

Wright Flyer



July 2024

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Chapter President
Thomas Giovino

Greetings Aviation Chapter,

It is with great pride that I write my first column as President of the Aviation Chapter, Society of Defense Financial Management. This past year we historically rebranded from American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) that has been around for 75 years. A truly proven track record of professionalism, ethics, and fellowship across the DoD financial landscape. As we go into the future, SDFM's mission is to promote thought leadership, professional development and ethical behavior in all aspects of defense financial management. Before I present this month's message, let me introduce myself briefly to those that may be unfamiliar with my background. I grew up 30 miles South of Chicago along the state line in Lansing. Eleven days after high school graduation I enlisted into Air Force. A C-130 engine technician, I was assigned to Little Rock AFB, AR. This is where I learned my craft, working back shop and flightline maintenance. During my last four years at LR AFB, I became a Master Instructor assigned to FTD 310, and married my wife, Sheila. Thirty-eight years later it still seems like yesterday. With our two kids, it was time to move, so off to Hill AFB, UT to initiate two-level maintenance shop for T-56 and F-100 jet engines. We stayed for seven years, although two-level was shut down after four years, I stayed on to supervise the PDM and flightline engine work within the depot. I completed my B.S. in Aeronautics and Masters Business Administration with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. One of the best moments was my F-16 incentive ride, 9.1-gs, and did not pass out. At 17 years I was gearing up to retire, but the Air Force had different plans, non-volunteer orders to Ramstein, Germany. So, off we go into another adventure. The irony was I always wanted to go to Europe, but never was chosen. I guess being number two on the never-been overseas list helped. My last few years I was squadron resource advisor, acting First Sergeant (Under Shirt). I retired after 20 years and was hired full time as Faculty Chair for the Ramstein Center. Two years later, I was promoted to Associate Dean for the International Campus, and Managing Director for ERAU Berlin, GmbH. This opportunity provided me to build a new Center, hire employees, new accounting system, under the German system. I traveled from Turkey, Dubai, Morocco, to Italy and France. Packed a lifetime of travel in just six years. We returned to the US in 2010. Sheila was now working for SAF FM, and I was looking for a job. In 2012 I was hired by the Army at Ft. Huachuca, AZ as a budget 501. Once I got there, I was doing 1515 Ops Researcher work. It took seven months to get a call from AFRL/RXM to return to Wright-Patt, and Sheila. I have been the Division Technical Business Manager since.

President's Message

Enough about me. The big news is SDFM. Some may say that the focus of the society has been the traditional Comptroller “500” series folks. I have been a member since the late 90’s and I am not what you would consider a traditional FM’er. I challenge our Aviation Chapter membership to go and seek out those that have a stake in the financial performance of your organization, the 343’s, program managers, contractors, and others that have a stake in the financial performance of their organization. Find just one new member this year, and we can double the size of the Aviation Chapter. I look forward to meeting Aviation Chapter members in person.

If you have ideas, opportunities for volunteerism in the community, want or know somebody to present a lunch and learn. We are always open to new ideas. In the coming weeks the revised Constitution and By-laws will be in your e-mail. Please get your vote in as soon as possible, as this begins the change over from ASMC to SDFM within our chapter. If you made it this far God bless, ya. Talk with you next month.



Jul Member Meeting

On 16 Jul 2024, prior to the Lunch and Learn presentation Ms Amie Satterfield, outgoing SDFM Aviation Chapter President, swore in our new SDFM Aviation Chapter board members. Taking the oath were: A1C George Walton, 88 CPTS VP and President Elect; Tammy Pendergast, AFRL VP; Ronda Pepitone, At Large VP; Julie Ruthanne, AFLCMC VP; Joanne Hutchinson, HQ AFMC VP; Rebecca Wilkins, Chapter Treasurer; Lucas Compton, Co-Treasurer; Shawn Coil, Programs Committee Chair; Sarah Garrett, Ways and Means Chair; Andrea Hamilton, Professional Development Co-Chair.

Mr Michael King, Director of Customer Acquisition at Integrated Data Services (IDS) Inc, presented, "IDS CCaR Overview". Mr King is responsible for increasing CCaR usage across the DoD and the Federal civilian customer base. In addition to this role, Mr King also serves as a subject matter expert for both CCaRs and Project Management Resource Tools (PMRT). He is a recognized expert in acquisition, contracting, logistics, manpower and financial management systems and processes.

Mr King explained IDS has been around since 1997 and supports numerous organizations in the DoD. IDS flagship product is CCaR that is licensed to the Air Force and the other DoD. IDS started off with the Air Force and then branched out to the army about five years ago and other DoD/Fed SIV organizations. Eight years ago, or longer, IDS came up with PMRT. PMRT is a GOT solution, so it's an enclave that is owned by the Air Force and IDS maintains it. He further explained CCAR is just part of PMRT that is managed by a program office in AFLCMC.

Mr King provided an overview of CCaR and its functions. He explained that CCaR is a financial and program management system to manage program requirements. CCaR allows you to manage requirements for programs below the budget line. Mr King further explained, once you have established your requirement baseline in CCaR, then you can do your prioritization, budget allocation, forecasting and spend plans, and then budget execution follows. He said CCaR forecasting allows you to determine what's valid, what's not valid, what's coming up next month, what has slipped. It gives you the ability to identify those requirements flagged as contingent liabilities or eligible for small business. When it comes to budget execution CCaR has bidirectional interface with FMSuite FRC for legacy accounting. For DEAMS there are work arounds or some processes in place that help mitigate any of that duplication of effort. With this you now have execution tied back to the requirement.

The next CCaR module Mr King spoke about is the contract management. The contracts module in CCaR allows you to track the Section B and Section GPS of the contract. CCaR has an interface with CONWRITE and if the obligation is created in CONWRITE it will automatically flow in CCAR. CON-IT is on the list of future interfaces with CCaR.

Next Mr King spoke about the reconciliation module. The reconciliation module in CCaR allows you to compare what you have done in CCAR versus what is reported in the official accounting system again (GAFS or DEAMS. Just because they are the official accounting system doesn't mean they're always right. CCaR gives you the ability to do a bit of a checkbook balance with how much you should have committed or obligated with what shows up in the accounting system.

Mr King mentioned that CCaR has reporting and the data analytics, and Adhoc reporting capabilities. He said it allow you to visualize obligation data, configuration management, engineering, contracting. He said CCaR and PMRT has expanded the capabilities using enterprise analytics, which is an automated kind of BI capability similar to Power BI similar to Tableau. Mr King stated the goal of CCAR and PMRT is to help reduce manual data calls and again automate information, automate the accessibility of information and make that kind of more available in one place. Mr King then provided a live demonstration of CCaR.

Mr King was present with a certificate of appreciation from the Aviation chapter and donation in his name to the United Rehabilitation services of Greater Dayton.

The full presentation and slides can be found at <https://www.asmc-aviation.org/luncheon/chapter-luncheons/>

Volunteer Opportunities

Crayons to Classroom 8/23 from 1:00-3:00pm <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094FA8AA2AABF4C16-49270073-asmc#/>

AF Marathon Water Station, Sept 21, 5:30am-11am. Please sign up on our sign-up genius so I have a head count.
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094FA8AA2AABF4C16-50170204-volunteers#/>

All Volunteers need to register at: <https://raceroster.com/registration/d1ecb57e-3f28-4420-9f8a-94da9a9ffc24/entry?team=624108&teamEntryToken=2HSEDPHWVE>

Make sure to select Hydration Station E! All volunteers must sign up on the link above and sign their waivers. All volunteers also must have base access or contract Jennifer Caplinger to get on a list for base clearance. Kids 14 and older are allowed to participate with adult supervision.

Upcoming Member Meetings:

13 Aug:

Topic: American Benefits Exchange – TSP, Retirement/Gov't Benefits

Mr. Derek Jameson

24 Sep:

Topic:– Working Capital Fund

Ms. Cayot, HQ AFMC/FMR





Unveiling the Government Interview Process: A Pathway to Public Service

Government interviews are crucial in the selection process for various public service positions. Whether it's a federal, state, or local government agency, these interviews serve as a gateway to identify qualified candidates with the skills, knowledge, and commitment needed to serve the public interest. This article will delve into the government interview process, its unique characteristics, and critical tips for success.

Government interviews aim to assess candidates' suitability for specific roles within the public sector. These interviews typically explore an individual's qualifications, experience, problem-solving abilities, and alignment with the agency's mission and values. The structure may vary, ranging from panel interviews where multiple interviewers evaluate candidates simultaneously to one-on-one interviews with a hiring manager or a panel of subject matter experts.

Government interviews often focus on core competencies essential for effective public service. These competencies include communication skills, leadership abilities, analytical thinking, teamwork, adaptability, and a commitment to ethical conduct. Candidates must demonstrate how they have applied these competencies in previous roles or situations, showcasing their potential to contribute to the agency's goals.

To excel in government interviews, candidates must understand government processes, policies, and the agency's role within the broader governmental framework. Familiarity with relevant legislation, regulations, and current issues can demonstrate a candidate's ability to navigate complex governance systems and make informed decisions.

Government interviews often include behavioral and situational questions to assess a candidate's past experiences and potential responses to hypothetical scenarios. These questions evaluate problem-solving skills, decision-making abilities, and how candidates handle challenges within a government context. Providing specific examples and showcasing achievements that highlight relevant competencies is essential.

Government agencies prioritize candidates dedicated to public service and embody the values of transparency, integrity, accountability, and fairness. Demonstrating a genuine commitment to serving the public and a passion for making a positive impact can significantly enhance a candidate's chances of success. Candidates should articulate their understanding of these values and how they align with their personal and professional goals.

Thorough preparation is vital for government interviews. Candidates should research the agency, its mission, recent initiatives, and any challenges it faces. Familiarity with the agency's strategic objectives and priorities will enable candidates to showcase their understanding and align their responses accordingly. Additionally, candidates should review their qualifications, experiences, and achievements to articulate their skills and suitability for the role confidently.

As with any job interview, professionalism and practical communication skills are paramount. Candidates should dress appropriately and punctually and maintain a positive attitude throughout the interview. Clear and concise communication, active listening, and the ability to articulate thoughts coherently are essential traits that candidates must exhibit. It is also crucial to ask relevant and thoughtful questions to demonstrate interest and engagement.

Government interviews are a gateway to a fulfilling career in public service. By understanding the unique characteristics of these interviews and adequately preparing, candidates can effectively showcase their qualifications, skills, and commitment to public service. Emphasizing core competencies, demonstrating knowledge of government processes, and aligning personal values with the agencies can significantly enhance a candidate's prospects. Remember, the government interview process provides an opportunity to contribute to the betterment of society and make a lasting impact on the community you serve.



TREASURER'S REPORT

June 2024

Treasurer: Rebecca Wilkins & Lucas Compton



	WPFCU - Chapter General Funds	Fidelity - Chapter Investments	Fidelity - Augsburg Scholarship
Beginning Balance	\$22,555.12	\$185,760.89	\$161,531.81
+ Income/Expenses	(\$1,205.12)	\$7,135.10	\$5,898.42
+ deposits	\$300.11	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ending Balance	\$21,650.11	\$192,895.99	\$167,430.23

Note: The Fidelity ending balances are 30 June 2024. The Fidelity account balances are investments and fluctuate with the market. This causes unrealized gains and losses, which are captured in the Income.

Aviation Chapter Calendar

13 Aug 24	Topic: American Benefits Exchange – TSP, Retirement/Gov't Benefits Mr. Derek Jameson
24 Sep 24	Topic: Working Capital Fund Ms. Cayot, HQ AFMC/FMR



Cybersecurity News

Last month, Asus provided a critical update to some of their ZenWiFi routers. More details are available here (<https://securityaffairs.com/164549/security/asus-router-models-critical-rce.html>), users with these routers should update their devices. Change Healthcare has released details on information that was compromised in an attack that occurred earlier this year. This article, https://www.theregister.com/2024/06/21/change_healthcare_patients/, summarizes the incident and the exposed information, which includes name, address, health insurance information, health information, social security numbers, and more. McAfee provides a summary (<https://www.mcafee.com/blogs/other-blogs/mcafee-labs/how-scammers-hijack-your-instagram/>) of how scammers hijack Instagram accounts. This is a valuable resource for Instagram users.

Anatomy of a URL

If you have ever wondered how web links work, here is a little introduction. Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) are the addresses used to find websites on the internet. URLs are used in the form of addresses entered in the address bar of an internet browser or by clicking on links. Knowing the basic parts of a URL can help you more safely navigate the internet. Below are some basic parts of a URL:

Protocol – indicates the communication protocol your computer is using. Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) and Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS) are common examples of protocol. Ideally, anytime you log into a site, you will be using HTTPS.

Domain name – is the unique reference each web site has. Examples would include “**google.com**”, “**irs.gov**”, etc. When clicking on links, it is a good idea to check the link and ensure the domain listed is the same domain the link claims to be directing you to.

Subdomain – a subdivision of a domain. Examples include “**videos.google.com**” or “**en.wikipedia.com**”. The subdomains may identify a specific content area of a site or a division of a site by language.

Path – this is everything which follows the domain name that is separated by forward slashes. These are very similar to the addresses for files and folders you have on your computer. The path to Wikipedia’s page about URLs can be seen in the page’s link (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/URL).

Query, Parameters, and Fragments – are parts of a URL for any query on the site. These parts of the URL are generally preceded by a question mark.

Excel’s Navigation Pane

Excel workbooks can contain a variety of objects for displaying data. These include the workbook sheets, charts, Excel formatted tables, pivot tables, etc. Larger workbooks can become difficult to navigate with all this content. The Navigation Pane in Excel can be used to not just navigate the workbook but also understand what it contains quickly. The pane provides an interactive list of all sheets within the workbook and their contents. The Navigation Pane can be opened by going to the View tab of the Ribbon and clicking Navigation. More details on the Navigation Pane and how to use it can be found here, <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/use-the-navigation-pane-in-excel-ddd037e7-22e3-41f0-8bbd-07f5479e92bf>.

Clicking to Highlight a Paragraph of Text

This trick works in Outlook, PowerPoint, Word, most web browsers, and most other word processing applications. A paragraph of text can be quickly highlighted by **triple-clicking** a word in the paragraph. **Double-clicking** on a word will highlight just the word. With all the copy and paste actions a user takes each day; this trick can help speed up the process.



**ASMC – Aviation Chapter
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
10 July 2024 (1200-1215 hrs)**

I. **Call to Order:** Thomas Giovingo at 1200 hrs

II. **Attendance/Reports**

Treasurers: Lucas Compton, Rebecca Wilkins (A)

Secretary: Shawn Kain (A)

President-Elect: A1C George Walton (A)

Vice-Presidents

AFAA: Jonathan Pepples

AFLCMC: Julie Louthain (A)

AFMC: JoAnne Hutchison (A)

AFRL: Tammy Pendergast (A)

At Large: Rhonda Pepitone

Contractors: Patrice Solorzano

88th CPTS: A1C George Walton (A)

Committee Chairs:

Audit: Stephanie Burd, Michelle Bahan

Augsburg Scholarship: JoAnne Wills

Awards and Recognition: Sheena Fast, Amie Satterfield (A)

Chapter Competition: Heather Brodess (A)

Communications: Colleen Robinson (A)

Community Activities: Jennifer Caplinger (A), Jessica Pauley (A)

Health & Wellness: Fernando Mason (A)

Membership: Jaime Iaquina, Edward Jackson (A)

Professional Development: Trent Harpest (A), Andrea Hamilton (A)

Early Careerist: Sandra Moncree (A)

Programs: Shawn Coil (A)

Tickets: Vacant

Ways & Means: Sarah Garrette (A)

Historian: Vacant

Other Attendees: Jonathan Paden, Tracey Hearn

(A) = In Attendance

III. **General Business**

A. OLD:

- i. Changes to constitution – Thomas G will send out to committee members for approval and then to general membership, who have 21 days to respond. Most of updates involved changing ASMC to SDFM.



" NEW:

VP terms: incumbents will serve from 1 Jul 2024 – 30 Jun 2026.

- HQ AFMC – JoAnne Hutchison returning
- At Large – Rhonda Peptione
- AFRL – Tammy Pendergast
- 88th ABW – A1C Walton – this position will be President Elect for 2024 – 2025 and then President for 2025 – 2026.

ii. Committees: Ways & Means – Sarah Garrette (New); Prof Dev Co-Chair - Andrea Hamilton (New); Membership Co-Chair (Edward Jackson – New; transitioning from At-Large VP to Membership); Two vacancies – Historian and Advertising/Publicity.

iii. This year, we will focus on increasing membership.

iv. Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities – Jen Caplinger update: Dayton Food Bank Jul 22, 1-3 pm; Feed the Creek – Aug 2, 12 pm; Crayons to Classrooms, Aug 23; AF Marathon, 21 Sep – be there by 0600.

v. Upcoming Lunch & Learns

Aug-24	TBD	Mr. Derek Jameson, American Benefits Exchange – TSP, Retirement, Government Benefits
Sep-24	TBD	Ms. Leslie Cayot, HQ AFMC/FMR – Working Capital Fund

IV. Meeting Adjourned: 1215



Member Benefit: Complimentary Access to Finance and Accounting Technology Expo

SDFM has partnered with CFO Leadership Council together with StrategicCFO360 who are putting on an event called the Finance and Accounting Tech Expo (FATE) October 29-30 at the Jacob Javits Convention Center in NYC. There will be over 70 technologies, more than 60 learning sessions, incredible networking with over 1000 finance and accounting professionals -- and great keynote speakers.

And the best part as a member of SDFM – there is no cost to attend!

You will need to grab your ticket now using the unique SDFM code below.

Even if you think you might attend, I urge you to grab a free ticket now while you can, and get this on your calendar.

Complimentary registration is available through July 31, 2024.

Link to the event: Finance & Accounting Technology Expo - Oct. 29-30 (<https://strategiccfo360.com/fate/>)

Click "register" at the top and use this code at check out: ffz819 to make the price go to \$0.



2024-2025 Executive Board

President	Mr. Thomas Giovingo
President-Elect	A1C George Walton
Secretary	Mr. Shawn Kain
Treasurers	Mr. Lucas Compton, Ms. Rebecca Wilkins

Organizational Vice Presidents

88th CPTS VP	A1C George Walton
AFAA VP	Mr. Jonathan Pepples
HQ AFMC VP	Ms. JoAnne Hutchison
AFRL VP	Ms. Tammy Pendergast
AFLCMC VP	Ms. Julie Louthain
At Large VP	Ms. Rhonda Pepitone
Contractor VP	Ms. Patrice Solorzano

Committee Chairs

Audit	Ms. Stephanie Burd, Ms. Michelle Bahan
Augsburg Scholarship	Ms. JoAnne Wills
Awards and Recognition	Ms. Sheena Fast, Ms. Amie Satterfield
Chapter Competition	Ms. Heather Brodess
Communications	Ms. Colleen Robinson
Advertising/Publicity	Vacant
Newsletter Editor	Ms. Colleen Robinson
Photographer	Ms. Tracey Hearn
Webmaster	Mr. Jonathan Paden
Community Activities	Ms. Jennifer Caplinger; Ms. Jessica Pauley
Health & Wellness	Mr. Fernando Mason
Membership	Ms. Jaime laquinta, Mr Edward Jackson
Professional Development	Mr. Trent Harpest, Ms. Andrea Hamilton
Early Careerist	Ms. Sandra Moncree
Programs	Mr. Shawn Coil
Tickets	Vacant
Ways & Means	Ms. Sarah Garrette

