



LIGHTNING *focus*

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PDI to be held in Orlando, FL in 2016

ASMC's National Professional Development Institute (PDI) is being hosted in Orlando, FL on 1-3 Jun 2016. The program's objective is to enhance skills and abilities that personnel in the financial and resource management community must possess to meet the challenges of working in the 21st century. The PDI's focus is on education and training, with more than 20 hours of educational sessions and speakers, and the ability to earn up to 26 CPE. These sessions will provide updates to emerging issues and help you transform today for tomorrow's success.

ASMC's Executive Director, Al Runnels, and Membership Programs Associate Director, Libby Long, met with our local chapter officers on 24 Nov 14 to discuss our involvement with the PDI in 2016. We will be teaming with the Tampa Bay and Jacksonville chapters to help

facilitate the set up and execution of the PDI at the Hyatt Regency on International Drive.

There will be numerous opportunities for chapter members to help with various committees such as: (1) Transportation (2) IT (3) Hospitality (4) Charity Event (5) Protocol (6) Opening Ceremonies (7) Administration (8) Activities. We have also been asked to make suggestions for a theme, which must be determined by August 2015.

Please begin to inform your supervisors know you want to attend this event and try to get them to plan for funding of the registration cost (which will be reduced if you are a volunteer). We hope all of our chapter members will get excited and support this event.

Contact any of the officers to volunteer to be on one of the committees.



PDI opens the door to help you transform today for tomorrow's success

This is a great opportunity for chapter members to network with other professionals, earn CPE or CLP credits, and obtain the latest information in defense financial management. All from the comforts of your home location. We will be calling on all members to participate and make this an event we will all remember.

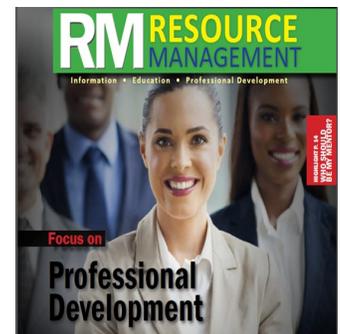
Competitive Professional Development Opportunities

As members of the Financial Management profession we should be especially committed to seeking training and development opportunities.

The current issue of Resource Management describes competitive training and development offerings available to financial managers.

The magazine outlines short-term training opportunities such as the Defense Financial Management Course (DFMC). It also describes long-term training opportunities such as the Defense Comptrollership Program (DCP).

Check out the magazine for more information.



Ashton Carter

- Bachelor's degree in physics & medieval history from Yale
- Rhodes Scholar
- Earned a Doctorate in theoretical physics from Oxford
- Has served under three Defense Dept Secretaries: Chuck Hagel, Leon Panetta, Robert Gates

“... if sequestration holds, the department will be driven to make inefficient and unsound near term funding choices ...”

Ashton Carter



New Defense Secretary but Budget Cuts Will Continue

Ashton B. Carter was nominated by the President to be the next Secretary of Defense.

As the last two years saw deep spending cuts, Mr. Carter was a critic of spending cuts he has characterized as dangerous and irresponsible but he has also been an unabashed critic of Pentagon over-spending. [1]

Mr. Carter was the architect of the Pentagon's campaign to reform defense contracting - "Better Buying Power"[1] As the government pushes Better Buying Power across all of its departments, Mr. Carter can be expected to push forth the initiative he began.

Better Buying Power initiative was born September 2010. It is an efficiency initiative geared towards the approximately \$400 billion that the Defense department spends annually on goods and services. The goal is to "... get more capability for the warfighter and more value for the taxpayer by obtaining greater efficiency and productivity in defense spending, or what economists call productivity growth " [2]

Subsequent to the launch of the Better Buying Power initiative, Congress passed the Budget Control Act, requiring the Defense department to cut \$248 billion over 10 years. The Defense department has employed sequestration as one of the means to achieve the reduction. Mr. Carter has opined that defense spending can be managed through Better Buying Power, rather than sequestration. In a 2013 op-ed for Defense One, Mr. Carter wrote "... if sequestration holds, the department will be driven to make inefficient and unsound near term funding choices that will reduce our buying power, magnifying the effects of what is already a substantial funding cut and further harming our readiness, as well as carefully laid plans to control program costs." [2]

Although Mr. Carter has no uniformed military service, he is an expert in strategic military affairs and nuclear weapons policy.



He previously served as the Deputy Secretary of Defense, overseeing a \$600 billion budget and managing 2.4 million uniformed & civilian personnel.

The 2016 president's budget is due to Congress February 2. Sequestration funding levels are also slated to kick in. Mr. Carter will have to tackle this looming issue as well as military compensation, pay raises for U.S. troops, and involuntary separation for some troops. [3]

References
 [1] National Defense Magazine
 [2] Defense One
 [3] Christian Science Monitor

Member Call to Action

The growth and success of this organization rests with all of its members. We want to see you at the Chapter events, Board meetings, and General meetings. We also want to hear from you.

Is there an event you would like to see the Chapter participate in? Do you have any suggestions to improve the Chapter? Is there something in particular about the Chapter that has stopped you from participating? Is there a particular topic you would like to learn about? Tell us how this Chapter can serve your professional needs.

Contact any of the board members with your suggestions, complaints, or ideas. If you would like to communicate anonymously (to some degree), email the Treasurer at joan.p.hart.civ@mail.mil. Your comments will be shared but your identity will not be revealed.

If you would like to contribute an article, joke, recipe, regulation update, or anything else you can think of, send your recommendation to joan.p.hart.civ@mail.mil. Your submission will appear in the "Lightning Round" section.

Upcoming Events

"New Years Resolution - Get Aggressive with Your TSP"

Have you asked yourself if you are putting away enough in your TSP to secure the retirement you want? Can you afford to add more?

Get information to answer these questions and more.

If you haven't looked at your TSP account in a while or haven't already assessed what changes you need to make to your savings plan, now is a perfect time to get that done. Be proactive and plan ahead.

Our next event will be on January 28 at the Tap Room Grille in Waterford Lakes. Come out and network, eat some good food, and get the information you need.

When: January 28, 2015

Where: Tap Room Grille
12789 Waterford Lakes Pkwy
#14, Orlando, FL 32828

Phone: (407) 630-5789



Preview the menu before you come out to the event.
<http://taproomgrille.com/menu>

Be On The Lookout For These Events:

- ▽ Lessons Learned from the Fiscal Year End (TBD)
- ▽ Excel Tips, Tricks & Shortcuts, part 2 (TBD)
- ▽ Executive Board Meeting (Feb 11, 2015)



SCHOLARSHIP:
Check out future publications for more info on upcoming scholarship opportunities

CDFM Information

The Certified Defense Financial Manager (CDFM) educational program and certification designation is offered to those persons desiring to demonstrate proficiency in the core aspects of defense financial management.



For the month of January, ASMC members can receive a 50% discount on the non-refundable CDFM candidate initial enrollment fee.

The fee will be \$20 during the month of January; it will then revert to \$40. Each enrollment as a CDFM candidate is valid for two years.

On December 10, the ASMC National Executive Committee approved minor increases in CDFM program fees. Fees had remained stagnant since 2000.

Initial Enrollment fee increased from \$35 to \$40. Exam fee increased from \$95 to \$99. CDFM renewal fee increased from \$20 to \$25.

CDFM Fee Structure		
	Member	Non-Member
Enrollment	\$40	\$75
Exam	\$99	\$99
Renewal	\$25	\$45

CENTRAL FLORIDA LIGHTNING CHAPTER

Physical Address
12211 Science Drive
Orlando, FL 32826

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 780564
Orlando, FL 32878

Phone: 404-380-1538

E-mail: gene.ferguson@navy.mil
Email: bryan.turner@navy.mil
Email: diana.ovadia@navy.mil
Email: nealie.b.page.civ@mail.mil
Email: vicki.m.vaughan.civ@mail.mil
Email: joan.p.hart.civ@mail.mil

We are coming to the web. Our new website is in the planning stages. Stay tuned

You do not have to be a Chapter member to attend meetings or be a volunteer. Even family members are invited.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Past Events

During November's General Meeting we held a potluck lunch and learn on-site and it was delicious! Our meeting wasn't just fun though, it was also informative. We had guest speakers Magda Merle and Josie Acosta from the Navy's Cost Department demonstrate some very useful Tips, Tricks and Shortcuts for Microsoft Excel. It was so well received.



Part 2 of the workshop is being planned for 2015, where Magda and Josie will cover more advanced formulas, as well as pivot tables.

In October, the Chapter served the community by volunteering at Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida. We coordinated the monthly birthday party for all youth staying in the shelter who were celebrating a birthday that month. We organized games, spent time with the families, sang songs, and cut the cake. It warmed our hearts!

At the end of the afternoon, some kids even followed us out asking us to return for the month of their birthday. We surely will!

As a reminder, our chapter of ASMC has committed to serving our community every month in between our professional meetings. We look forward to seeing you at our next event!



Lightning Round: Turkey Rolls with Gazpacho Sauce



4 turkey breast steaks
1 tbsp. red pesto
4 small chorizo sausages
Salt & ground black pepper
3 tbsp olive oil

[2] If the turkey breast steaks are quite thick, place them between two sheets of clear plastic wrap and beat them with the side of a rolling pin, to flatten them slightly

[3] Spread the pesto over the turkey, put a chorizo on each piece & roll up firmly. Preheat the grill



[4] Slice the rolls thickly & thread them on to skewers. Brush with remaining oil & grill (broil) for 10-12 minutes, turning once. Serve with the gazpacho sauce.



For the Gazpacho Sauce:

1 chopped green bell pepper
1 chopped red bell pepper
3 inch piece of cucumber
1 tomato
1 garlic clove, chopped
1 tsp red wine vinegar

[1] To make the gazpacho sauce, place the peppers, cucumber, tomato, garlic, and vinegar in a food processor. Pour in 2 tbsp of the oil and process until almost smooth. Season to taste with salt and pepper and set aside.



Hails and Farewells



CFL welcomes our new members:

Joan Hart as the newly elected Treasurer.

Val Thompson as a new member. Val, we will see you at the next meeting.



Gina Romero, former Chapter Treasurer, has moved on to a new job opportunity in Washington, DC.

We thank Gina so much for the time and effort she gave towards the progress of the Chapter.