ASMC Cleveland members that have officially enrolled in the CDFM Program. To gain access to the Study Tool, please e-mail your proof of enrollment to Joel.Lawwell@dfas.mil. With this tool you will be able to quiz yourself with exercises such as a flashcard game, a matching game, multiple choice questions, and simulation quizzes. There are over 1000 questions and 200 definitions within the tool! Right now the Study Tool is available for Modules 1-3, with Module 4 coming soon!**

#### Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Course

Many have expressed interest in becoming a Certified Defense Financial Manager (CDFM). Although the Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Course (EDFMT) is not required to sit for the exam, it is a great way to prepare for the test. This course is scheduled to come to DFAS Cleveland *March 11-15, 2013!* If you are interested in taking the EDFMT course, you will need to self nominate. Please ensure this course is included in your Individual Development Plan (IDP) to increase your chances of being enrolled.

In order to add the class to your IDP please follow these steps:

1. Go to <https://eportal.dfas.mil>.
2. Go to "My Dashboard".
3. Go to "Training Competencies".
4. Under the action Column, click on "Add/Update Training".
5. Under Instructor Led Courses Click on "Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Course" under Finance and Accounting.
6. Click the "Add to Plan" button.
7. Once the class has been added, resubmit your IDP to your supervisors. This is done on the "My Dashboard" page.

# Member News

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - Josh Miller



By: Matthew Sylvain

Josh grew up in Warren, Ohio and currently resides there. He received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Youngstown State University in May 2008 and Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix in January 2011. Josh also earned his Lean Six Sigma Black Belt Certification in November 2011. Prior to DFAS, he worked seven years as a bus person/bar assistant at a local family-owned restaurant and five years as a general residential construction worker.

He started his career with DFAS in May 2008. While at DFAS, he has had the opportunity to work in Treasury Reporting, Accounts Maintenance and Control and the Lean6 office. Within his first week at DFAS, he had the opportunity to participate in BRAC at the Kansas City site and brought back work pertaining to Marine Corps Forestry and Agriculture reconciliations. Josh was permanently placed in Treasury SOT reconciliation Branch after he completed the LIM Program. He has been working with the cross disbursing transactions since May of 2011.

Josh is nearing his one year anniversary to his wife Heather in May of this year. He has one daughter who is five years old. Some of his many interests include: boating, water skiing, wakeboarding, knee boarding, ATV riding, jet skiing, bicycling, detailing and working on anything with a motor, attending car shows in his 1973 Super Beetle (which he restored from the ground up over the last 15 years) and watching sunsets on the lake. The most important part of his life is spending as much time as possible with family.

### Welcome Aboard New Members!

ASMC Cleveland Chapter  
welcomes the following  
members for February:

- |                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Robert L. Calaway      | Jason R. Beck    |
| Sviatlana Y. Alexander | Airian L. Pruitt |
| Patricio Valdez        | Tina M. Johnson  |
| April C. Hoyes         |                  |

\* 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.

# Member News

## Member News

## *Scholarship Money Available!*

**What:** One \$1,000 general scholarship & One \$1,000 ASMC member scholarship

**Eligibility:** College student with a minimum GPA of 2.5 pursuing a degree in a financial management discipline at an accredited college or university

**Deadline:** Application packets must be submitted by Friday, March 29th, 2013

**How to Apply:** For complete scholarship details, please visit us online:  
<http://asmc-cleveland.org/members/scholarships>

**American Society of Military Comptrollers**

**Cleveland Chapter**

[www.asmc-cleveland.org](http://www.asmc-cleveland.org)



## NATIONAL NEWS



## OPM issues “administrative furlough” guidance to agencies

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has issued furlough policy [guidance](#) for federal workers in advance of possible severe funding reductions that would be caused by sequestration.

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) officials have said that furloughs could be implemented if sequestration goes into effect. Testifying before Congress in September, [DoD Comptroller Bob Hale](#) said sequestration could make it necessary for DoD to “impose a hiring freeze, consider unpaid furloughs, and take other actions.”

The new guidance describes “administrative furloughs” that are “designed to absorb reductions necessitated by downsizing, reduced funding, lack of work, or any other budget situation other than a lapse in appropriations.” This type of furlough could be applied if employee furloughs are necessary because an agreement is not reached to avert automatic across-the-board cuts set to go into effect on January 2, 2013. OPM considers this guidance a precautionary measure. ([Read full story.](#))

See more *Defense and Budget Financial Management Highlights* on the ASMC website ([www.asmonline.org](http://www.asmonline.org)), including the following:

- Congress approves final FY2013 Defense Authorization bill
- Fewer military veterans will serve in the 113th Congress

### From the Executive Director ASMC:

Thank you for your support of ASMC. The ASMC National Headquarters staff has been in communication with senior DoD leadership, and will continue to support efforts of organizations to gain approval to participate in the ASMC National PDI in Denver. We are closely monitoring pending sequestration and budget issues considering their impact upon attendance at the National PDI. As an optimist, I am hopeful the pending sequestration issue will be resolved in time and sufficiently to enable DoD and USCG to fund the very important PDI training that supports the professional development of defense financial managers, further contributing to their effectiveness in managing defense resources.

Available at [www.PDI2013.org](http://www.PDI2013.org), are documents the Army, Air Force and Navy have published, providing policy and guidance on funding priorities considering the current fiscal uncertainty. ASMC is dedicated to maintaining a high quality program for PDI attendees. In light of the current fiscal situation, ASMC has implemented changes to the PDI that allow for a reduced registration rate and lower lodging costs. ASMC anticipates opening registration and housing to attendees at the end of March. Please note that once this occurs, you will need to obtain authorized funding and understand your organization's policy and guidance concerning travel and training approval before you register.

Unfortunately, due to the current level of uncertainty of funding, some of our ASMC chapters have canceled or postponed local or regional events. For the most up to date listing of events that are still being conducted, please view our ASMC website classroom training <http://ASMC.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zMDAwNTUzJnA9MSZ1PTEwMjg0Nzk0MTkmbGk9MTU1NTYxNDY/index.html> page at [www.asmonline.org](http://www.asmonline.org) and <http://ASMC.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zMDAwNTUzJnA9MSZ1PTEwMjg0Nzk0MTkmbGk9MTU1NTYxNDc/index.html> .

I will provide an update on status of ASMC National PDI planning in early March.

Al Runnels  
ASMC Executive Director

## ASMC Board Meeting Minutes

### Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday February 26, 2013

9:00-9:30AM 2911G

**Attendees:** Jessica Rust, Elena Baykal, Kim Carpenter, Bryan Conway, Frankie Denmeade, Jason Denmeade, Laura Farrell, Charvez Forte Walker, Cathy Furr, John Giammo, George Harris, Joel Lawwell, Francisco Rivera-Hernandez, Jaime Kudary, Kyle Boehnlein, Larry Felts, Zach Bendzuck, Adam Haldiman, Greg Scruggs.

#### President

Cathy Furr who is on the community service committee, is retiring and a fond farewell at a Retirement Open House to be held in her honor on Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Room C1. Cathy will be retiring with 30+ years of federal service. Certificate presentation at 11:45 a.m.

#### Webmaster

Updated website page  
Wants to update officers pictures

#### Project management/Community Service

Would like to stage a race in April 2013, one mile walk.  
Volunteers, sponsors, charities maybe Wounded Warrior. Order coins, t-shirts.  
Creative ideas for the name of the event, one was brought up as ASMC Shamrock Run

#### Marketing

Will assist 5k run with t-shirts  
Will do flyers for PDI

#### Programs

Working with AGA on Local PDI, reserved Wolstein at CSU for March 20  
Finalized speakers, venue is reserved, menu selected, announcement needs to go out so people can start registering

#### CDFM

The CDFM Training Course comes to Cleveland on 3/11/2013  
On-site testing will be taking place on the following dates:  
Wednesday, April 24th MODULE 1  
Wednesday, June 26th MODULE 2  
Wednesday, September 18 MODULE 3

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CLEVELAND TIMES STAFF**

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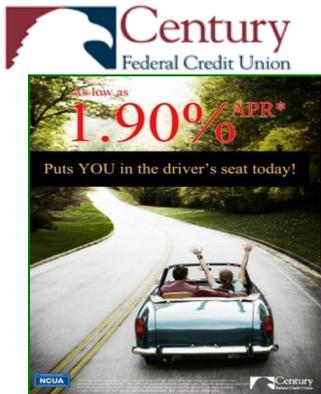
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ASMC Cleveland Chapter

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