

High Desert Chapter ASMC

High Desert Wind Newsletter

American Society of Military Comptrollers

2nd Quarter
2007



CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Dee Cameron



Hello again, I have enjoyed being President and being on the Executive Board of our American Society of Military Comptrollers local chapter this year. I would like to thank the rest of our Executive Board Members for making this a really great year for all of us.

As always, as we come to the end of another term of office for the Executive Board, our yearly elections are just around the corner. It should be really great this year since we have more than one person running for each of the executive board seats. Rebecca Pease (one of our members) is in the process of putting the ballots together and getting ready to send them out to you via e-mail. That should take place at the beginning of April. It is really important for you to vote for the new Executive Board. We need to have at least a minimum of 51% of our chapter

membership voting in order to seat the new board. By the end of April we will have counted the votes and will have the new Executive Board ready to be sworn in during our May Meeting. When the new board is seated, one of their first jobs will be to review and make any changes needed to the High Desert Chapter Constitution and By-Laws. If you have any comments, questions or suggestions concerning these, please let the board know as soon as possible. A copy of both the By-Laws and the Constitution are on the Common Drive at:

<G:\Common\ASMC\Constitution and By Laws\2006 Constitution and By Laws>.

We have had a really outstanding year with lots of great speakers and several really good audio conferences. I anticipate that will continue next year.

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~ UP-COMING CHAPTER MEMBER MEETINGS & EVENTS ~

ASMC Meetings: Start 11:30 - Place: Wolfe Yeager Room, Bldg. 2800

April 18th: Elections & Speaker-Toni Sandelli speaking on the "Mid-Year Financial Outlook."

May 16: Seat new Board-No Speaker: Chapter Brainstorming with new Executive Board. Question...What would you like to see happen this year?

Jun 20: Live Audio Conference with the National Office and John Kline.

***(President's Message Continued)***

The **National Professional Development Institute (PDI)** is a premier training event for resource managers in the Department of Defense and US Coast Guard. Each year, more than 3300 attendees converge for a four-day event, which includes a full day of service activities, seven general sessions, more than seventy workshops, and many special events. With our final list of PDI attendees notified of their attendance, we are planning to have several meetings before we go to Kansas City. They will include an all hands meeting to discuss travel plans, hotels etc., and at least one meeting concerning participation in the Chapter Fair. With TDY funds being more limited each year, the deciding factors for who will be considered to attend these training events in the future, will be based on attendance at meetings and additional chap-

ter participation (i.e. charity events, committee chair, membership etc.) We are always looking for volunteers to help with our committees.

We are signed up for a Chapter Leader Audio Conference on the 11th of April at 1100 in the Director's Conference Room in Bldg 2800. It will feature legal issues that relate to ASMC chapters. We are looking into another audio conference on the 20th of June at 1100 concerning Briefing Skills. This will be presented by 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.

D.C.

Member's Article:
DECENTRALIZATION??
Nancy Skinner, CDFM

As I was waiting in the DFW airport due to my cancelled flight, I found a discarded USA Today newspaper dated January 3, 2007, and I gave it the usual once-over. I was surprised and pleased to find an article in the Money section (What else would an FMer read?) that I found interesting enough to share with you.

The title caught my eye first, "Can Small Businesses Help Win the War?" The author, Del Jones, began by

explaining how the military is studying small companies to see how they have "terrorized" larger industry leaders. The example used was a 24-person company called Craigslist. Craigslist is an online bulletin board that has successfully siphoned classified advertising from the newspaper industry. Their successful tool has been decentralization. "Decentralized organizations can be more effective and resilient," says Craigslist founder, Craig Newmark. He also says that



“people who are passionate and can work independently can get more done than a centralized organization.”

We in the military are used to industry using us for examples of leadership, but now we are looking to industry “because the world of geopolitics has discovered itself to be on the same road that business has been on for some time. That road is flatter, more networked and more decentralized than ever,” very similar to the military’s recent experiences with terrorism.

Jones continues to give examples of small companies underscoring larger industry leaders in the game of finance, but the main point he continues to stress is the military is watching “how large, traditional companies fare in this fight because their fight may prove invaluable in developing a strategy against al-Qaeda.” Jones recommends a book making the rounds at the Pentagon, *The Starfish and the Spider: The Unstoppable Power of Leaderless Organizations* by Rod Beckstrom. The premise, Jones writes, is that centralized organizations are like spiders and can be destroyed with an attack to the head. Decentralized organizations transfer decision-making to leaders in the field, like the starfish. No single blow will kill either a starfish or al-Qaeda, and any parts that are destroyed will grow back. Many experts have identified terrorism as

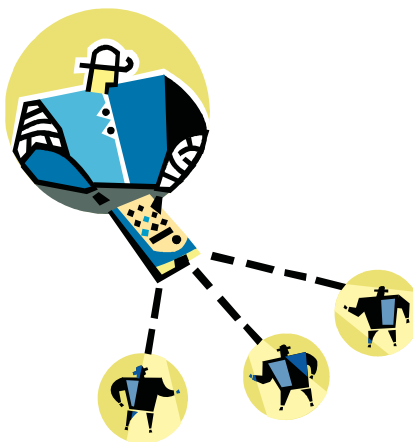
being hard to defeat because it is decentralized, so based on the previous spider/starfish analogy, Beckstrom recommends three strategies against terrorism:

1. Change the ideology that fuels terrorism. This can be done by funding public schools in terrorist hotbeds to ensure choice. The fallback I see with this is that it will take time, a generation of time, to see results.

2. Centralize the decentralized opponent. Jones’ example is to allow Hezbollah to govern in Lebanon. Hezbollah is known to be more centralized than al-Qaeda and is funded by Iran. Centralized governments are easier to persuade and or defeat than independent cells because we can see the enemy and we know their weaknesses.

3. Decentralize yourself. Here Jones is not referring to DFAS or even the Air Force, but to special operations. His idea is to expand special ops and give small units the freedom to complete missions without oversight. The downside of this would be when you give others freedom to succeed, you also give them more freedom to make costly mistakes.

As with any strategy there are always ups and downs; decentralization taken to the extreme will cause chaos. We in the government have seen the pendulum swing back from the decentralization of





the 80's and 90's to centralization for the 2000's. This change has been made necessary by large cuts in personnel and support dollars from our budgets. The military has little choice but to centralize certain functions. Let's hope that this will be done smartly, but if not...my hope is there will be enough of us left to remember decentralization and how it may be the way to win the war.

N.S.

**General Membership Meeting Minutes
High Desert Chapter(ASMC), Edwards AFB, CA
17 January 2007**

Officers Present:

**Dee Cameron
Lt Darvill
Carin Doyle
Toni Culver
Zarie Flemig
Kathleen Augustine
Sam White**

**President
1st Vice
3rd Vice
Secretary
Treasurer
Events Coordinator
Newsletter/Webmaster**

Business

Meeting called to order by President Dee Cameron @ 1150

Secretary

The minutes from Dec meeting were not available at meeting time. (They are now available on the G drive)

Treasurer's Report

EFCU checking \$3,462.95
Scholarship Fund \$2,692.63

Money Market

Pentagon FCU \$12,859.79
EFCU \$5,215.65

Membership

Carin Doyle reported we gained one new member, Felisha Farris-.Wallace
We also had one guest, MSgt Dunn. TSgt Narravo asked if we could sponsor some of the younger troops; show them what AMSC is all about.

Events Coordinator

Kathleen asked for suggestions on lunch menus.

Scholarship Chairperson



Nancy Wachter is in the process of mailing out scholarship applications to the local high schools. The deadline for the high schools to return applications to us is Feb 16th. The winner of our scholarship will be forward to compete for the National ASMC Scholarship. National gives out 1 \$3000, 5 \$2000 and 5 \$1000 scholarships.

Valentine Basket Fund Raiser

We are currently collecting items for this fund raiser. Please bring your donations to Nancy, Mary or Dee by 26 Jan 07. Bidding will close on 12 Feb.

Audio Conferences

For the next audio conference, Senior Budget Officers from each military department will be discussing their department's FY08 budget request. Air Force will present theirs on 28 Feb.

Feb Meeting

21 Feb 2007 – Briefing from Joint Strike Fighter (JSF).

Board Elections

Rebecca Pease has volunteered to chair the board elections. Elections will take place in April. New board will be sworn in at the May meeting.

Newsletter

Sam White reported our Newsletter Web page had been hijacked. All is well now. 4th Qtr newsletter is out on the web site, 1st Qtr will be on the web soon.

Speaker

Rita Kellas spoke to us on AFS021 for our January meeting.

Meeting adjourned @ 1300

Toni Culver
Secretary



**Board Meeting Minutes of the High Desert Chapter
American Society of Military Comptroller (ASMC), Edwards AFB, CA**

MINUTES 6 Feb 2007

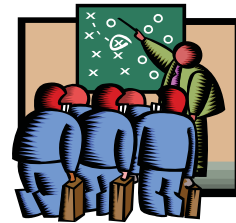
Officers and Committee Chairs Present:

Dee Cameron	President
Lt Darvill	1 st Vice
Richard Phillips	2 nd Vice



Carin Doyle
Zarie Flemig
Toni Culver
Kathleen Augustine

3rd Vice
Treasurer
Secretary
Events Coordinator



Called to order by the President at 9:05

Discussion on Audio Conferences: There was a motion by 1st Vice to pay \$99 for the Feb audio conferences, Navy (27 Feb), AF (28 Feb) and Army (1 Mar). Seconded by 3rd Vice.

Elections for new board will take place in the April timeframe, with new officers being sworn in at the May meeting.

Discussion on possible free lunch to military members with paid membership.

Dee will send out for a vote to the membership for us to possible use up to \$3000 to help offset costs of PDI and chapter fair.

Discussion on our CD's – we possibly need to move some funds from the CD to a money market the month before it rolls over again.

Meeting adjourned 10:05

Dee Cameron, President

ASMC NATIONAL NEWS

PDI 2007 Update

Registration is now open for PDI 2007 in Kansas City, May 29 - June 1, the *Heart of Financial Excellence*. Registration will be the same rate as PDI 2006, \$500 for members and \$600 for non-members. We will be using five hotels for accommodations, ranging from \$104 to \$111 per night. Check the ASMC website for further information, to include a complete listing of the workshop schedule and links for registration and housing.

During PDI 2007, certification candidates will have the opportunity to prepare for and complete the Certified Defense Financial Manager (CDFM) examinations. Those already CDFMs will be recognized via special annotation on their PDI badge with by the addition of a CDFM ribbon and an invitation to



a CDFM reception on May 29. We will once again be conducting pre-conference sessions as training for the CDFM modules. These two-day events are intended for those who are already in the CDFM Program and have completed a significant amount of preparation. Separate registration for these pre-conference events is required and will cost an additional fee. See <http://www.asmconline.org/development/pdi9.shtml> for more information.

Deadline for Continuing Education Award Submissions Draws Near

Over the last 2 years, ASMC has refined the requirements for this Award to coincide with the length of a college degree program. Now, you can submit applications for up to 4 years. Also, if you receive government support for education in the form of tuition and/or books, you can still apply to cover other needs such as child care, computer, supplies and many other resources to support your quest for education. For details about nomination procedures, go to the ASMC web site at (www.asmconline.org/national/nationalawards.shtml.) Continuing Education applications are due by March 31, 2007 and MUST have the endorsement of an ASMC chapter.

Briefing Skills Audio Conference



On June 20, 2007 at 2 PM Eastern you can participate in an audio conference designed to help improve briefing skills. The conference will cover how to organize, support, and deliver briefings – and it will reveal some secrets used by experts. Our presenter is John Kline, a long-time supporter of ASMC who has taught briefing skills for years in the military and has written a book on speaking skills. Registration is not yet open, but hold the date and watch the ASMC web site for details. You can make this a chapter event or one for your organization. Briefing skills help everyone, not just financial managers; so consider reaching out to other organizations in your unit.



MEMBER'S ARTICLE

By

**Carin Doyle,
3rd Vice President**

Success

On 23 Feb, I attended the Antelope Valley Board of Trade Business Outlook Conference. One keynote speaker John Alston talked about how to be successful in business. His points can also be applied to our personal lives. Our speaker started out by telling us that there is only one degree between being ordinary and being extraordinary. On gravestones, there is a line between two dates. The only thing that we have is that line. That line is your life, and you need to ask yourself what you want that line to represent.

In life, we are surrounded by stories. Stories are powerful tools that we have from the day we are born. In elementary school, we had stories about the tooth fairy and cooties. These stories and all the other stories that people hear help to shape us into what we are. Because of this, stories are powerful, and someone else can control your

mind with a story if you do not control it yourself.

In order to be a success, people need to be students of life, always learning. They need to listen to the stories and learn from them. According to our speaker, there are five steps in business development that are needed to be successful. They are attract, engage, sell, close the sale, and maintain the relationship. These five steps tell the story of a business.

In order to continue to succeed, people need a support system. Mr. Alston used an analogy of a three legged stool to relate the three items that are needed to support everything. The first leg is vision. Without a vision, businesses or people will perish. The second leg is passion. In order to be successful you should do what you love and love what you do. The third leg of the stool is purpose. Ask yourself why am I here? Figure out what problem you are here to solve.



In closing, the Mr. Alston gave five points for everyone to live by. The first is that life is a gift and be careful not to trash it. The second point is that your mind is your greatest gift. You need to develop it to live life fully. Third, everyone should fully develop what talents and skills they have and use them to give

back to others. The fourth point is to work every day to be the most decent human being you can be. Lastly, never take people or time for granted. By following these five steps, people can have a successful business and personal life.

C.D.

Carin is leaving us for a new position at the Air Force Cost Center, **Center of Expertise (COE)** in Denver CO. **Good** for her...**SAD** for us.



General Membership Meeting Minutes of the High Desert Chapter (ASMC), Edwards AFB, CA 21 February 2007

Officers Present:

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

Business

Meeting called to order by President Dee Cameron @ 1150

Secretary

The minutes from the Jan meeting were distributed. Richard Phillips made a motion to approve as written. 2nd by Edie Morris. Motion was passed.

**Treasurer's Report**

Money Market

EFCU checking \$3,456.98

Pentagon FCU \$13,011.70

Scholarship Fund \$2,694.35

EFCU \$5,215.65

Membership

No new members.

Some members' National and Local dues are now due. Checks can be given to Carin Doyle.

Events Coordinator

March meeting we will be serving pizza and salad.

PDI

Selection was made as to who will attend the PDI in Kansas. Richard Phillips sent emails. Mary Gibson has volunteered to Chair the Chapter Fair. Attendees should be able to register by the end of the month.

Scholarship Chairperson

We have not received any scholarship applications from any of the local high schools. Deadline was 16 Feb. We have received one application from a member for continuing education.

Valentine Basket Fund Raiser
Our fund raiser raised \$282.00

March Meeting

21 Mar 2007 – no speaker scheduled yet.

Board Elections

Rebecca Pease will send out ballots in early April. Votes will be counted by Nancy Skinner.

Newsletter

Please submit articles to Sam White by 15 Mar.

New Business

The email vote to use up to \$3000 for possible PDI expenses did not pass. We did not receive 51% of membership votes.

Speaker

Lt Darvill introduced Capt Rose for JSF. Capt Rose gave us a very interested briefing on the JSF program.

Meeting adjourned @ 1250

Toni Culver
Secretary





High Desert Chapter Executive Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 6 March 2007

Officers and Committee Chairs
Present:

Dee Cameron	President
Richard Phillips	2 nd Vice
Carin Doyle	3 rd Vice
Zarie Flemig	Treasurer
Toni Culver	Secretary
Kathleen Augustine	Events

The meeting was called to order by the President at 9:05

Sam White recorded the audio AF Conference. Dee will send slides out. If a person views them, they can receive 3 CPU credits. The slides are also on the G drive.

Mary Gibson has sent a check to Kansas City for the Chapter Fair booth. We discussed possible item to raffle at the PDI. Some of the items that were discussed were on iPod, other types of MP3 players, Xbox or digital cameras. Carin will check on costs of these items.

Review of By-Laws and Constitution will be made by all Board Officers and discussed at the next Board meeting.

Discussion was held on how long we should give our speakers to inform us of the charity. We give a \$25 donation in the speaker's name to a charity of their choosing. As of yet our Jan speaker, Rita Kellas has not informed us of her charity. Dee has contacted her twice.

Our Feb speaker, Capt Rose has also not informed us of his charity. We came to the conclusion, 2 months after speaking was more than enough time to inform us.

PDI – we are leaving out of the Ontario Airport. We can make hotel reservations. We can also register for the PDI.

A motion was made by Richard Phillips to use up to \$99 for PDI Chapter Fair booth decorations. 2nd was made by Kathleen Augustine. Motion was passed.

We will be viewing a San Diego PDI video – “Change is not Change until it Changes” during our March meeting.

Meeting adjourned 0940.

Dee Cameron - President





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

January 2007

Beginning Balance	\$6,155.58
Add: Revenues checking	187.00
Revenues saving	1.72
Less: Expenses checking	192.97
Expenses saving	0.00
Ending Balance	\$6,151.33



Treasurer's note to members:

1. Edwards Federal Credit Union checking account balance: \$3,456.98
 EFCU savings account balance for Scholarships: \$2,694.35

2. Pentagon Federal Credit Union money market certificate and savings account balance as of statement 16 Jan 2007: \$13,011.70
 (PFCU Dividends Year to Date \$51.45)

3. Edwards Federal Credit Union money market certificate balance as of statement September 2006: \$5,215.65
 (EFCU Dividends \$215.65)

February 2007

Beginning Balance	\$6,151.33
Add: Revenues checking	200.00
Revenues saving	384.20
Less: Expenses checking	259.08
Expenses saving	100.00
Ending Balance	\$6,376.45



Treasurer's note to members:

1. Edwards Federal Credit Union checking account balance: \$3,397.90
 EFCU savings account balance for Scholarships: \$2,978.55

2. Pentagon Federal Credit Union money market certificate and savings account balance as of statement 16 Jan 2007: \$13,011.70
 (PFCU Dividends Year to Date \$51.45)

3. Edwards Federal Credit Union money market certificate balance as of statement September 2006: \$5,215.65
 (EFCU Dividends \$215.65)