

# ALAMO GRAM

A Publication of the Alamo City Chapter  
of the American Society of Military Comptrollers



**IN THIS EDITION: NATIONAL NEWS, CHAPTER MEETINGS, LOCAL NEWS, ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT, COMMUNITY SERVICE, RETIREE NEWS, ABOUT FACES**



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

September is here and about gone already. Kids are back in school. The weather is below 100 degrees on most days. The fall rains have turned most of the brown back into green. The smell of fiscal year end is in the air -- at least in my organization where the halls fill with food as those who appreciate our work and their teammates bring in tasty creations. As we enter the final days of the fiscal year it's a great time to reflect on our professional accomplishments; both organizational and personal. I encourage you to examine what you've done to support your organization during FY10, what you've done well, and where you can improve. Consider how ASMC can better serve you and how you can better serve ASMC. Then make a fiscal new year's resolutions concerning your professional life. Make this one last longer than that gym membership.

Before you know it winter will be here. We'll blink and it will be time for PDS 2011 (14-15 February). As those of you who have supported PDS in the past know, it takes a lot of effort to put together this valuable program for our chapter. Please read the PDS Update in this issue of the Alamo Gram and consider how you can help. PDS is truly an event for you.

Thank you for all that you do to support our military and our Alamo City Chapter of ASMC. We have a wonderful organization. I am very proud to be associated with it and with you. Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

COL Mark Cronk, CDFM  
President

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## NATIONAL NEWS

**Secretary Gates announces new acquisition “Efficiencies Initiatives”** - Secretary Gates recently announced a new “Efficiencies Initiative” to improve defense acquisition and contracting. This initiative contains the first announced details of what Secretary Gates had in mind last month when he called for changes to achieve \$100 billion in savings over the next five years. They are the result of work performed by a team led by the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (AT&L) Ashton Carter that developed guidance containing some 23 separate changes in the way DoD does business. These changes cover a wide range of acquisition management and contracting areas such as program management, cost estimating, competition, contract types, and the role of small business. ([see more](#))

See more [Financial News Highlights](#) on the ASMC website ([www.asmconline.org](http://www.asmconline.org)), including the following:

- Do the Gates savings initiatives mean the end of outsourcing and the rise of DISA?
- DLA and industry partners need to work together to lower costs and improve buying power
- OMB releases list of high risk IT projects
- Secretary Gates says he plans to leave post by end of 2011
- OPM Director defends federal pay levels, but will review comparison process

**CDFM Audio-Conferences.** The audio conferences provide training via telephone conferencing services. Presentation materials are normally provided to registrants prior to the conference start time along with telephone dialing instructions. Each CDFM Audio-Conference is 2 days in length, starting at 1:00 pm Central Time. All participants are expected to have the October 2009 version of the EDFMTC text. Audio-Conference Dates are Oct 26 - 27 (Module 1), Nov 8 - 9 (Module 2), and Dec 14 - 15 (Module 3). (*Editor’s Note: If you’re interested in participating in these Audio-Conferences, contact your organization Vice President. The Chapter can host these Audio-Conferences locally provided there is sufficient interest among the Chapter members.*)

**Professional Development Institute (PDI) 2011:** Minneapolis will host the national PDI on 30 May to June 3. The host chapter and committee are already busy planning for a dynamic event, setting a program to the theme of Navigating Financial Excellence. While attendees are not in an educational session, the city has much to offer. With an alive, vibrant downtown located on the Mississippi River, attendees will discover energy, excitement and entertainment. Keep your eyes on [www.asmconline.org](http://www.asmconline.org) for updates to information regarding PDI 2011.

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## CHAPTER MEETINGS

**August Meeting.** Our August luncheon was held at the Pico de Gallo restaurant on Thursday, 26 August. The luncheon was a joint luncheon co-hosted by the Chapter’s VP for AETC and the *Society of Cost Estimating and Analysis*. **David Bach**, Business Area Manager, *Quantech Services Inc.*, gave an *Intro to Cost Estimating*. The presentation covered the cost estimating process, the cost estimator's role, the relationship between estimating and budgeting, and a review of what constitutes a budget-quality estimate. (Photo at right: **Col Mark Cronk**, Chapter President, (left) presents a Chapter Coin to **Mr. Bach** in appreciation for his presentation.)



**September Meeting.** Our retirees hosted the September luncheon on Wednesday, 8 September, at the Ft Sam Houston Golf Course. *John LaHue*, Chief Financial Officer for the Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment (AFCEE), who gave a presentation on *The Evolution of AFCEE Financial Management and the Role of Teamwork*. During his presentation, he gave a brief history of AFCEE, how they got from there to here, and where they are today. He also described **12 C's** for Teambuilding: **C**lear Expectations, **C**ontext, **C**ommitment, **C**ompetence, **C**harter, **C**ontrol, **C**ollaboration, **C**ommunication, **C**reative Innovation, **C**onsequences, **C**oordination, and **C**ultural Change. (*Editor's apology: Pictures of the presentation of the Chapter Coin to Mr. La Hue didn't come out.*)

**October Meeting.** Our acting AFSVA rep is hosting the meeting on 21 October at the Kendrick Club (NCO Club) at Randolph. At the luncheon, *Jim Lee* will give a presentation on *Visual Thinking*. We primarily perceive the world with our eyes...but perception extends far beyond mere visual images to the very ways in which we think, reason, and understand. In fact, the simple phrase, "I see" is often meant to reflect understanding rather than vision. This presentation explores the close connection between vision and cognition and how knowledge of perceptual science can be applied to gain insight and improve analytical, problem solving, information design, and professional presentation skills...all critical to effective decision support. Mr. Lee is the President of "*Thinkrobotics*" and an independent contractor currently supporting AETC/FM, OSD Comptroller, and AF/A7CR. For additional information watch for the luncheon flyers and base newspaper notices or contact our acting AFSVA rep *Ada Fromuth* at 652-4408, [ada.fromuth@randolph.af.mil](mailto:ada.fromuth@randolph.af.mil).

**November Meeting.** No information available.

**December – Holiday Party.** Mark your calendars for the Chapter Christmas Party, which will be **9 December** at the Parr Club (OClub) at Randolph. They will be fully up and operational by 1700 and will run until 2000 hours. We will have a DJ. *Ada Fromuth*, our 902 CPTS VP will be the sponsor for this event. If you have any questions, she can be reached at 652-4408 or [ada.fromuth@randolph.af.mil](mailto:ada.fromuth@randolph.af.mil).

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## LOCAL NEWS

*Chapter Executive Committee Members*

**Chapter Scholarship for High School Seniors** (*Bill Pazeretsky, Scholarship Chair*). The Alamo City Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) is participating with the Bexar County Scholarship Clearing House (BCSCH) to award two \$500.00 scholarships to eligible high school seniors. The students must be the top 25% of their class, be a dependent of an active or retired DOD employee, and plan to pursue a degree in a financial management discipline. Selection will be based on need, leadership ability, school and community activities, and scholastic achievements.

Applications are available from the student's high school senior counselor or from me. Deadline for submission of applications to the senior counselor is early November. The counselors are required to submit completed applications to the BCSCH by **15 November 2010**. The deadline for Chapter members to submit the forms to Bill is **15 January 2011**. For more information contact Bill at 659-6242 or [Pazeretsky@earthlink.net](mailto:Pazeretsky@earthlink.net).

**EDFM Course in San Antonio.** The "Enhanced Defense Financial Management" (EDFM) Training Course is a five-day, intensive financial management review course taught in three modules. The course is provided by the Department of Defense and is licensed and copyrighted by the American Society of Military Comptrollers. Please note that the EDFM course highlighted in the *August* newsletter will **NOT** be held on Randolph AFB. It



will be held from **18-22 October** at a hotel near the San Antonio Airport on Loop 410 (exact location will be within about 3 miles of the Airport). You can sign up for the course (provided seats are still available) at <https://atrrs.army.mil/edfmt>. If you are unable to attend this course, another EDFM class is scheduled for the San Antonio area in June 2011 (hosted by the Army).

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## ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT



### **U.S. ARMY NORTH**

*Mike Pukansky, Army North VP*



The mission of U.S. Army North is to defend the U.S. homeland, support civil authorities during disaster, and conduct Theater Security Cooperation (TSC) activities in order to protect the American people and our way of life. Army North serves as the Joint Force Land Component Command and Army Service Component Command to U.S. Northern Command located in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

U.S. Army North, a three-star command located on Fort Sam Houston, was conceived in 2004 as the dedicated Army Service Component Command to U.S. Northern Command, the unified command responsible for defending the U.S. homeland and coordinating defense support of civil authorities. The command achieved full operating capability in 2006 and assumed operational control of Joint Task Force – Civil Support and Joint Task Force – North in 2008. Army North also supports Army to Army Theater Security Cooperation with Canada and Mexico.

U.S. Army North’s Defense Coordinating Elements serve as DoD’s single point of contact within each of the 10 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regions on the use of military resources in response to natural or manmade disasters.

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## COMMUNITY SERVICE

*Nida Soriano-Rosas, Community Service Chair*

### **ASMC DONATED \$8,856.25 TO CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES “DARE TO LOVE” SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE**

The **ALAMO CITY CHAPTER** did it again! During the summer months of July and August 2010 Back-To-School drive, the Alamo Chapter donated a total of **7,719 items** valued at **\$8,856.25** in backpacks, school supplies, school clothes, uniforms, cash, and countless hours of community service. These donations supported the abandoned and abused children under the care of the San Antonio Child Protective Services (CPS).



Here's a quote from **Mary Stelzig-Rendon**, CPS Rainbow Room Coordinator: "ASMC, You all went beyond our expectations. I am amazed each time you all brought in boxes and boxes of school supplies! The workers were so thrilled to see all the supplies available for their client children. We had a child who was in a visit this morning and the worker mentioned to her that the supplies came from the Rainbow Room. The child asked me to thank the people who helped her and her siblings--who then stated that they are not different from the other kids in her class."

We take so much for granted, but we have heard story after story in previous years about children under the Children Protective Services care, who for the first time, had backpacks and supplies like the other kids in their class. These children have to grow up with the reality that their parents could not or would not care for them, but having their needs met even by an anonymous donor like the ASMC Alamo Chapter lets them know someone cares (*see related pictures in the August Alamo Gram*).

My special thanks to **Brenda Flores**, VP from the Air Force Audit Agency (AFAA) at Brooks and **Angela Crawford**, VP from the AFAA at Randolph for spearheading this event. Thank you to all installation VPs, all members and non-members who donated towards this great cause. Thank you for letting these less fortunate children know that there are people out there like the ASMC chapter members who care about them!



**From left to right:** **Brenda Flores** drops off a load of school supplies, **Brenda and Mary Lou Stelzig-Rendon** of CPS take more supplies into the Rainbow room, and **Mary Lou** accepts yet another delivery of school supplies at the CPS facility during three donation deliveries.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS FOR OCTOBER: WALKS FOR THE ALZHEIMER RESEARCH & THE JUVENILE DIABETES RESEARCH FOUNDATION**

**Alzheimers Walk.** Today more than 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's. In addition, 78 million baby boomers are approaching the age of greatest risk for developing this fatal disease. Now is the time to ACT to end this epidemic! This year, to support those affected by Alzheimer's, **Jane Keller** signed up as captain for a joint ASMC/NARFE team to walk in the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk® on **2 October 2010** to raise funds and awareness to fight this disease. The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer care, support and research, and funds we raise will go directly toward supporting their efforts. We can make a difference with your support!

The walk will take place through Brackenridge Park...IN THE SHADE! There is no fee to sign up and participate in the walk, so please consider joining the team. This is a fundraiser. Participants are asked to solicit pledges sponsoring their participation. Team members who raise \$100 in pledges will receive an official t-shirt. Go to <http://www.kintera.org/FAF//home/default.asp?ievent=337566> and sign up to walk with Jane. We need four members to get credit as a community service event. If you don't want to walk, please go to the website and make a pledge so **Jane** can reach her team goal of \$500/personal goal of \$100.



**Juvenile Diabetes Walk.** *Kay Zurenko* from the Air Force Audit Agency signed up as captain for an Alamo Chapter Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) Walk Team. The JDRF is the leading charitable funder and advocate of type 1 (juvenile) diabetes research worldwide. JDRF's mission is to find a cure for diabetes and its complications through the support of research. The JDRF Walk will be held on Saturday, 17 October at the Alamodome. The Alamo City Chapter JDRF team is also open to family, friends, and co-workers.

- To JOIN the Chapter's JDRF Walk Team, go to <http://walk.jdrf.org/register.cfm?id=87768991>.
- To DONATE to the Chapter's JDRF Walk Team, go to <http://walk.jdrf.org/support.cfm?id=87768991>.

If you have any questions on this event, please call *Kay* at (210) 536-3922, (210)386-2379 or e-mail her at [Kay.Zurenko@brooks.af.mil](mailto:Kay.Zurenko@brooks.af.mil).

*Thank you in advance for your time and generosity –  
together, we can help end Alzheimer's and Juvenile Diabetes!*

### **SUNSHINE PLAZA HOLIDAY DRIVE**

When you travel, please remember our residents of Sunshine Plaza. Collect unused sundry items from your hotels and save them for gift bags to the residents at our annual Christmas event. In addition to sundry items, residents enjoy finding socks, sock slippers, gloves, scarves, flavored tea/coffee packets, and small Christmas tokens/cards. Donations may be delivered to *Jane Keller* through your organization vice president anytime between now and early December. If we receive enough donated items, we can also share them with the CPS Dare to Love Rainbow Room and the local Fisher Houses, like we did last year.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE NEEDS YOU**

Finally, if you wish to volunteer to lead a community service event or have suggestion for an event, please e-mail [Nida.Soriano-Rosas@us.af.mil](mailto:Nida.Soriano-Rosas@us.af.mil) or call her at (210) 279-0925 or (210) 395-8303.

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### **RETIREE NEWS**

# **Life After Retirement!**

*Janie Keller, Retiree Liaison*

I was unable to catch up with *Jim Youngson* prior to printing of the August Newsletter. When he finally came home for a break, I found out he had been on a cruise that sounds just fabulous. Here's what he wrote:

“This latest cruise was down the Elbe River from Prague, Czech Republic, to Berlin, with stops at several towns, including Dresden, Meissen, Wittenberg, Bad Schandau & Dessau. It was an



excellent trip on Viking River Cruises. It was a 10-day cruise & we stayed in both Prague & Berlin for 3 nights on each end of the cruise.

“You can say that what interested me most about this cruise was to see parts of the world that had been closed to us during the Cold War. Many of the cities (especially Dresden) had been destroyed in WWII bombing, but you'd never believe it because they've been so beautifully restored.”

**Attention all members:** When you retire, please send a message to *Barbara Gibson* at [www.asmconline.org](http://www.asmconline.org) and ask that all work information be deleted from your membership listing and please validate your home phone number and e-mail information. Activities of the Alamo City Chapter are not mailed to home addresses unless the individual member specifically requests mailings and follows through with participation in events. Every retiree with an e-mail address is included in a group mailing of all events/activities. Therefore, to stay active and informed, please make sure you update your contact information with ASMC National BEFORE you go out that office door for the last time...or as soon as you get home from that last exit.

Thank you from your Retiree Liaison, *Jane Keller*

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**ABOUT FACES**  
*Various Executive Committee Members*



**Welcomes:** None reported.

**Transfers:** *Mark Tesmer* transferred from USAFSAM, Brooks City Base, to 711 HPW/FMUM North Office at Wright-Patterson AFB OH in June 2010.

*Wendy Pouliot* transferred from USAFSAM, Brooks City Base, to 711 HPW/FMUM North Office at Wright-Patterson AFB OH in August 2010.

**Local Moves:** None reported.

**Promotions:** None reported.

**Retirements:** None reported.

**Editor’s Note:** Since we’re in the middle of our summertime rotations and gaining a number of new neighbors, (especially at Ft. Sam) I’m surprised we don’t have more information about folks who are joining or leaving us. If you know of any Chapter members who are relocating (local or other) or retiring, please remind your organization VP to submit their information for inclusion in future Alamo Grams. Thanks!

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