

NOVEMBER 2014

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Save the Date:

ASMC Service Event: St. Pat's
Hunger Center located at 3610
Bridge Avenue on Wednesday,
19 November 2014 at 5:00 pm.

ASMC Cleveland Chapter
November Luncheon:
Thursday, 20 November 2014
located at the DoubleTree Hotel
featuring the Director of DFAS
Mrs. McKay.

Future Meeting Announcements

ASMC Board Meeting on
Tuesday, 25 November 2014 at
3:00 pm in 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

What's your Goal?



Fellow members,

Every year, around my birthday, I do two things - reflect back on what I have accomplished and set new goals for the new year. This has become a very important part of my journey. I have realized that no matter what, if I am working on a goal or doing nothing at all, time passes. The goals that I set are both personal and career orientated. Having a healthy balance between work and

personal time makes a happy life.

The difference between dreaming for things to happen and goal settings is having a plan and working it. Many people deter setting goals because they make it too big of a production or feel defeated if they get off track of the plan. It is very simple. Have a plan, write it down, and keep it SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time bound). Do something each day to chip away at that goal.

Very seldom do things go exactly as planned. Think of the obstacles that you may face in completing your goals. Write them down. Now think of ways you will overcome those obstacles when they arrive. If you face obstacles that you didn't foresee, write them down also. This will serve as lessons learned when setting future goals.

Whether you are one to set goals at the beginning the calendar year, on your birthday or at any time during the year, when you reflect on the year, what do you want to see? I want to see areas in which I have grown. I want to see where I stepped out of my comfort zone. I want to know that I took advantage of every opportunity that was offered to me.

Set a goal. It can be as little as being on time or as big as going for that first, second or third degree. Make the story that you are writing with the events of your life be an exciting read. YOLO - make it count.

Sincerely,

Frankie

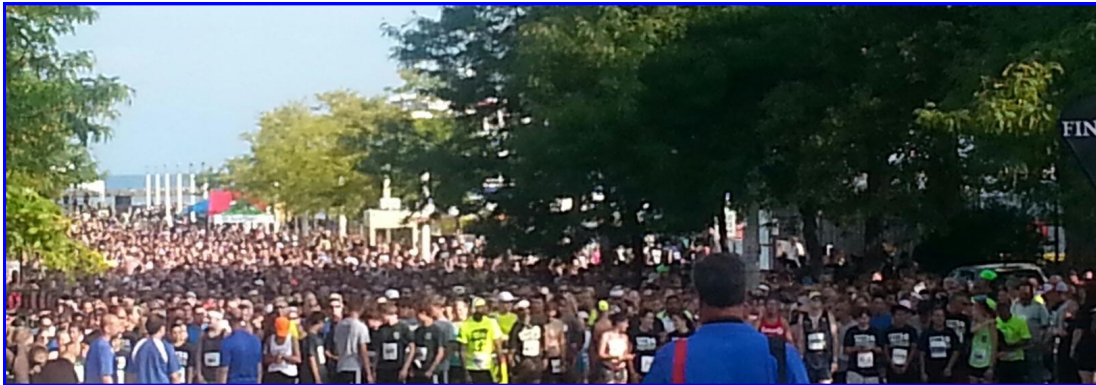
COMMUNITY SERVICE

DFAS Cleveland Wellness/ASMC Event

By: Ryan Serne

Thousands of people turned out on Sunday, August 24th for the 2nd Annual FOX 8 FOX Trot at Cleveland's Voinovich Park. According to Fox 8's race organizer, over 6,500 people participated in the event to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project, and the race raised around \$100,000 in support of WWP. DFAS Cleveland had 49 people that participated in the walk/run, and 12 people that volunteered to help on race day (thanks to Kathie McPherson for coordinating the volunteers).

Big thanks to all that came out to support the Wounded Warrior Project!"



AMSC Service Event: St. Pat's Hunger Center

Please join ASMC on Wednesday, November 19th to help serve meals to those in need at St. Patrick's Hunger Center, just a short distance from our office in Ohio City. We will meet at 5:00 PM at St. Patrick's Hunger Center located at 3610 Bridge Avenue in Cleveland. We will begin serving meals at 5:30 PM, followed by a light clean-up where we'll wipe down tables and chairs, ending by 6:15 PM. If you're interested, please email Ryan Serne at ryan.serne@dfas.mil by Friday, November 14th.

Thank you,
ASMC Community Service Committee

NATIONAL NEWS



Hagel and Army Leaders Call for Sequestration Fix in 2016

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel blamed many of the readiness problems the Army and other military services are experiencing on the deep cuts forced by sequestration.

Speaking at the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Annual Meeting and Exposition earlier this month, Hagel warned that failure to fix sequestration risks a return to an Army that is undertrained, under-equipped, outnumbered, and unprepared. "Because of sequestration, last year the Army had to cancel so many training rotations that we had only two active-duty brigade combat teams who were fully ready and available to execute a major combat mission," he charged.

Hagel acknowledged that some budget relief has been enacted, but stressed that sequestration is still law. Unless there is an agreement to fix sequestration, Hagel said, "it will return in 2016—stunting the Army's readiness just as we've begun to recover, and requiring even more dramatic reductions in force structure."

Hagel also pressed for congressional approval of DoD's proposed program reductions, trade-offs, and compensation reforms to mitigate the stress on readiness levels and modernization plans. If Congress does not act, Hagel warned, DoD "could face a \$70 billion cut in our budget over the next five years." As a result, the military services "would have little choice but to make up the differences through cuts to readiness," he said.

Hagel urged Congress to be "a partner in responsible, long-term planning and budgeting" and to end sequestration, which he called "an irresponsible deferral of responsibility."

Army Secretary John McHugh, opening the AUSA meeting, voiced similar concerns. He warned that if sequestration is implemented in 2016 "another round of indiscriminate cuts will gut our force so we're unable to meet the president's defense strategic guidance." He called on Congress to support predictable, long-term funding plans. "This is a time for predictability," he said.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno has echoed Hagel's and McHugh's remarks. Odierno called 2016 a "breaking point." He said if sequestration returned in 2016 it would take the Army budget down \$9 billion from the current plan. He emphasized this cut would significantly degrade the force "because I cannot take people out fast enough."

Odierno called for a "balance" between manpower, modernization and training, which sequestration make difficult to maintain. "This is a lousy way to do business," he said.

See more *Defense and Budget Financial Management Highlights* on the ASMC website (www.asmc-online.org).

- [Federal civilian retirees to get 1.7 percent COLA in 2015](#)
- [President requests \\$3.4 billion for DoD operations against ISIL](#)
- [Federal employee health insurance premiums set to rise 3.2 percent in 2015](#)
- [OMB gives agencies guidance for operating under FY2015 CR](#)

Member News

Member News

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - Erin Laughlin



By: John Giammo

Ladies and Gentlemen, meet Erin Laughlin. Erin works in the Systems Operations department as a Financial Systems Analyst. She was hired by DFAS-CL into the Leaders-In-Motion program in 2009 and joined ASMC shortly thereafter. Erin figured ASMC was a great way to meet new people and to find out more about her profession. She currently serves on the CDFM Committee and enjoys being involved and helping others obtain their CDFM certifications.

While in high school, Erin enlisted in the Army National Guard. She served as a 92A, Automated Logistical Specialist, and even had the opportunity to mobilize to Louisiana for Hurricane Katrina relief efforts in 2005.

During her time at Youngstown State University, Erin joined the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program. She served as a cadet until graduation and was then commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Finance Corps in 2008. Erin earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, majoring in Accounting from YSU.

In 2010, Erin was deployed to Iraq and Qatar and served as a Contracting Officer, a one-year tour in the Middle East. Currently, she serves with the 1937th Contingency Contracting Team (CCT) and holds the rank of Captain.

Erin's certifications include a Lean6 Green Belt, Security+ (Plus) and CDFM-A (Acquisition). Other prestigious achievements include receiving the Federal Executive Board's Wings of Excellence Award last year and a promotion within Systems Operations this past July. Moreover, Erin was recently selected to participate in the Cleveland Federal Community Leadership Institute (CFCLI) program for 2015. Erin is also pursuing an MBA with a concentration in Information Systems at Cleveland State University.

Erin grew up outside of Pittsburgh and is huge fan of the Steelers, Penguins, Pirates, and Cavs. In her personal time, Erin stays active by doing hot yoga and playing co-ed volleyball and touch football. In addition, she is a member of the AMVETS, American Legion Auxiliary, Fraternal Order of Eagles (F.O.E.) and Cleveland 20s/30s group. This year Erin became an aunt for the first time and rescued an amazing dog named Roland!

Finally, one of Erin's favorite quotes is by W.E.B. DuBois. DuBois said, "The most important thing to remember is this: To be ready at any moment to give up what you are for what you might become."

Member News

Please join ASMC for our November luncheon where we welcome DFAS Agency Director, Mrs. Teresa McKay.

Mrs. Teresa McKay was sworn in as the Director of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) on September 15, 2008. Mrs. McKay is a leader committed to improving financial management through improved business processes and incorporating accounting, finance and internal control requirements for strong DoD end-to-end business processes.

Mrs. McKay epitomizes the DFAS motto of Proudly Serving America's Heroes.

Please join us as we welcome her as our esteemed November speaker!

ASMC November Luncheon

Who: Mrs. Teresa McKay, DFAS Agency Director

When: Thursday, November 20th from 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

Where: DoubleTree Hotel
1111 Lakeside Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44114

Cost: \$22 for ASMC members/\$23 for non-members
*Includes beverage, entrée and dessert



Please RSVP by Friday, November 14th to Zachary Bendzuck at zachary.bendzuck@dfas.mil

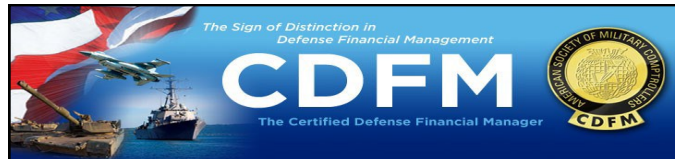
**American Society of Military Comptrollers
Cleveland Chapter**



www.asmc-cleveland.org



CDFM INFORMATION



Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Course (EDFMTC)

The Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Course (EDFMTC) is scheduled to come to DFAS Cleveland November 17 - 21, 2014. Although the EDFMTC is not required to test for the exams, it is a great way to prepare yourself for it. In order to be considered for this course, please make sure it is included in your Individual Development Plan (IDP). Those members who are interested in taking this course, per DFAS Indy, to register for this course, you are required to submit an application on the EDFMT website (link provided in ePortal).

Please follow the below steps to register for the EDFMTC:

1. Go to <https://eportal.dfas.mil>
2. Go to "My Dashboard"
3. Go to "Course Catalog"
4. Under "Detailed Search" in the "Course Title" field type: Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Course and then click "Search Course Catalog."
5. Find the course located in Cleveland and click "How to Enroll."
6. If you receive a message stating "There is a problem with this website's security certificate", click "Continue to this website (not recommended)."
7. From the drop down menu, click "DFAS" and Select "CAC"
8. Click "Register for EDFMT"
9. Click "Cleveland, OH"
10. Click "Submit Application."

NOTE: After you submit the application, it goes to your supervisor for approval. Your supervisor will need to approve your application in order for you to be considered for the course. Supervisor approval does not guarantee a seat in the course, final selection/approval done by the Quota Manager.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the CDFM Committee Members:

Tonya Young @ Tonya.Young@dfas.mil
Erin Laughlin @ Erin.Laughlin@dfas.mil
Jason Ward @ Jason.Ward@dfas.mil

ASMC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

ASMC Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday October 28, 2014

3:00-4:00PM 2911G

Attendees: Sviatlana Alexander, Elena Baykal, Frankie Denmeade, Jason Denmeade, Laura Farrell, Shellice Forrester, John Giammo, Denise Glover, Jessica Huff, Erin Laughlin, Monte Mitchell, Louis Ockunzzi, Karen Poteat, Amanda Preis, Khemeo Sahye, Rechelle Williams.

President

- 5 Star tracking tool instructions will be shared with board to better track the progress
- November Luncheon speaker is Ms. McKay please try to attend, we would like bigger participation
- Any committee members accomplishing something and would like to be recognized please share with the board so we can all celebrate their accomplishment

Nominations/Scholarship

- Committee decided to divide \$500 budgeted scholarship between members taken CDFM \$100 and high school graduate \$400
- Looking for new ideas for education and would like to bring speaker and teach members about student loan
- Is working with CDFM Committee to create a study group and share material in the preparation for the exam

Program

- November Luncheon is on November 20th at the Double Tree hotel with the speaker director of DFAS Ms. McKay
- The luncheon will be more formal, plated and the room capacity is at 60 people
- December luncheon could be the Night Luncheon event more like Holiday Social event, more to come tentative date week of December 17th either Thursday or Friday.
- Local PDI pre-planning meeting is going to be with all the officers first, and would like all officers to be actively involved to deliver great event
- Will be reaching out to the front office to see what was budgeted for the Local PDI DFAS employees so Chapter can make better decision on how to approach and plan in terms of the venue and catering

Community Services

- Hospice help event went very well, members took care of the kitchen and washed windows, spent two hours
- Community Services worksheet is up to date with all the scheduled events and completed as well
- Planning to work with the Agency Frontline Services to do a "Gift Drive" for the holidays, to help buy gifts to children that witnessed abuse, will have 100 children, members will have to pick a child and buy a present that was requested or buy as a group, pick-up time is scheduled on December 17
- Help with communication is needed
- Room to store all the gifts
- Card will have child's name, age and size
- Reasonably priced gifts
- Gift cards allowed but not encouraged

ASMC BOARD MEETING MINTUES (cont.)

- Can ask members to donate towards this event while at the luncheon
- Food Bank event is on November 8

Membership

- The membership drive was a success and fun event
- Two new members joined as a result and some former members rejoined the chapter

Marketing

- Submitted pictures for the ASMC National Comptroller's magazine
- Flyer for the November Luncheon is out in the hallways
- Pictures from previous events are on the share drive

Treasury

- First Quarter has been reconciled, shared with officers and is ready for posting in the newsletter
- Balance due from the Local PDI was paid to the Cleveland Convention Center

Secretary

- Newsletter is ready to be published
- Website has been updated

CDFM

- Will have meeting about creating an educational study group for DFAs employees that are planning to take CDFM exam
- EDFMTC class is on site November 17-21

ASMC CLEVELAND TIMES STAFF

Shayna McCauley – Editor
Shayna.McCauley@dfas.mil

Lance Jones—Editor
Bertie.Jones@dfas.mil

John Giammo
John.Giammo@dfas.mil

Kevin Spotz
Kevin.Spotz@dfas.mil

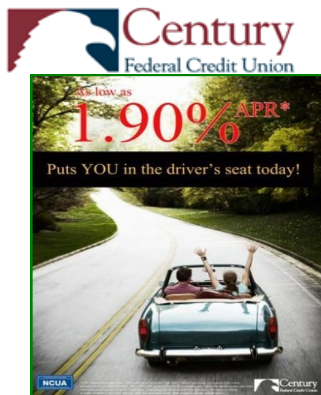
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<http://www.asmc-cleveland.org/>

ASMC Cleveland Chapter

<http://www.asmcnline.org/>

ASMC National



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