

THE FOUNDING OF OUR SOCIETY

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Founding Member

It is hoped that the following will serve to acquaint you with the early history, purpose and character of our organization and provide the answer, "WHY THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MILITARY COMPTROLLERS". In order to bring you up-to-date, we must go back a few years and highlight the events leading up to the founding of our Society, which was originally organized as the Society of Military Accountants and Statisticians.

On 18 November 1948, upon the invitation of Lt. Joseph C. Armour, Lt. Col. Frederick B. Smith and Captain Samuel V. Anthoné, met with Lt. Armour, in San Antonio, Texas, for dinner. At this dinner, while discussing our respective assignments, and finding them so similar in character, Lt. Armour suggested that it would be a great help to the Government and the Defense Department, if an organization were formed, bringing together the Officers of the Armed Forces who were engaged in the Accounting and Statistical fields of endeavor. It was agreed that the plan was an excellent one, and it was suggested that each of us contact some other officer, and invite him to join our dinner group. On December 2, 1948, a second dinner meeting was held, at Brooke Army Medical Center Officers Club, at which there was in attendance, in addition to the above mentioned officers, Col. Jerrold D. McCarthy and Captain Garnett M. Burum. At this meeting it was decided that a Constitution and plan of organization should be drafted.

The next meeting of the group was held on 13 January 1949 at the BAMC Officers Club, at which it was decided to call the organization "The Society of Military Accountants and Statisticians." Various details for a Constitution and By-Laws were discussed and a further meeting was called for 10 February 1949. At the last named meeting plans for a National Constitution were laid and during the months of March and April 1949, after many conferences and meetings of the Founders, a Constitution was brought to final form. At a meeting in April, the original group was augmented by Colonel Bickford E. Sawyer, Lt. Col. Maurice Edelman, Lt. Commander Louis A. Oswald and Major Walter H. Zwinscher. At this meeting the Constitution and By-Laws of SMAS were approved by the Founders in session.

At a meeting held on the 12th of May 1949, the following Founding Members, present, met at the Ft. Sam Houston Officers Club:

From the ARMY: Colonel McCarthy, Colonel Sawyer, Lt. Col. Edelman, Lt. Col. Smith, Major Burum and Captain Armour

From the NAVY: LCDR Oswald

From the AIR FORCE: Major Anthoné and Major Zwinscher

After due study and deliberation, into the long hours of the night, the Nine Founding Members, at the meeting of 12 May 1949, formally adopted the National Constitution, and the Society of Military Accountants and Statisticians was brought into being.

The first regular meeting of the National Council of the new Society of Military Accountants and Statisticians was convened, under the provisions of the Constitution, on the above date in the Club Rooms of Brooke Army Medical Center Officers Club, Ft. Sam Houston, Texas, and upon mutual agreement of the members present, Captain Armour was requested to be the Temporary Chairman, and he did so preside.

Election of Officers then followed, with the following serving as the first Officers of SMAS:

President	Captain Joseph C. Armour
1 st Vice Pres.	Major Samuel V. Anthone (Air Force)
2 nd Vice Pres.	LCDR Louis A. Oswald (Navy)
3 rd Vice Pres.	Major Garnett M. Burum (Army)
Secretary	Col. Jerrold D. McCarthy
Comptroller General	Major Walter H. Zwinscher

The initial National Constitution, as indicated by the name of the organization, directed its attention to the Accounting and Statistical areas. Full membership in SMAS was reserved to Commissioned and Warrant Officers of the Armed Forces.

In comparison, it is interesting to note that the Society in its present expanded form, ASMC, has directed its interest into the fields of Budgeting, Accounting, Finance, Reports and Statistics, Auditing, Organization, Management and Analysis, covering the full complement of Military Comptrollership. Also, full membership was opened to Civil service Employees, as well as to Commissioned and Warrant Officers.

The American Society of Military Comptrollers is a unique organization, the only one of its kind in the Military Forces of the world. Its aim is to better the methods of operating the Armed Forces, and to uphold and protect those ideals which have made the United States of America the greatest nation in the history of the world.

May God prosper our organization, let it grow, and cause it to perform the service which the Nine Founders intended it to perform.