



VOL. 11  
ISSUE 3



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MILITARY COMPTROLLERS

San Diego Chapter Newsletter

COMMUNICATOR

MARCH  
2018



**CHECK THIS OUT!**

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**SAVE THE DATES!**

- Lunch & Learn Meetings:  
**April 10<sup>th</sup>** (date change)  
Location: MCRD Bayview  
Presenter: Martin Jimenez,  
SSCPAC Budget Officer
- July 18<sup>th</sup>**  
Location: TBD  
Sponsor: Fed Advisors  
Subject: Employee Benefits

**FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE VICE PRESIDENT:**

I hope things are going well for everyone this Spring. We want to thank you for your contributions and/or service to our nation. The job you perform each day to ensure the effective budgeting, execution, cost management, accountability, etc. with the resources entrusted to the Department of Defense is critically important to our nation's defense.

As you're aware, PDI 2018 is around the corner and registration is now open and can be found at <http://pdi2018.org/>. This year's event will be held in Denver, Colorado, on May 31 – June 2. PDI is the premier training event for resource/financial managers in the Department of Defense, US Coast Guard, and public and private sectors. This three-day training event features a full day of Service and Defense Agencies workshops; six general sessions with keynote speakers; 17 mini-courses aligned to the DoD Financial Management Certification Program competencies and associated proficiency levels; more than fifty financial management, audit, acquisition, and workforce management workshops; and other special activities. We hope you get the opportunity to attend this or a future PDI.

Daylight saving time began this Sunday, March 11, at 2:00 a.m. But don't fret! That means you gain one more precious hour of sunlight at the end of the day to beat those end-of-winter doldrums.

The next ASMC Luncheon on April 10, 2018 - MCRD Bayview. Our guest Speaker will be Martin Jimenez, Spawar Systems Center-Pacific, Budget Officer. We hope to see you there!

*Mike Ortiz*  
ASMC San Diego Chapter Admin Vice President  
mike.ortiz@navy.mil

**2004-2018 FIVE STAR CHAPTER**



- March 14<sup>th</sup> National Learn About Butterflies Day
- March 17<sup>th</sup> Saint Patrick's Day
- March 20<sup>th</sup> Spring Vernal Equinox -1<sup>st</sup> day of Spring





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## ASMC San Diego 2017-18 Membership Drive:

We're excited to be offering this new Membership Drive for ASMC San Diego. Let's recruit new members to join our Chapter this year.

**New Membership:** The chapter will pay your ASMC membership dues for the first year of any new member who joins ASMC between October 1, 2017 and September 30, 2018. This only applies to anyone who has never been an ASMC member in the past. You will need to submit a copy of your receipt for payment.

**ASMC San Diego Members:** Every time an ASMC member attends an ASMC luncheon and brings a non-ASMC member to that same luncheon the ASMC member will receive entry to the luncheon for half price.

**Rules for the FY-2017-18 ASMC Membership Drive:** This membership drive is open to all ASMC San Diego members in good standing. -- Members transferring from other chapters do not qualify as a "NEW" member and members renewing membership do not qualify.

If you have any questions, contact the membership chair, Mike Ortiz at 619-532-8872 or [mike.ortiz@navy.mil](mailto:mike.ortiz@navy.mil).

## New FM Certification Training Opportunity!

BSO FM Approved Training

Navy Region Southwest is hosting BSO Approved FM Training at the Broadway Complex located at 937 North Harbor Drive San Diego, CA 92132-0058. Below provides information on the competency levels each training covers for DOD FM Certification, as well as CET's awarded.

Course Hours : **16 CET/CPE'S awarded for attending**

Course # Days: **2**

Course Name : **Budgeting and Accounting: Making the Connection Training Course**

DoD FM Certification Course Mapping Towards Earning Certification **Level 3**

**16 hours lead organizations**

Dates: April 2-3, 2018

Please contact Ken Suazo at [Kenneth.Suazo@navy.mil](mailto:Kenneth.Suazo@navy.mil), 619-532-1099 for more information and to sign up for the class. Attendee reservation will be accepted on a first-come first-serve basis, until the class(s) is filled up. The class will be held at Navy Region Southwest, Bldg. 1. RBO Conference Room located on the 5th floor.



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## Come Join Us at Fisher House!

ASMC and DAUAA will be joining forces to prepare delicious meals for the residents of Fisher House in 2018. Here's how it works: A team of volunteers will spend 3-4 hours at the Fisher House kitchen preparing a meal. We need volunteers to plan the menu; do the shopping the day before the cooking event; meet at Fisher House to chop, slice, cook, bake, and have fun. **We are looking for volunteers to help in March.** We have a great time and the Fisher House residents appreciate the home-cooked meals. It's a great way to help military heroes and their families. If you are interested in this rewarding volunteer opportunity, please contact Joanne MacDonald-Morrow at [joanne.macdonald-morrow@dau.mil](mailto:joanne.macdonald-morrow@dau.mil). Next event: 16 or 30 March 10 – 2 pm – contact Joanne to confirm



Fisher House meal on 23 Feb 18.  
Barbara Beeler is the ASMC member in the scooping the cookie dough (blue sweatshirt).



May your  
pockets be  
**HEAVY**  
and your  
**heart**  
be light.  
May good  
**luck**  
pursue you each  
morning and night...

## We need SPEAKERS for our Lunch and Learn Meetings

We are always looking for speakers/trainers for our bi-monthly Lunch & Learn Meetings. If you are interested, know of a speaker you think would be excellent for a future event, or if you have a recommended training topic that you feel other members would also be interested in; please let us know your suggestions. Please contact Jacquie Yelder at [jacqueline.yelder1@navy.mil](mailto:jacqueline.yelder1@navy.mil).



## Accountant Needed

Are you an Accountant and would you like to earn some extra money on the side? ASMC San Diego is looking for an Accountant within our ranks that would be willing to Audit our books around the November timeframe. Accountant does not need to be an ASMC member, so pass the word around. Any interested parties should contact, Reshi Constant, 619-524-7256 .or [reshi.constant@navy.mil](mailto:reshi.constant@navy.mil).



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## ASMC San Diego Presented award for Red Star Sponsorship!



ASMC members Brenda Meyer, Evelyn Mahoney, Letty and Francisco Soto attended the Shelter to Soldier Soiree event held on February 24, 2018. This included a reception; live music, small bites, beer and wine to celebrate the individuals and companies who supported the Shelter to Soldier fundraising effort in 2017. Our chapter was presented with an award for Red Star Sponsorship!

ASMC National was fortunate to raise more than \$16,000 for Shelter to Soldier during the Professional Development Institute (PDI) conference which was held in May 2017. More than 4000 financial managers from all over the U.S. attended this event. Due to our generous donation to Shelter to Soldier, we were able to adopt a dog.

Today, our dog Kai is a 1 year old male husky mix adopted from San Diego Department of Animal Services Bonita Shelter. This beautiful husky has a great temperament and drive, and was a perfect adoptee for Shelter to Soldier! Kai is a super sweet pup that loves people, dogs, and kids! He is always excited to train and likes to work for the reward of playtime with his tennis ball. Kai is still going through his training, but will very soon make a great companion and service dog for a deserving veteran in the not-too-distant future! ASMC members are excited and awaiting on Kai's graduation. Kai will be graduating this year and we hope to attend his ceremony. If you would like to join us, please don't hesitate to let me know.

*Evelyn Mahoney, Charity Committee Co-Chair*





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## ASMC February Scholarship Program Note

### Members Continuing Education Grant Program

The application deadline for The Members Continuing Education Grant Program and the National Scholarship Program for High School seniors is March, 31 2018!

Please contact me if you are interested in applying to one of these great programs.

You can find additional information online at [www.asmonline.org](http://www.asmonline.org)

Zoeth Browne, CDFM

ASMC San Diego Scholarship Chair

Email: [zoeth.browne@navy.mil](mailto:zoeth.browne@navy.mil)

Phone: 619-556-2278

## NEWS FROM NATIONAL:

### Issues Scheduling a Pearson VUE Exam?

- Are you currently enrolled in the CDFM Program? You MUST be enrolled to take an exam.
  - Verify your CDFM enrollment by logging on to your ASMC account and clicking on "Update Profile"
- Have you purchased an exam on the ASMC website?
  - Purchase a Pearson VUE exam: <https://imis.asmonline.org/net/products.aspx?category=cbt>

### ASMC Textbooks

The Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Course (EDFMTC) textbook, previously available only to those attending an in-person training course, is now available for sale to individuals.

Textbook Prices:

EDFMTC Textbook with Modules 1-3  
Module 4 Addendum only

\$110.00 Members / \$120.00 Non-Members  
\$ 75.00 Members / \$ 85.00 Non-Members





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## Retirement Article - In-Service Withdrawals vs TSP Loans

Welcome back! Lately I've had a lot of questions from employees wondering about the difference between a Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) withdrawal and a loan, and which is better. It almost sounds like some of you are eying all that money the C Fund made last year, ha! Regardless of the reason, it does bring up a relevant topic, and the fact that the two choices should be weighted carefully before making the decision to pull money out of your TSP.

First, let us establish that current TSP rules will only allow you two (2) withdrawals. Ever. If you are over 59 ½ then you are able to make one withdrawal while you're still employed. The second withdrawal will not be allowed until thirty days after you retire. If you are UNDER 59 ½, you are still able to make a withdrawal, but it is considered a "Financial Hardship" withdrawal, which I'll explain in more detail shortly.

**Withdrawals** – Assuming that you are at least 59 ½, you are eligible to make an In-Service withdrawal while you are employed. This simply means that you request that some or all of your vested TSP balance be withdrawn, and there is no qualification to do so. You don't have to explain your reasons or what the funds are going to be used for, and depending on where you put the funds, you may or may not owe taxes at the time of distribution. If the funds are deposited directly to your checking account, for example, then TSP will automatically withhold 20% for Federal tax purposes. If, however, you are transferring the funds to an account that is set up to receive pre-tax funds – like a personal IRA at a bank or brokerage account - then no taxes are withheld at the time of transfer. If you decide to have a rollover check issued to you, then the funds are not taxed when the check is sent out, and you have sixty (60) days to deposit the funds into a pre-tax account, otherwise taxes will be assessed.

Essentially, you are permanently reducing the TSP account by the amount you withdraw, and thus the interest earning potential of your TSP is also reduced. Also, you cannot later decide to convert the withdrawal to a loan.

**Financial Hardship** withdrawals occur when the withdrawal is made before you reach 59 ½, and they have their own set of rules. First, you are going to pay an additional 10% penalty, IN ADDITION TO the 20% withheld by the TSP for taxes. Also, you will have to wait six months before making any contributions to your TSP – this includes catch-up and matching contributions. You will, however, continue to receive the automatic 1% Agency Contribution. You also have to justify the withdrawal. You have to provide documentation of at least one of the following: Negative monthly cash flow; Medical expenses (including household renovations needed to provide medical care) that you have not paid and are not covered by insurance; Personal casualty loss(es) that you have not paid and are not covered by insurance; or legal expenses that you have not paid as a result of divorce or separation. On the bright side, taking a financial hardship withdrawal DOES NOT count as one of your two allowed TSP withdrawals.





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## Retirement Article - In-Service Withdrawals vs TSP Loans

**Loans** – On the other hand, loans are much less restrictive. In part, because they are not considered a “withdrawal.” In fact, the only real downside to a loan is the one-time \$50 loan fee that you pay when you open the loan. Even the interest you pay on the loan is paid back into your own account. Yes, you read that correctly. The interest that you pay on the loan is actually being paid back to YOURSELF. Pretty cool. Also, you can continue making contributions into your TSP while you pay the loan back, which means you can continue to receive the full 5% match. As far as taxes go, there are none! No mandatory 20% tax is withheld from the loan amount – UNLESS you retire prior to paying the loan back. If that occurs, you can choose to either repay the loan in full, or simply have TSP treat the loan balance as a taxable distribution.

Now, if a TSP loan is not paid back upon retirement, even though it IS treated as a distribution, it IS NOT counted as one of your two allowed withdrawals. No loan is ever counted as one of your two withdrawals. Also, you can carry up to two loans at a time, one being a general purpose loan and the other a housing loan – and as long as you continue to pay off previous loans, there is no limit to the number of loans that you can take out. The maximum available for each type of loan is either \$50,000 or half of your TSP vested balance, whichever is less.

The decision seems quite obvious. Although there may be unique circumstances in every scenario, by and large the financial benefits of taking a loan clearly outweigh that of taking an in-service withdrawal. Of course, scenarios and financial conundrums differ in many ways, so before you pull the trigger, it is always a good idea to take a breath and chat with someone who knows all of the pros and cons when it come to your Federal benefits.

Be safe, be Happy, and be Kind –  
Joe

*Joe McGee is the Regional Vice President of Federal Employees First Alliance, a Chartered Federal Employee Benefits Consultant (ChFEBC) and frequent speaker to Federal employee groups and agencies nationwide. With over 15 years of experience in the Federal retirement sector, his straightforward approach has provided clarity and confidence for those looking to retire with a full understanding of their benefits and how to maximize them. Individual consultations at his San Diego office in Mission Valley are offered at no cost, and he can be contacted at (619) 886-5129 or [jmcgee@fefalliance.org](mailto:jmcgee@fefalliance.org)*





**ASK MAC!**



Dear Mac,

*Our program is planning a request to fund a development effort. It will start in FY 19 and run for 30 months. I know RDT&E falls under the incremental funding policy but I'm not sure how to apply it to this effort. Can you explain?*

*B. Newobie*

Dear B. Newobie,

The DoD Financial Management Regulation (FMR) provides ground rules derived from Congressional direction concerning the amount and timing of budget requests for different appropriations. These funding policies serve to distribute budget authority among the many DoD activities and programs based on the funding requirement for the program and DoD priorities. There are three funding policies used for budgeting purposes: annual funding, incremental funding, and full funding. The incremental funding policy governs budgeting for RDT&E.

When developing a budget for RDT&E funding, it is necessary to estimate when we expect costs to be incurred. Incurred costs are expenses that have occurred and will be posted to financial systems or statements even though payment has not yet been made. If an effort begins and ends in the same fiscal year, the process is easy, the budget request would include all funding for the total effort that occurs in that year. However efforts often span multiple fiscal years and budgeting for those efforts requires an understanding of how the contractor and associated government costs will be incurred over the length of the effort. In practice, this can be challenging since the program is making projections, often without knowing who the contractor will be and how the costs will be incurred.

The Financial Management Regulation provides the following guidance for estimating the budget requirement for the fiscal years of a research and development efforts that will span more than one year:

- For the initial or first year of a contract for a new start program, assume funding for a 9 month or lesser period because of the nature and timing of the congressional budget approval process.
- For the second and all succeeding full fiscal years of the contract, assume funding requirements on the basis of costs expected to be incurred for a 12 month period. In some cases, the assumption could be made that the contractor can finish the contracted work effort within the first 3 months of the following fiscal year. The Service or Defense Agency Comptroller must approve including that additional funding requirement for up to 3 months in the last full fiscal year's budget request. This should be closely monitored and if it becomes apparent that the work effort will take longer than 3 months into a following fiscal year, the programming and budgeting documents should be modified to reflect that change (i.e., put the funding requirement into the next fiscal year).
- In some cases, there may be a research and development requirement in which there is no logical way to divide the work; it is clearly unfeasible to limit the contract to a shorter period; or the planned technical effort is such that no contractor is willing to accept a contract for a less-than-completion increment. For these type efforts that take longer than 12 months but less than 18 months, the Service or Defense Agency may approve financing of the total requirement in one fiscal year.

Thanks for a great question!

Sincerely,  
Mac



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**Congratulations New CDFM:**

*Ryan Green, CDFM-A*

*Danny Prater*

If you are working on your exams,  
keep up the good work!

**ASMC ONLINE MEMBERSHIP LINKS:**

Join ASMC:

<http://www.asmcnline.org/membership/join-renew/>

Update your Profile:

<http://www.asmcnline.org/membership/edit-profile/>

Renew ASMC Membership:

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

The CDFM Program:

<http://www.asmcnline.org/certification/cdfm-information/>

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**WEBMASTER:**

Justin Tuyay



MAY YOUR TROUBLES  
BE LESS  
and your  
Blessings  
be MORE  
AND NOTHING BUT  
HAPPINESS  
come through your  
door

FIVE HEART HOME

IRISH BLESSING