

Association of Syracuse Defense Comptrollers Newsletter

May 24, 2010

ASDC News

If you have any suggestions for improvement in the alumni program or this newsletter, contact one of your Officers at <http://www.suasdco.org/Officers.asp>:

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Welcome DCP Class of 2011:

Tara Amos
Jason Arellano
Harry Brown
Kim Cousins
Charles Craven
Rebecca Goering
Peter Hanzelka
Robert Higgins
Shawn Lennon
Douglas McKenchnie
Erik Neumann
Brian Newman
Kenneth Stejskal
Mark Williams
Cpt Heidi Anderson
Maj Grant Banko
Maj Brantley Combs
Maj Brian Falcasantos
Maj Christopher Harvey
Maj Jamie Phelps
Cpt Daniel Shill
Cpt Victoria Somnuk
Maj Brian Steele
Cpt Allen Wellman
Maj Jose Burgos
Cpt Stephen Messner
Cpt Andrew Chung
Cpt Kevin Schuster
Maj Michael Zell

Message from the President

Our luncheon guest speaker on 24 May 2010 is MG George Harris from the Assistant Secretary of Army (Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology) and he is a graduate of the Army Comptroller Program (ACP) now DCP Class of 1986. The luncheon will be held in the Pentagon Conference Center.

Congratulations to Class of 2011, the next 14 months at Syracuse University will be full of challenges and provide an excellent foundation for the years ahead in the Department of Defense. Work hard and get to know your fellow classmates. They will be invaluable in your future endeavors.

I have been exploring different venues for the luncheons – the Pentagon Executive DFAC and the Library Conference center. We are currently planning to host the July luncheon at the Pentagon Executive DFAC. If you have any other suggestions, please let me know.

I am also looking at establishing an ASDC Scholarship fund based on member donations. Need your help to determine the amount, award criteria, and frequency of the awards? It is time to give back to our community. Let me know your thoughts.

John Argodale

News from Cuse

Dave Berg, Class of 1977, served 29 years in the Army and retired as a COL (MP/Comptroller). His last active duty assignment was a Budget Director at TRADOC. He has been the Director Executive Education, Whitman School, at Syracuse University for the past 14 years.

Whitman Honors Outstanding Alumni of Defense Comptroller Program. The Whitman School of Management at Syracuse University is presenting two awards to outstanding military and civilian alumni of the Defense Comptroller Program (DCP). Kevin Hoffman '84 will receive the Keenan Award for Outstanding ACP/DCP Civilian Alumni. This award was established in memory of Leonard F. Keenan, former Deputy Comptroller of the Army and a graduate of ACP/DCP class of 1967. This honor recognizes an alumnus and acknowledges the emphasis Larry Keenan placed on ensuring that advanced educational opportunities were made available to the civilian members of the Army's Comptroller Career Field.

The McCall Award for Outstanding ACP/DCP Military Alumni will be awarded to Col. Milt Sawyers '92. This award honors Lieutenant General James F. McCall, former Comptroller of the Army and a graduate of the ACP/DCP class of 1970.

The award recognizes an alumnus of the program for their significant contributions to the resource management profession.

The DCP was established in 1952 as a means for providing Department of Defense comptrollers with greater knowledge of industrial and military management. In 2002, the curriculum began to incorporate courses from both the Whitman School and the Maxwell School of Citizenship, to combine an MBA and an Executive Masters in Public Administration. More than 1,600 military personnel and civilians have graduated from the DCP program and serve at the highest ranks of financial management in the DOD, as well as in business, academia, and all levels of government.

Both awards will be presented at the Defense Comptroller Program commencement ceremonies on August 6, 2010.

Pepsi supports SU's program to help veterans learn about entrepreneurship:

PepsiCo Inc. will donate at least \$1.5 million over the next three years to a Syracuse University-run program that teaches veterans with disabilities how to become small-business owners. The training, which is free to the veterans, starts with a 45 day online curriculum. Then the veterans are flown from wherever they live to one of the participating universities for nine days of training on recognizing business opportunities, making a business plan, marketing, supply chain management and legal issues.

Already participating in the program are SU's Whitman School of Management, Mays Business School at Texas A&M, UCLA Anderson School of Management, Florida State University's College of Business, Krannert School of Management at Purdue University and the University of Connecticut's School of Business.

More than 225 veterans have gone through the program since SU started it in 2007. Check out the following website for more information: <http://www.whitman.syr.edu/ebv/>

ALUMNI IN FOCUS

Uniformed Member Profile: LT “Rick” Armstrong and LCDR Austin Ives

Alumni in Focus

Lieutenant Richard “Rick” Armstrong completed the Defense Comptrollership Program in 2008 as the U.S. Coast Guard’s first DCP graduate. Lieutenant Commander Austin Ives followed suit in 2009. Together they serve in the Office of Resource Management at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Rick works in the Financial Analysis Division and is responsible to the CFO for the overall management and execution of the Coast Guard’s Operating & Maintenance, Training & Recruiting, and Central Accounts totaling approximately \$1.6B. Austin works in the Budget Execution Division where he manages the Coast Guard’s single largest annual appropriation, the \$6.8B Operating Expense and \$25B of expired year appropriations.

Rick and Austin recently discussed their DCP experience and how it influenced their follow-on assignments:

Austin: Rick, how much pressure did you feel being the first U.S. Coast Guard officer to enter the Defense Comptrollership Program?

Rick: There really was not any pressure; this was an opportunity for the Coast Guard. It was an honor and a privilege to attend DCP and return to Syracuse, my birthplace, after having been away for 25+ years. My colleagues in the great class of 2008 welcomed me right from the onset. These 14 months gave me a greater appreciation for DoD missions and allowed me to inform DoD classmates on Coast Guard operations. Hopefully, I’ve paved the way for other Coasties to attend DCP in the future.

Rick: Austin, from Syracuse you were selected for an Appropriation Manager assignment. How did DCP prepare you for this challenge?

Austin: The most applicable courses centered on Resource Management Seminars. Tell me another MBA program that drills operationalizing the commander’s guidance and exercises defense appropriations analysis. Upon reporting, I found Headquarter Directorates faced with a congressionally mandated withholding of 17% of their annual budget. Our respective divisions were tasked with collaborating on a solution. Never did I think COL Berg’s decremental budget drills and lecture on the real impact of across-the-board taxes would be so on the mark. It wasn’t easy, but we did our job and provided the CFO viable options.

Austin: Rick, unlike our DoD counterparts, we were required to pass the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) exam. How difficult was it?

Rick: Unlike the CDFM, the CGFM exam is structured to test an individual’s general familiarity, understanding and appreciation of the entire spectrum of Government Financial Management- Federal, State and local. The exam itself was fair. What made it difficult was balancing course workload with exam preparation. Given the amount of material covered in the CGFM exam, spacing out the 3 exams seemed to be *most* effective.



Lieutenant Richard “Rick” Armstrong is a DCP graduate from Class of 2008 and the first U.S. Coast Guard to graduate from DCP.



Lieutenant Commander Austin Ives is a DCP graduate from the Class of 2009.

Alumni in Focus (con't)

Rick: Austin, what advice or programmatic changes would you recommend to the DCP?

Austin: Although we *did* cover the topic in Resource Management seminars; because the prospects of Anti Deficiency Act violations seem to loom around every corner in our business line, I'd recommend additional focus on appropriations law. If more people knew not to buy morale equipment with acquisition and construction appropriated funds, the world would be a better place. Additionally, I feel people would take advantage of a short course leading to certification as a Contracting Officer's Technical Representative.

Austin: Rick, explain the changes to the U.S. Coast Guard's Post-Grad Program for Financial Management. Can we expect more Coasties to attend Syracuse University in the near future?

Rick: Yes! The Coast Guard anticipates increasing the number of students sent to Syracuse University to attend the DCP. This marks a significant course change in the structure of the Coast Guard's Financial Management Advanced Education Program. Commencing Fall 2010, the program will steer officers to select schools (of which Syracuse is one) deemed best to enhance and expand core financial management competencies. The added advantage of sending Coasties to Syracuse is learning to speak the same language as the DOD Financial Management community. With our ever increasing interoperability, shared skill sets will pay dividends, which I learned how to calculate at Whitman.

SEMPER PARATUS

Civilian Member Profile: Ms Cheryl L. Partee

I graduated from the Defense Comptrollership Program (DCP) in August 2008; a day I will never forget. Although I have an adverse feeling toward snow, my 14 months in Syracuse were awesome. I was selected to DCP after having been in a new job for less than six months. I even got to return to my old duty station as a follow-on assignment, which doesn't usually happen.

Returning to an academic environment after many years was very challenging, but the rewards were equally as great...it has made me appreciate the toils of the experience. The relationships that were built with my fellow DCP classmates were nothing less than phenomenal. During my time at Syracuse, I had to rely on their support and encouragement as there were times when I thought I wasn't going to make it, especially through Economics and Financial Accounting... those two classes were brutal!

I believe DCP Class 56 was one of the best in DCP history. We worked hard and even had time for social activities...I made sure of that as I was Social Coordinator. It's all about balance and we were able to enjoy many of the things Syracuse had to offer. I truly believe I wouldn't be where I am today without the DCP experience.

After graduation, I returned to my Budget Officer position, but after 10 months I was selected for a 120-day developmental assignment as the Deputy Chief of Staff with HQ, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Washington DC. I had no intention of ever moving to the DC area, but I must say this job is the best of my 28 year career. There is no true career path for this position, but I am confident the DCP experience paved the way for me to compete for the permanent position. I was selected for the position in November 2009 and haven't looked back since. With oversight of the Headquarters Operating Budget, I still maintain my ties to the Comptroller career field. My ultimate goal is to join the Senior Executive Service and I know DCP has prepared me to do so.

On a personal note, my time in Syracuse was bittersweet as I lost my father and he was not able to see me graduate. But I know he was there and is still with me in spirit. As I think back on those 14 months, strength was tested, patience was sometimes lost, humility was present yet our character never waned. DCP is an acronym for Defense Comptrollership Program; but for me it stands for Determination, Camaraderie and Perseverance.



Cheryl L. Partee is a DCP graduate from Class 2008. She is the Deputy Chief of Staff for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Washington DC.

Alumni News/Activities

Whitman Invites Stories/Photos from Alumni Veterans

The May 2010 *Whitman Today Alumni E-Newsletter* posted a request to receive stories from its alumni veterans, from all branches of service from 1919 to the present day. This is a great opportunity for our ASDC alumni to share experiences about being in the military before, after, or during your time at SU for inclusion in a special issue of the Whitman Magazine. The POC for this is Amy Schmitz, Whitman Director of Communications. Her email is: aemehrin@syr.edu. If you choose to use snail mail, stories (along with photos) can be sent to 721 University Avenue, Suite 111, Syracuse, N.Y., 13244.

Engaging with SU Alumni

The Greenberg House is home to the SU Alumni Club of Washington and the DC Maxwell Alumni Association. Both are among the most active alumni organizations in the country. Many other alumni activities sponsored by SU's schools and colleges take place throughout the year. Check out their website for activities and events: <http://greenberghouse.syr.edu/>

Class Connectors to ASDC

The following representatives have volunteered to serve as Class Connectors to reach out and re-establish connections with classmates by gathering updated email and snail mail information. If your graduation class is missing from this list and you would like to volunteer to be a Class Connector, Veronica Helden at email Veronica.Helden@us.army.mil.

- 1976 - Ron Adolphi
- 1988 - Debara Zedalis
- 1989 - Fred Mason
- 1990 - COL Francis Machina
- 1991 - Jesse Villagran
- 1993 - COL Curt Rauhut
- 1994 - Kathy Miller
- 1995 - Steve Barth
- 1996 - Diane Randon
- 1997 - Jennifer Lasichak
- 1998 - Geoff Ballou
- 1999 - Becky Allen
- 2000 - Holly Williams
- 2001 - Mike Watson
- 2002 - Patsy Provines
- 2003 - COL Brent Penny
- 2004 - Mary Jo Rubino
- 2005 - Cecilia Carroll
- 2006 - Debra Goddard
- 2007 - Mischelle Johnson
- 2008 - Veronica Helden
- 2009 - Eric Molfino
- 2010 -- Vacant

Upcoming Program Events

The following events are planned for the remainder of the 2009/2010 program year. If you have a suggestion for speaker/topics or other ideas on social or morale events, please contact the VP for Operations, Jack.Mutarelli@calibresys.com or VP at Large, Steve.Allen@us.army.mil

Luncheons:

July 21, 2010

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