

AVIATION



CHAPTER

WRIGHT FLYER

Feb 2009

ASMC AVIATION CHAPTER



A 5 STAR CHAPTER

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President's Message



Spring is almost here. I love spring cleaning. Isn't it nice to start with a clean slate? I start looking forward to spring at the beginning of each New Year. You see, I now have the whole year ahead of me to make of it what I want it to be. And yes, I really do get to make it what I want it to be. I not only clean the clutter from my house and office desk, I clean up my outlook. I can choose to look positively at challenges, thrive on solving problems, delight in working with highly professional people or I can choose to look at everything in a "glass is half empty" vision. The latter is no way to approach spring where we are reminded that growth is always possible. Or at least I don't think so.

So how do you sustain that feeling of vision and being positive through the cold, dark winter days that we have just gone through? Or on those days where it seems that no matter how hard you try, things just aren't going the way you would like them to? Maintaining perspective or as pilots

say "that 20,000 foot view" is always valuable. How many times in 20/20 hindsight does something that at the time seemed a big deal or a problem too big to solve, now several years later, it is even hard to remember why it caused so much agony? Distance or perspective is the key. Things will always change with time. It is in your power to look to the future positively.

As an ASMC member you have already said a lot about yourself. You have made your continuing professionalism a mission. You have committed yourself to on-going education, training and mentoring others, exploring all facets of comptrollerism and networking with other professionals just like yourself. You are indeed the "glass is half full" kind of people. That attitude gives you the "20,000 foot view"!

ASMC celebrates a big anniversary this year. ASMC has been around for 60 years and the Aviation Chapter for almost 28 years. In those years many things have changed but the one constant has been the mission of ASMC...promoting education, training, and professional development in all aspects of military comptrollership. Just the history alone gives us the perspective of how valuable our work is and how necessary we are to the success of the mission. It is something that should make us proud. Realize our

day to day contributions are more valuable than we sometimes think in the midst of the pressure and frustration. Just take a moment to look back on your career and see just how much you have done. It's a lot I bet...see, that 20,000 foot view does work.

Enjoy the upcoming spring and make 2009 the year you want it to be. See things in light of "the glass is half full" or even more, kind of brimming over. And once again, thank you for being a part of the Aviation Chapter of ASMC.

V/r,

Donna

ASMC March Chapter Luncheon



**ASMC Aviation Chapter & SCEA
Greater Dayton Chapter Jointly
Presents**



Speakers: MGen Michael Mushala (Ret) & Mr. Ed Weeks

Principal, Booz Allen Hamilton

Topic: Financial Mgmt & Program Mgmt Team

Date: 19 March 2009

Time: Social @ 1115, Lunch @ 1130

Location: Wright-Patterson Club & Banquet Center

Ticket Price: \$11.00

Menu:

Buffet Style Featuring:

- Classic Sautéed Salmon
- Herb Chicken
- Mashed Potatoes
- Country Style Green Beans
- Buttered Corn
- Tossed Salad
- Assorted Desserts
- Coffee/Tea/Water

***Chef Salads Available Upon Request, But No Vegetarian Plates**

Meal changes will not be accepted after headcount date.

**Tickets must be purchased
No Later Than 13-Mar 2009@ 1200**

**See Your Ticket Representative
for more information.**

Interpreters provided for the hearing impaired upon request.

Contact Anita Kerns at anita.kerns@wpafb.af.mil.

Luncheon Ticket Reps

HQ AFMC/FMP

Rebecca Tipton	7-6922
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554 ELSG/FMA

Deborah McCreanor	7-0829
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AFGLSC

Sally Easterling	7-8436
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88 CG/SCF

Anita Kerns	4-7109
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AFAA/QLS

Margaret Willis	6-0398
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AFAA/WP

Bill Holzinger	4-4998
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AFIT/FM

Roger Hardy	5-8400 x3617
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AFRL/RZF

Brenda Myers	5-6195
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AFRL/FM

Beth Jankowski	6-9057
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AFSAC/FMO

Emilie Bishop	4-1403
---------------	--------

NASIC/FM

JoAnne Hutchison	6-1351
------------------	--------

ASC/FMAO

Lesa Leggett	6-5407
--------------	--------

88 CPTS/FMA

Kathy Fugett	7-7734
--------------	--------

GAO

Dayna Foster	937-258-7967
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478 AESW/FM

Samantha Gilmore	4-5333
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645 AESG/FM

Tanya Dunn	5-4821
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702 AESG/SYF

Monique Grant	6-5308
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AFRL/RBFB

Tammy Pendergast	6-6256
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Special Interest

SURPRISE!

By: Sally Easterling, CDFM ASMC Member

Every day I do something that surprises me! I find it funny how things in our lives change and how other things seem to come back around.

Last week I was looking for Christmas gifts for my granddaughter, (and just so you know I am ahead of the game, not behind). Kaitlyn is soon to be 14years old and going on 30. I found the coolest necklace- a black leather necklace with sterling silver peace sign-what a fun gift! What I find funny about this is I swear I got the same thing for her mother 20 years ago and 20 years before that my parents got me something just like it! I guess this falls under “what goes around comes around”.

The word “SURPRISE” usually brings a smile to our face, a smile of excitement, of the unknown, and a smile of anticipation. So why do we dread them....it seems we hear “I hate surprises” more than “I love surprises”. Surely it is not the fun of a surprise we hate, or the laughter that often comes with the surprise.

So what is it in each of us that make us hesitate and shy away from the unknown? Is it that we are getting older and think we need to know what to expect and we have the need to plan our expectations or is it that we are getting older and forgetting the element of surprise is the fun in life.

It is not only the fun we would miss if all the surprises of the day went away, it is also the rush of adrenaline we get at that moment, our hearts race, our faces change and the kid in each of us comes out to play.

I completely accept that some surprises are more of a shock than of pleasure. Things happen that stun us more than surprise us....like getting a call from the school letting you know that your child has done something they shouldn't have. If we are honest with ourselves that shouldn't surprise us...I think my parents were more surprised when they didn't get a call from the school. After all they were the parents of 6 very creative girls!

Think of a surprise as a present, and we all (secretly) love to get presents. Embrace the unknown, surprise someone today and every once in awhile, surprise yourself!

The saying goes:



“SHOOT FOR THE STARS...THE WORSE THAT CAN HAPPEN IS YOU LAND IN THE CLOUDS.”

Professional Development



Upcoming Events



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 3400 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 and activities.

PDI 2009 will be held at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center in San Antonio on May 26-29, with a theme of Building the Stars of Tomorrow. The registration fee for PDI is \$615 and ASMC members receive a \$100 discount. Registration for PDI and the hotel reservation system will open on approximately March 2, 2009. Please check the ASMC website for further information.



Defense FM Survey

ASMC, along with Grant Thornton LLP, is doing a short online survey of defense financial managers. The "Looking Forward" survey (should take only a few minutes to complete) asks members for input to identify the top financial issues and concerns going into a new Administration. ASMC will reward the three chapters with the highest percentage response rate to this survey a cash award. The award will be based on the number of responses received per chapter divided by the total paid membership of a chapter as of March 31, 2008. Please be sure to enter your chapter's name when you fill out the survey. To access the survey, visit the Survey <<http://surveys.gt.com/asmc-2009-members-questionnaire>> before March 15! Aggregated results of this survey will be published and available on the ASMC website.

EDFMT Open Enrollment Courses



Space is available for individuals interested in taking the 5-day Enhanced Defense Financial Management course to be held on March 30—April 3, 2009 in Washington DC. This option is for students unable to secure space in the centrally funded courses taught by the USDA Graduate School. Please contact the course vendor, Management Concepts, directly. The points of contact are: Margaret Lindsey at 703-270-4046, mlinsday@managementconcepts.com or Hugh O'Hara at 703-270-4047, hohara@managementconcepts.com.



LinkedIn is an online network of more than 25 million experienced professionals from around the world, representing 150 industries. ASMC has created a group on LinkedIn as a forum for discussion of ASMC matters. Discussion and membership will be moderated to a limited degree, and the opinions expressed on the group are those of the individual members and not of ASMC.

You may find our group here at <http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=953357>

Evolving The Military Comptroller

Give Financial Leaders a Voice in Policy



By: Karen Dahut, From the Defense News Website

Submitted By Kimberley Harris, Webmaster

The concept of change has moved from rhetoric to reality in Washington. Like the rest of the country, the defense community is abuzz with predictions on how the new administration's priorities will affect the nation. However, much more than the new administration, the economy will drive defense spending and resource allocation.

This resource-constrained environment will present tough spending choices regarding defense capabilities and infrastructure needs. It will be critical, therefore, to implement a strategic partnership where military comptrollers have a seat at the leadership table with top decision-makers, as is done in the private sector and as seen in the pioneering Air Force Financial Management Transformation.

If done correctly, the military will increase its financial effectiveness in resource decisions translating into an increased readiness for war fighters.

Born of necessity, the private sector has led the way in transforming how we think of chief financial officers (CFOs) and comptrollers. Unlike the military, private-sector companies have a fiduciary responsibility to focus on their bottom line and return value to shareholders. Traditionally, this meant that CFOs and financial controllers primarily focused on accounting and financial reporting. To a large extent, they were most concerned with developing accounting policies, raising capital, consolidating business units, assessing financial risk and ensuring the integrity of financial numbers.

Then, two trends converged to help change the CFO paradigm. First were the corporate accounting scandals, typified by the Enron implosion and the subsequent Sarbanes-Oxley regulation passed in response. Suddenly, CEOs were held much more accountable for the financial decisions their companies made and therefore needed far greater insight into financial dealings and accounting practices.

At the same time, technology advances in Enterprise Resource Planning software and systems made it possible for CFOs to analyze companywide trends and risks while building strategies around programs, costs and return on investment in ways never before possible.

Cont. on Pg. 6

In The Spotlight

CEOs now look to their financial executives as point people on almost any large strategic decision.

While the military lacks the same fiduciary responsibility to shareholders, some of the same forces the private sector has faced are now confronting the military.

Like their private-sector counterparts' reaction to Sarbanes-Oxley, military comptrollers have taken on an expanded role within the government since the introduction of tighter financial reporting and governance regulations, such as the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act.

They are now responsible for not only reporting financial news, but the very integrity of financial execution vs. congressional budget allocation, reducing waste, and managing relationships with appropriators and war fighters.

While most military comptrollers still can't be considered full partners in many major strategic decisions, they are making steady progress. The work of the Air Force Financial Management Transformation Program represents a new model and signals where the military is heading.

The Air Force wants its financial managers to become "value-added strategic partners," working with senior decision-makers to evaluate financial transactions and predict outcomes based on financial models. Additionally, the Air Force has stressed the need for its financial managers to work as a team with senior leaders so that even those without a financial background can easily understand the ramifications of a particular financial decision or proposed scenario.

Like the private sector, the Air Force is leveraging technology to access data in ways never before possible or possible only with large staff allocations. With less staff needed to process transactions, more focus can be placed on value-add analysis with senior leadership.

This situation is not just a matter of numbers and pie charts. Financial comptrollers' decisions, and the decisions they enable, have real consequences for the war fighter. When financial managers are too far removed from major programmatic decisions, programs are often underfunded, with the strategy being to "work the risk in execution" until further funds can be secured. Some programmers knowingly accept less than full funding simply to get their program going.

In this current resource-constrained environment, corporate shareholders and customers are holding companies accountable for their spending decisions. In a very real sense, the military's shareholders are American citizens and its customers are war fighters. One way to better serve them is to wring more value from funding through a realignment of the role of our military's finance personnel to more closely reflect that of the private sector and pioneering government programs such as the Air Force Financial Management Transformation.

With the possibility of defense cuts looming, that's something all of the military's shareholders should welcome.

Karen Dahut is a vice president at Booz Allen Hamilton, a McLean, Va.-based global strategy and technology consulting firm.



Financial Management - At War in Iraq



By: Jarvis R. Baker, Maj - USAF Comptroller Advisor, Iraqi Dept of Border Enforcement, FOB Loyalty, Iraq

Submitted By Kimberley Harris, ASMC Webmaster

Editor's Note: USAF Lt Col Jarvis R. Baker (at the time, a Major) deployed to FOB Loyalty, Iraq, in May 2008 as a Comptroller Advisor for the Iraqi Department of Border Enforcement. The following was his message to his Air Force Financial Services Center (AFFSC) teammates several days after he arrived in Iraq.

Day 1: Arrival at FOB Loyalty, Iraq

When we arrived the boss gave us a day off to get unpacked and settled.

That was the last time I slept.

Day 2: First Patrol

The next day we went on our first armed dismounted (foot) patrol.

Iraqi Department of Border Enforcement (DBE) is located about two blocks away from our FOB. To meet with our Iraqi counterparts, we walk through an open field (200m), out the FOB and two blocks to the DBE HQ complex.

The good news is that the FOB wall provides cover to our west and the street/alley is not highly populated. The bad news is that we are just as vulnerable inside the DBE complex as we are outside. The DBE HQ staffers receive threats on their lives regularly. Unfortunately, within the organization, there are obvious "competing interests," and the commander and all high ranking staffers have bodyguards posted outside their offices.

We travel in small groups with plenty of stopping power.

I spent a couple of hours talking to my counterpart, and then we headed back to the FOB.

Day 3: Second Patrol

The second patrol really got exciting. Once again we headed to the DBE HQ. This time I pulled security in the tower, a big concrete and steel box 30 feet in the air with no AC in

110 degree heat (TOO FUN). It provides cover for those going to the DBE HQ complex.

About an hour and a half into our shift, a building bordering our FOB got hit with an RPG round. Twenty minutes later five random 50 caliber (big bullets) rounds hit in the open field we walked through just two hours earlier.

Three hours, five pounds and ten less heart beats later, I opened the huge steel gate and let the ground party in the FOB.

Cont. on Pg. 8

In The Spotlight

Day 4: A Good Day

Today is a good day. Only outgoing booms!

Every Day: IDF Capital of the World

Unfortunately, every day at the IDF (indirect fire) capital of the world is not so good. Two days prior to our arrival we got hit with 16 rockets: Three KIA, 31 injured! Attached are pictures of the attack.

Message to Airmen: **PREPARE!**

Please let our Airmen know that it is imperative that they get the most out of their training (Self Aid and Buddy Care, Firearms, FITNESS).

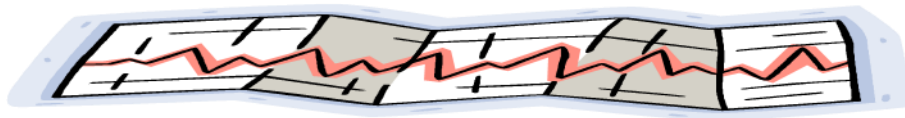


As I'm finding out, you never know when it may save
your life!





THE HEALTH & WELLNESS ZONE



5 Ways to Improve Your Spiritual Health

Arthur: Sheila Cohill

Submitted by: Laticia McCurdy

Your spiritual health might or might not be related to your religious beliefs. This article regards spirituality in the sense of the “human spirit,” which we all share despite what our particular religion, or lack of one, might be.



Take time for yourself each day.

This time can be spent however you see fit and can last as long or as short as your schedule allows.

If you don't have a lot of time, you might simply stand up and stretch. With more time, you might read a book or magazine. If you meditate, pray, say affirmations, perform visualizations, or any other type of similar activity, take the time each day to do it.

Solitary activities, no matter how long you spend doing them, give you a break from everyday tasks while also giving you a chance to focus on your own spiritual well-being.

Manage your time.

If you're going to take time for yourself each day, why not plan it? The twenty-four hours in a day are spent mostly on sleep and work, whether that work is with an employer or not. Between household chores, jobs and commuting time, and familial commitments, let alone many other tasks and errands, little time is left in the day for personal interests.

If you learn to manage your time wisely, you will be better equipped to get a handle on everything you want or need to get done. You can lessen your anxiety over things you still have left to do and strengthen your assurance that the things truly important to you are getting done.

Cont. on Pg. 10

Health and Wellness

Commune with nature.

You don't need to trek to a national or state park to open yourself to nature. You can heighten your sensitivity to the natural wonders that are right around you.

For example, bend down and feel the soft grass you might normally avoid walking over. Smell the "woody-ness" of a tree's bark. Buy some flowers from a local grocery store and put them in a vase in your house where you can see and appreciate them. Try growing your own flowers!

These brief interactions with nature can help restore your sense of peace and composure in an otherwise stressful world.

Enjoy a hobby.

With a hobby, you have control over your efforts. You don't have to become anxious by pushing yourself beyond your capabilities, yet you can overcome boredom by expanding your skills through learning and being challenged.

Finding a hobby that you truly enjoy brings a sense of inner delight and joy.

Offering something you create (from crafts to meals) or participating in a team environment (from sports and games to quilting circles) allows you to share that delight and joy.

If it matters, do something helpful. If it doesn't, let it go.

If you can do something to improve or advance a situation or relationship, then you should probably do it.

If you have an urge to do something that will worsen or aggravate a situation or relationship, then it's probably better to just let it go—not hold in the urge without acting, but really letting it go.

By practicing a sense of detachment, you can release anger, sadness, anxiety, or fear when it has a hold on you.

Ask yourself if this thing that's causing your anger, sadness, anxiety, or fear really matters in your life. If so, determine how you can make the thing better, not worse, and then do it.

If you find the thing really isn't that important to your life, knowing so will help you more easily let it go.

HEALTHY NEIGHBOR

This section will be provided monthly by the Health and Wellness Committee to answer health questions.

Various wellness questions (physical or mental) are welcomed as we plan to answer a couple of questions in each Newsletter. Please submit your questions by the 6th of each month to have a possible response in the current month's Newsletter. Send all questions to kristine.wilkerson@wpafb.af.mil, alice.becton@wpafb.af.mil or katherine.hunter@wpafb.af.mil

GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE

For current information on upcoming blood drives click on: <http://wpmc1.wpafb.af.mil/blooddonorcall>

Thanks for continuing to support our troops!

Ask A S M C

(A Sharing Motivational Champion)

No questions submitted this month.

White Chocolate Bark (Reprinted from *Health Magazine*)

Prep: 15 minutes Chill: 30 minutes
Makes 30 servings

- 1 cup sliced almonds
- ¼ cup unsweetened coconut
- 1 cup oven-toasted rice cereal
- 1 cup dried cranberries
- 1½ pounds good-quality white chocolate, chopped
- 2 teaspoons vegetable oil



Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper, and set aside.

Spread the sliced almonds and the unsweetened coconut in an even layer on the baking sheet. Toast 5-8 minutes or until coconut just begins to brown. Remove baking sheet from the oven, and let cool.

In a large bowl, combine almonds, coconut, rice cereal, and dried cranberries. Reserve about ¼ cup of the mixture, and set aside.

Place chopped white chocolate and 2 teaspoons vegetable oil in a large heatproof bowl, and set over a medium saucepan of simmering water. Stir with a spatula until the chocolate is completely melted.

Remove the chocolate from heat and fold in the almond mixture. Spread mixture evenly on parchment-lined baking sheet. Sprinkle on the reserved ¼ cup topping. Refrigerate for about 30 minutes or until the chocolate has completely set. Break the bark into small pieces, and serve. (Serving size: 1 ounce)



Your Success Roadmap: What's so great about a Development Plan anyway?

By: Robin Perkins, Aviation Chapter VP At Large

You hear a lot about development plans these days – IDPs, FMCDPs, CDPs. What's all the fuss about? Do I have one? Do I need one? What are they good for?

Your development plan is a personalized roadmap for your success. It is an individually tailored action plan designed to meet particular goals for your career development, and it should be a living, dynamic document. Ideally, you should build your plan with the help and advice of others. For your Individual Development Plan (IDP), your supervisor and your mentor are great resources. For your career program development plan (i.e. FMCDP), you'll put your plans and ideas down, and mentors from the career program will review and provide comments and suggestions. Either way, you benefit from the experience of others who have walked the same path.

Elements of a good plan

Development plans have different formats, but most contain the same essential elements: job competencies, short- and long-term goals, and training requirements. Your supervisor or mentor can help you determine the competencies you'll need to develop, and these should reflect your performance plan. Your training requirements may include courses designed to help you achieve these competencies.

Determining your short- and long-term goals is largely up to you. But that doesn't mean you have to come up with them on your own. In fact, if you are just starting out, articulating these goals can be very difficult. Talk to your supervisor, your mentor, or just someone else in your field. Ask what their experiences have been, what opportunities are out there, what different kinds of jobs exist in your career field. Most people are happy to give guidance and share experiences.

Next think about where you want to be in five or ten years. Not sure? That's okay; you can always list two or three options for the long term. Now that you have an idea of what you'd like to work toward, do some research.

Cont. on Pg. 14

Member Feature

Your advisor may have given you some insight into what you need to get there, but you can also go right to the source. Do you know of someone who holds the job you'd like to have? Ask for a half hour of their time to talk with you about their career; ask what their job is like, discuss previous jobs they've held, and explore training they've completed that contributed to their skills. They may offer you valuable tips that helped them along the way.

The Civilian Announcement Notification System (CANS) might also be a good place to look. Check out announcements for the job you are interested in for your long term goal. Read the announcement carefully to identify key competencies, knowledge, and skills that are needed for the job. This will help you to see what short term goals and training will help you to get there. For instance, if the job you desire calls for Joint experience, you may want to identify a rotation or career broadening detail with a Joint organization as one of your short- or mid-term goals.

Try to walk backwards from your long-term goals to build your short-term goals. Make sure that what you do in the short-term builds experience you'll need later. If you are just starting out, perhaps you don't have a clear idea of what the long-term holds for you. In that case, your short term goals might include some job shadowing or a three month detail in another office related to your duties. You might also build in some training courses that will broaden your knowledge and introduce you to other disciplines.

Dynamic Planning

Remember that your development planning is not a static document. You should review it once or twice a year and update it as necessary. Take the time to check your progress and assess which goals need more attention. Most importantly, when it comes time to make a career decision, pull out your development plan to see if your planned course of action fits in with your goals. You may discover that an opportunity that looks enticing will actually divert you from your path or that one that does not seem particularly good may be just what you need to move toward your goal.

Your Roadmap

Yes, your development plan is important. If you take the time to think about what you want from your career and to get advice from others, it can provide you a roadmap to success – in whatever way you choose to define success.





MENTORSHIP

By: Bob Kemp, 88th CPTS ASMC VP

In today’s fast-paced society filled with information moving at the speed of light, it is imperative that leaders, managers, and supervisors do not lose sight of what is the most valuable resource within their respective organizations – PEOPLE. Developing protégés to be tomorrow’s leaders is vital for all organizations to reach its strategic goals.

Development of short/long-term goals and objectives will have little weight if there isn’t substance from the top to ensure everyone understands their importance and clearly gets the “sight-picture” put in front of them. One way to accomplish this is through a well constructed Mentorship program. What follows are just a few bits of information that can help you to get started.

1. What is Mentoring?

- a. Mentoring is the presence of caring individuals who provide support, advice, friendship, reinforcement, and constructive examples to help others succeed.
- b. A mentor is a person of greater knowledge or wisdoms who shares this experience to help develop abilities of those junior to them, also called protégés.

2. Why Mentor?

- a. Mentoring helps to prepare protégés for increased job responsibilities by increasing their confidence and competency.
- b. Mentoring encourages people to move forward by promoting communication and collaboration with regards to personal and professional development.

Cont. on Pg. 16

Member Feature

3. Who should Mentor?

- a. YOU.... everyone!
- b. The senior leader of an organization is not the only leader. All leaders throughout an organization are responsible for development of those junior to them.
- c. No one should feel like they are “going it alone” and by developing an atmosphere of interaction a sense of belonging should occur, thus resulting in a stronger and better organization.



4. When To Mentor - Finding the Time:

- a. Mentoring can take place informally and formally. Many times mentoring occurs simply by virtue of being in the right place at the right time to “see” what is going on at the next level.
- b. With current technologies such as email it is easy for protégés to ask questions and receive quick answers.
- c. What is most important is to be available/accessible, and be prepared to listen and respond when needed. Be active participants and if possible set up regular times within your schedules to meet.

5. How To Mentor:

- a. Relate personal and professional experiences. Practice positive communication skills.
- b. Clarify developmental needs, recommend training opportunities.

National News

Federal Computer Week

Law Freezes Competitive Sourcing:

The fiscal 2009 spending law President Barack Obama signed March 11 prevents federal agencies from engaging in new competitive sourcing projects.

Under an initiative by the Bush administration, federal employees have competed against private companies to perform government work. But the spending law puts a government wide moratorium on new public/private job competitions for federal work until Sept. 30, 2009. During that time, agencies cannot begin any new studies on converting federal work to contractors. Those competitions are defined by Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76.

The law also requires federal agencies to establish guidelines for bringing back government work currently being performed by private contractors.

Federal employee unions approved of the change, but a business group warned that the provisions would result in less flexibility and efficiency for agencies.

"These are two very positive steps for taxpayers," said Colleen Kelley, president of the National Treasury Employees Union, in a statement released today. "This administration intends to stop contracting out government services that should be performed by federal employees."

John Gage, president of the American Federation of Government Employees, said, "We hope this is the end of the era of privatization during which agencies were forced to contract out regardless of cost or quality and at the expense of integrity and accountability of federal programs."

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce opposes the moratorium. "The Chamber opposes this provision, which would arbitrarily halt

a successful program," the group said Feb. 25. "Agencies across the government must have the flexibility to move forward with competitions in order to get the best value for the taxpayer, regardless of whether the government- or private sector-led team wins."

The law provides funding for most federal departments and the legislative branch, which have been operating under a continuing resolution that expires this month.

Government Executive

Senate bogs down on \$410 billion spending bill:



The Senate, tied up in a fight over a huge omnibus appropriations bill, will have to pass a stopgap spending measure Friday in order to avoid a partial U.S. government shutdown.

The Senate worked late on Thursday trying to pass the \$410 billion appropriations bill, which was denounced by Republicans - and a handful of Democrats - who said it was bloated and filled with wasteful, pet spending projects. Democratic leaders were forced to postpone a final vote on the measure until Monday under pressure from Republican senators who complained that Democrats had not allowed them enough opportunities to offer amendments.

With the vote postponed, senators need to pass a stopgap spending measure by midnight Friday to prevent a shutdown of most domestic agencies. Midnight is when a temporary law that keeps the government in business, mostly at 2008 levels, expires.

Amid the debate over spending, the government delivered more bad economic

news, a spike in unemployment to 8.1 percent. That prompted the top House Republican to call for a freeze on spending until the end of the fiscal year and plead with President Barack Obama to veto the Senate measure.

Rep. John Boehner said the bill is loaded with "unscrutinized taxpayer-funded earmarks" that are "a textbook example of why Americans have grown so fed up with Washington." Earmarks is a legislative term for pet projects.

Before canceling the vote Thursday, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a Democrat, said he was one vote short of the 60 needed to close debate and free the bill for Obama's signature.

Democrats and their allies control 58 seats, though at least a handful of Democrats oppose the measure over its cost or changes in U.S. policy toward Cuba. That meant Democrats needed five or six Republican votes to advance the bill.

None of the Republican amendments is expected to pass, but votes on perhaps a dozen are now set for Monday night, Reid said.

The huge, 1,132-page spending bill awards big increases to domestic programs and is stuffed with pet projects sought by lawmakers in both parties. The measure has an extraordinary reach, wrapping together nine spending bills to fund the annual operating budgets of every Cabinet department except for Defense, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs.

The measure was written mostly over the course of last year, before projected deficits quadrupled and Obama's economic recovery bill left many of the same spending accounts swimming in cash.

Chapter Roster

FY08-09 Aviation Chapter Executive Board

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Chapter Roster

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