



Yankee

Financial *Matters*

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AWARDS KATHERINE BRADSHAW

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well the month of April has certainly been an exciting one for everyone. Our Boston Marathon was a huge success. As most of you know Meb Keflezighi won the race as the first American man to win since 1983. What a huge success for America, and Boston!!

Last month I spoke of the ASMC Organization having a surprise guest speaker at our meeting in the near future. Well, we have finalized our plans and have been so very fortunate to have Adrienne Haslet-Davis speak at May's Meeting on Thursday, May 22nd.

As you will recall Adriane was injured in the Boston Marathon last year losing part of her left. Adrienne, a professional dancer is back on stage, performing for the first time since being injured at the 2014 TED Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia. Adrienne Haslet-Davis and her husband Hanscom Air Force Maj. Adam Davis were among the more than 260 people who were injured.

Hugh Herr, director of biomechatronics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology designed the bionic leg specifically for dancing after visiting Adrienne in the hospital. Herr, himself a double amputee, said he wanted the dancer to be able to get back to what she loved doing. Herr spent hours in the lab studying dance to see what movements and forces were needed to create the prosthetic for Adrienne.

Please join us on Thursday, May 22nd at 11:30 at the Chapel to gain inspiration from the injured and to support our Wingmen. "A human being can never be broken" -- Adrienne Haslet-Davis and Maj. Adam Davis will surely inspire and motivate you beyond your expectations! As President Obama said during the Boston Red Sox event while paying tribute to those injured in last year's Boston Marathon bombing, "We gain inspiration from the injured".

Don't miss out on this event. More information will be coming. Mark your calendars now!!

SUMMARY OF FEB & MAR MEETINGS

February's ASMC Meeting

On 27 February 2014, Lt Col Daniel Ward addressed a group of about 30 members and non-members for an informal hands on presentation. Lt Col Ward talked about "Decision Making" and how our values impact our decisions.

Some highlights were:

"Slow Decisions" i.e. decisions that were made slowly and took longer to arrive at typically left the decision maker less happy with the result and their choice. Whereby those who make quick decisions, called "Maximizer's Satisfiers" were more happy in the long run with their quick decision.

Lt Col Ward tied our value system to decisions, saying to pick one value wisely to tie to your team objective. Be sure that the value is something important. He reminded us that “you get what you pay for” so suggested choosing wisely. “Sometimes you have to say no to good ideas”!

March’s ASMC Meeting

On 20 March 2014, Ms. Pam Condino addressed ASMC members and non-members at our monthly meeting. Ms. Condino in her second guest appearance spoke about FIAR, explaining that it is Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness, a roadmap for DOD auditability. She explained the “why” i.e. reduce the cost of doing business and ensure Congress we are good stewards of public funds. She went on to state that FIAR is here to stay and in the near term we’ll build up a lot of “data-entry” clerks. Ultimately, she stated, the requirements need to catch up to existing technology, simplify the FM environment, generate reliable and auditable budget and accounting data, maximize capabilities of operational enterprise systems and fix what matters. Ms. Condino then spoke about what increases your chances for promotion. There are 3 areas:

- Meeting criteria for next level
- Breadth of experience
- Mobility

Discussing the need to advance with a degree, who is smarter? Someone with a BA or a Masters? The key is balance between education & experience. Breadth vs. Depth? It depends upon the job being filled. Someone with wide-range of experience is more likely adaptable to the ever changing requirements of FM than those who don’t move outside their comfort level. Lastly mobility vs. stability, stability is limited/slower advancement whereas mobility opens up opportunities at other levels, thus providing potential for higher/quicker advancement. In summarizing Pam stated, “Some folks believe you can’t teach an old dog new tricks. If you are an old dog, try learning a few – you might just be surprised where they will take you.”

MEET YOUR MEMBER, KIM BUTLER



This month's featured Member is Kim Butler. Kim began her career in the government 24 years ago. Most of her career with the government has been on the Accounting side, but she also has experience in budget, lead voucher examiner, budget officer for the Commandant in Annapolis Naval Academy and accounts control for defense Commissary agency. She worked for every agency except the Marines. For 20 years Kim moved around as a dependent but now that her husband is retired and he follows her and, "He's my dependent now" she said.

Kim learned something from every position and stated that she had great mentors and supervisors and they're still her friends today.

An important date Kim remembers is when she was a budget officer at the Annapolis Naval Academy in Annapolis, because of the history there where mid shipmen learns to become officers, she felt it was a great experience! It was challenging and different, it wasn't the experience you'd normally receive working on a military base. Kim said it was very rewarding and she learned quite a bit. For example, learning what it means for Plebes to enter such a prestigious Academy. On their first day at the Academy you see a sea of nervous

Plebes mustering in in front of the building as the parents turn over their children in this huge ceremony. A truly very rewarding experience!

One of Kim's favorite things to do is to go antiquing with her husband. I asked Kim who is the biggest influence in her life and why, she quickly answered, "God".

One of the worst things that happened to her was when she went to basic training. When the bus doors opened it was her first experience with the military to hear what it means to be yelled at as you ran with your luggage and didn't stop running until you graduated from basic training. Her best experience in the military was learning from experienced soldiers that recently returned from duty in Vietnam. The experience she learned from them wasn't only hearing what their job entailed but also what it meant to be in the military and listening to the experiences they went thru in Vietnam.

A pet peeve of Kim is someone who does not follow regulation. No surprise here!

What Kim would want out of life would be Peace among the Nations, Peace in this world.

When asked what qualities she values in a person her top two are honesty and trustworthiness. She mentioned that her inspiration to do her best each and every day is also attributed to God.

Kim grew up in the city of Detroit which speaks for itself – a dangerous environment to say the least. Kim is proud that she was not a product of her environment, joined the military and met many people throughout her travels for the last 35 years.

If given the chance Kim would do over her military experience and retire from the

military. After having put in only four years she now wishes she had completed the remaining 16 years.

An accomplishment she has never done but would like to is to write a book. "I read all the time, every day. A lot of my free time is spent reading", she said.

Kim stated that she is very proud of having advanced in her career through hard work, OJT, and learning from her mentors; she was able to accomplish this without having a Degree as well. However, an immediate goal of Kim's is to get her Degree in Accounting (as she writes a book).

One of the hardest things she had to do was to not "baby" the young airmen. They are children to me but I also acknowledge that they are young military men and women.

What brings our member Kim joy, well it's completing a project and begin a part of helping others completing their projects and having met Rosa Parks.

I finally asked the million dollar question? Kim, if you took out a full page ad in the New York Times and had to describe yourself in only three words, what would those words be? Kim responded, "Happy, Kind, and a Fantastic Wife!"

BEST RULE FOR A SIMPLE LIFE



In order to make things simpler in your life, you have to really become least obsessed with the things that stress you out, and work on your life daily, in an effort to make the best decisions for each day. As you continue to successfully make each day better than the last, choosing to make great decisions that are not only ambitious, but ethical and morally right as well, things will really start to get simpler.

Everything that you put in you get out of life. If you put in honest, true passion every day that you live, that will be what you collect from life, almost without even trying. While the same is oppositely true if you are only willing to put negative thinking and negative actions in your life. Thinking and acting the way that you need to will allow things to be as simple as you need them to be, or as difficult as you make them, the choice is yours.

TOP SASC REPUBLICAN BLASTS PROPOSED US AIR FORCE CUTS

WASHINGTON — The US Senate Armed Services Committee’s top Republican on Thursday slammed the Air Force’s 2015 spending plan, saying it “increases risk to unacceptable levels.”

SASC Ranking Member Rep. James Inhofe, R-Okla., came out hard against the cuts to the service’s proposed spending plan, contending it “degrades” force readiness “while the threats to our national security are growing.”

Inhofe credited Air Force brass for protecting funding for aircraft fleets key to its future plans: a new long-range bomber, the KC-45 tanker and its version of the F-35 fighter.

Otherwise, he’s not impressed.

“Budget cuts are driving force structure decisions that increase risk to unacceptable levels,” Inhofe said, pointing to proposed cuts to the E-3 airborne warning and control system aircraft, the E-8 Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System, U-2 surveillance plane and A-10 attack aircraft.

Inhofe also questioned proposed terminations of “modernization programs such as C-130 Avionics Modernization Program and F-16 Combat Avionics Programmed Extension Suite, as well as deferring maintenance on a fleet of aircraft that is approaching 30 years old.”

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh defended some of the service’s proposed budget moves, saying officials have realized “we will have to modernize from within our own topline.”

That means some fleets and programs must be cut to protect monies for others.

Inhofe has been among the sharpest congressional critics of the Obama administration, repeatedly alleging that the White House and congressional Democrats have been gutting the military’s annual budget disproportionately as part of overall federal deficit-reduction efforts.

Administration officials and Democrats counter by contending that the post-9/11 defense spending spree, along with the end of one war (Iraq) and the winding down of another (Afghanistan) have rendered big Pentagon cuts reasonable.

Lawmakers and aides in both parties, as well as budget experts, have told Defense News that reversing the cuts to which Inhofe is objecting will be difficult. That’s because a recent bipartisan budget resolution extended spending caps included in a 2011 federal deficit-reduction law, making them apply to the 2015 federal budget.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Nothing to report for the month of April 2014.

FUTURE ASMC HAPPENINGS – STAY TUNED!!

As we move toward a new membership year I want to remind everyone in May we will have nominations for Yankee Officer Positions. If interested let us know.

We are also planning another June BBQ event! This will be our third consecutive year and we are looking forward to another fun event. More details will be coming.

Don’t miss our event on 22 May. Come out and meet Adrienne Haslet-Davis.