

High Desert Chapter ASMC

High Desert Wind Newsletter

American Society of Military Comptrollers

3rd Quarter
2007



CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Dee Cameron



Hello, High Desert ASMC Members; I want to take the time to thank all of you for voting for the new and returning Executive Board Members. We are looking forward to the New Year and getting some things accomplished.

The National Professional Development Institute (PDI) was held in Kansas City this year with more than 3300 attendees for four days which included a full day of Air Force activities. I am proud of the fact that we received the 5 Star Chapter Award as well as an award for our Chapter Newsletter and Community Service awards for 2006. I will be asking for a volunteer to take on the responsibility this year to ensure all the paperwork and collection of information is completed and sent to National. I would like to see us strive for

the Distinguished Chapter award this year.

There were a number of great speakers and events during the week, and everyone who attended will be writing a paper to be printed in the newsletter. Or they maybe asked to do a 5 minute talk during one of the meetings. I want to thank the members who attended and volunteered to work as Instructor Assistants; this helps out the hosting chapter and makes a little money for our local chapter. We will be looking for volunteers for next year in Orlando.

The Chapter Fair was a lot of fun; we held a raffle for a video MP3 player this year which added \$60.00 to our scholarship program.

I picked up some pointers this year to help out the chapter both with membership and publicity

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~ **UP-COMING CHAPTER MEMBER MEETINGS & EVENTS** ~
ASMC Meetings: Start 11:30 - Place: Wolfe Yeager Room, Bldg. 2800

18 Jul 07

**Ruth Simonds will speak on the "Relay For Life" 24 hour Cancer walk.
Please be there if you plan on participating on our Chapter Team.**



which I will be sharing with the chapter over the next couple of months. I am hoping to get a few more volunteers for various committees. Once again, participation in chapter committees and activities gets you points toward attending PDI.

Our next meeting will be on the 20th of June at 1100 in the Wolfe Yeager Conference Room, we will be participating in a live Audio Conference on Briefing Skills, presented by Dr. John Kline.

See you at the General Membership Meetings, and as always, if you have

any thoughts comments or suggestions, please let one of the Board Members know. We can't fix or make things better unless you let us know that it is broken. Remember it is your Chapter, and you have a say in how it is run. You just have to take the time to speak out and let one of us know. We as an executive board are here to help you make the most of your ASMC experience.

D.C.

MEMBER'S ARTICLE

Major, Michael J. Rooney COMMANDER, 95 CPTS



As many of you know, FY07 is proving to be a particularly challenging year for executing the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) account within the Air Base Wing (ABW). Corporately, the Air Force is focused on fighting and winning the Global War on Terror (GWOT) and recapitalizing/modernizing our weapons systems. In order to meet these objectives and limited by fiscal constraints, the O&M account Air Force-wide has seen a decrease in available funding while requirements continue to grow.

At the local level, innovation and good fortune have enabled us to stay on course to execute our current

budget. Air Force mandated contract ceilings forced the Wing to make tough choices on how our contract dollars are spent. To help us live within our ceiling, the decision was made to close the enlisted dining hall. Doing so enabled us to save \$2.5M in contract costs while shifting the burden of paying our dorm-residing Airmen subsistence from the Military Personnel appropriation. Within Civilian Pay, the prospects for successfully executing the program appeared bleak when DOD initially determined that Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization (SRM) funds were fenced under Congressional language. Since Civil Engineering operations at many installations account for a very large percentage of the Civilian Pay budget, the fencing of SRM funds



from the O&M account drove a huge pay disconnect Air Force-wide. After further legal review of Congressional intent, the fence was removed and flexibility restored to permit movement of SRM pay dollars. Finally, the implementation of the National Security Personnel System (NSPS) resulted in a mini hiring freeze which limited our ability to bring people on board. While not good news for many base organizations already struggling to make ends meet, the NSPS rollout has greatly reduced the need for further belt-tightening within the Civilian Pay program.

At all levels of Air Force management from Air Staff through Command and each Wing, funds are held back to provide a cushion or management reserve to pay for emergency and other unbudgeted requirements. Within AFMC, a conscious decision was made to maintain minimal withholds and push maximum funding to the field in order to provide Wings full flexibility in executing their programs. The 95 ABW leadership followed suit and, for the first time in recent memory, Wing organizations were not taxed to support a Commander's withhold. While beneficial to have full control of Wing and unit funds without the tax a withhold imposes, base organizations find themselves living under a new paradigm requiring the sourcing of unbudgeted pop-up requirements out of hide.

As we move towards the end of the fiscal year, Edwards is postured to execute the O&M Civilian Pay program at 92% for the ABW and 95% for the Flight Test Center. The outlook for

non-pay fallout is, at best, uncertain. Command's year-end game plan is focused on buying down FY08 requirements to the tune of \$35M and, given the lack of discretionary funding at the HQ, it is unlikely that Edwards will see much in the way of fallout dollars from AFMC. Thus, the bulk of our end of year unfunded list may have to be sourced from locally generated fallout.

On the horizon, FY08 is shaping up to be another difficult year for the O&M appropriation. The Civilian Pay problems identified in FY07 will be exacerbated by the Air Staff's imposition of an Execution Review Account (ERA) tax, the erroneous priceout of the FY08 pay program using 2005 rates, and an arbitrary reduction imposed based on hiring lapse rates. Although Air Staff has advertised Civilian Pay funding at 92%, the impact to AFMC has been far greater and has resulted in a program funded at 86%. To reduce the disconnect between Air Staff and AFMC funding positions, Wings within the Command were asked to address shortfalls from their projected FY08 funding distribution. Within the 95 ABW, the decision was made to migrate \$3.3M from SRM programs to the Civilian Pay account in order to achieve a 92% funded program and maintain consistency with FY07 execution rates. Across the Command, many Wings took a similar approach and collectively contributed \$39M to reduce the pay disconnect. When combined with the \$35M buy-down of FY08 requirements, AFMC hopes to achieve a 90% funding level for Civilian Pay across the command. Further relief



may be on the horizon if Congressional marks to the Air Force's FY08 budget continue to be less than anticipated and the Air Staff returns excess ERA funds to Commands.

On the whole, the problems that lie ahead are numerous, but they are far from insurmountable. While many of us have earned our budget

credentials in less taxing times, the current austere funding environment affords us the opportunity to demonstrate our prowess as financial advisors who perform detailed analysis, conduct the necessary tradeoffs, and provide sound financial advice to our leadership. Doing so allows us to creatively ensure our viability as champions of sound decision support.

1. When funds are 'fenced', the movement of money into or out of the account is prohibited. When DOD determined that Congress intended that the SRM account be fenced, they restricted the Air Force's flexibility to move money to the O&M account. Had the fence not been removed, O&M Civilian Pay would have been severely under funded while the SRM pay account would have had an unexecutable balance.
2. The Execution Review Account (ERA) is a tax imposed at the Air Staff. The purpose of the account is to create a source of funds capable of covering Congressional marks, other budgetary reductions, and contingencies.

ASMC NATIONAL NEWS

PDI Online Now Available – Free CPE

Would you like to earn free CPE credits by listening to or watching workshops and Service Day sessions from the highly successful PDI 2007? Now you can by tuning in to ASMC's PDI Online. Choose from video or audio versions of many workshop presentations (with more to come in the next month). You may self-certify for CPE credit or, in some cases, you can take a short test and get a CPE certificate. Just go to

www.asmonline.org/development/extendedlearning.shtml and follow the directions on the screen. In addition, charts from many of the workshop sessions are available for download in the same area.

Defense Financial Highlights

Want to keep up to date on what's going on in defense financial management without spending a lot of time? ASMC provides members with short write-ups highlighting key events affecting defense financial management. Learn what is



going on with the budget on the Hill and more. These write-ups appear on the home page of the ASMC website under the title "Defense Financial Highlights". We expect to update this section regularly so long as news and time permit.

Learn Acquisition ... and Become "CDFM with Acquisition Specialty"

Improve your knowledge of major systems acquisition and prepare for the optional Module 4 of the CDFM. On October 16-17, 2007, ASMC will offer a 1 ½ day class in Rosslyn, Virginia. The class will be taught by a former DAU professor, and may be attended by individuals or groups. Students who elect to take the class and also the Module 4 test on the afternoon of the second day will receive a discount on the test. To test, students must already be enrolled in the CDFM program. Guidance on how to enroll in the CDFM program is located on the ASMC website. Mark your calendar now - registration for this course will open in early September.

Farewell From Nancy Skinner

Good bye and thank you for this wonderful opportunity to learn Financial Management. In 2004 I accidentally volunteered to become Anne Tedrick's 1st Vice President for ASMC. As you all know I learned very quickly that I would be running most, if not all, of the meetings. I had a good time and the membership was very helpful with helping to keep the organization running. Thank you for that support too.

I am now on my way to a new challenge with the 554th ESLG at Wright Patterson AFB. I will still be a supervisor but working with Defense Enterprise Accounting Man-

agement System (DEAMS). This is a high visibility program that will allow the Comptroller General to meet the requirement to produce accurate financial statements to Congress. I will have the opportunity to work with Patti Heyman up on the AFMC staff, and Randy Griffiths as a contractor for Patti's group. So I will have friends near by.



N.S.



MEMBER'S ARTICLE

PDI WORKSHOP: Military Pay Improvements – 2007

**By
Vicki Fessenden**

Presented by Dr. John S. Medley, Program Manager, Military Pay Improvement Action Plan (MPIAP), DFAS

Dr. Medley discussed the early days of the war in Afghanistan and the numerous problems that developed.

1. Antiquated pay system with few automated combat entitlements
2. Work around processes prone to manual and repetitive input errors
3. Inability to track mobilized soldiers from home station and return
4. Pay technicians and support personnel not trained
5. Pay procedures, information brochures, and customer military pay contacts were non-existent
6. Pay doctrine did not provide sufficient coverage of mobilized pay support

DFAS leadership responded to the pay problems by creating partnership with Army, USAR, and USARNG; fostered a team environment; deployed ground contacts ; tracked and resolved all individual pay issues; sought root causes and resolutions; established a Wounded Warrior Database (WIA) tracking system; relinquished project leadership control to the service and its components; developed mid and long term initiatives for continuous improvement; identified short term metrics to measure immediate success; recommended the establishment of a National Guard Finance Service Center and created a Soldiers Financial Readiness Visibility System.

The Soldier Financial Readiness Visibility System tracked the accuracy of the individual mobilized soldier's pay and entitlements throughout their deployment while serving on active duty.



The Military Pay Improvement Action Plan tracks more than 2,000 tasks and 43 key milestones for improvements in military pay over the next 5 years.

The key areas are: personnel and pay leadership; process improvement (focus on DFAS support to Business Transformation Agency & DIMHRS); improving antiquated pay system (focus on configuration control, process improvement, internal management control program); paid the mobilized Army and Air Force service members on the reserve pay system.

Improved timeliness of all transactions processed in 30 days. By April 07, Army was at 92%, Navy at 93%, Air Force at 95%, USMC 97% and the DoD was at 93%. The DFAS goal is 97% for 30 Sep 07 and 99% for 30 Sep 08. In 2003, less than 70% of service members had access to online pay information (myPay) and in 2007 88.9% of 2.3M service members have access to myPay.

Future Improvements Planned:

Improve the timeliness of military pay change transactions; complete review of military pay compensation system; improve basic allowance for housing processing; enhance capability for processing pay inquiries received military pay frequently asked questions; improve awareness of individual pay responsibilities; improve myPay; support the development of DIMHRS; implement program for Certified Payroll Professionals; redefine the DFAS Wounded Warrior (WIA) Program; increase the use of the Case Management System; and improve the bonus payment process.

DFAS has worked a myriad of pay issues for deployed service members and continue to make improvements daily.



VICKI FESSENDEN
Chief, Customer Service
Financial Services Office





HIGH DESERT CHAPTER EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES 2 MAY 2007

Officers Present:

Old Officers:

Dee Cameron	President
Lt Darvill	1 st Vice
Richard Phillips	2 nd Vice
Carin Doyle	3 rd Vice
Toni Culver	Secretary
Zarie Fleming	Treasurer
Kathleen Augustine	Events Co-ordinator

Newly Elected Officers:

Dee Cameron	President
Anita Rennie	1 st Vice
Rebecca Pease	2 nd Vice
Lt Darvill	3 rd Vice
Toni Culver	Secretary
Zarie Fleming	Treasurer
Kathleen Augustine	Events Co-ordinator

Called to order by the President at 9:00

This was a joint meeting of old and newly elected officers.

Transferring of duties/books between old and new board members occurred.

List of officers needs to be submitted to National 4 times a year. A proposed list of speakers also needs to be sent to National. 1st Vice Anita Rennie will provide Secretary Toni Culver. Toni will send to National.

At our May meeting we will install new officers and have a round table discussion with members on what they would like the chapter to accomplish this year as well as speakers suggestions.

Our June meeting we will listen to the audio briefing of Dr Kline on Briefing Skills.

At the May meeting we will ask for a volunteer to gather the info needed for next years 5 Star Chapter competition.

Meeting adjourned 0930.

Dee Cameron, President



HIGH DESERT CHAPTER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES 15 MAY 2007

Officers Present:

Dee Cameron	President	Dee Cameron	President
Lt Darvill	1 st Vice	Anita Rennie	1 st Vice
Richard Phillips	2 nd Vice	Rebecca Pease	2 nd Vice
Carin Doyle	3 rd Vice	1 st Lt Darvill	3 rd Vice
Toni Culver	Secretary	Toni Culver	Secretary
Zarie Flemig	Treasurer	Zarie Flemig	Treasurer
Kathleen Augustine	Events Coordinator	Kathleen Augustine	Events Coordinator
Sam White	Newsletter		

Business:

Meeting called to order by President Dee Cameron @ 1135

Secretary:

The minutes from the Apr meeting were emailed to members on 14 May. There was a typo on the May meeting date, should be May 16 not May 18. Correction was made. Edie Morris made a motion to approve as written. 2nd by Rebecca Pease. Motion was passed.

Membership:

No update

Events Coordinator:

No update

PDI:

No update

Meeting:

This month we installed the 2007-2008 Board. New Executive Board Officers:

Outgoing Executive Board Officers were presented with a certificate for their work this past year.

The meeting was an open forum for members to express what they would like the chapter to accomplish this year as well as speaker suggestions, fund raising ideas, different meeting locations, and scholarship ideas.

Meeting adjourned @ 1230

Toni Culver
Secretary





High Desert Chapter Executive Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

13 Jun 2007

Officers Present:

Dee Cameron	President
Rebecca Pease	2 nd Vice
Lt Darvill	3 rd Vice
Toni Culver	Secretary
Zarie Fleming	Treasurer



Called to order by the President at 9:05

Copy of paid travel vouchers need to be submitted to 1st Vice Rebecca Pease. This info is needed for budgetary purposes for future PDIs. PDI talking papers should also be submitted to Rebecca by mid July.

Dee asked the board to please review the constitution and by-laws before next board meeting.

Next general meeting on Jun 20th is an audio conference.

ASMC coins – Secretary Toni Culver will look into the cost of purchasing coins.

Our raffle MP3 player netted \$60 at the PDI.

3rd Vice President will be looking into different membership drives, i.e., corporate members, bring a guest to lunch, article in the Wings, CDFM class here, tables outside of BX/Oasis.

Dee would like us to work toward being a Distinguished Chapter this year.

Need a volunteer for 5 Star competition books.

Dollar amount of speaker donation will be changed from \$25 to \$20, to align with National.

Date of board meetings will be changed from 1st Wed of the month to the 1st Tuesday of the month, with the exception of July. July's board meeting will be July 10th.



Chapter Fair Booth, planning needs to be done earlier. Meeting adjourned at 10:00

Dee Cameron, President

We are going to look into getting a new, bigger ASMC banner.

PDI 2007 PICTURES





MONEY....MONEY...MONEY...Balance Sheet

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MILITARY COMPTROLLERS

HIGH DESERT CHAPTER

Treasurer's Report

May 2007

Beginning Balance	\$6,001.24
Add: Revenues checking	224.00
Revenues saving	1.58
Less: Expenses checking	203.63
Expenses saving	0.00
Ending Balance	\$6,023.19



Treasurer's note to members:

1. Edwards Federal Credit Union checking account balance: \$3,539.46

EFCU savings account balance for Scholarships: \$2,483.73

2. Pentagon Federal Credit Union money market certificate and savings account balance as of statement 16 April 2007:\$13,162.21

(PFCU Dividends Year to Date \$201.98)

3. Edwards Federal Credit Union money market certificate balance as of statement March 2007: \$5,265.81

(EFCU Dividends 2006 \$215.65)

(EFCU Dividends 2007 YTD \$50.16)

