

In this issue

Interesting Articles P.2
Announcements & Chapter Info P.3
Announcements continued P.4
Member Page P.5
Sponsorship Information P.6
Contact Us P.7



President's Message

First, I would like to personally thank those who attended the Annual Award Banquet downtown on June 25th. It was a great turnout and the meal, music, and visiting resulted in a very fun night. We had 69 attendees. For a quick glance at the photos from the night, visit our website at <http://againdy.com/ChapterPictures.aspx>.

Next, as the AGA President for the upcoming year, I look forward to the many events planned and the new initiatives in our chapter. Last year we received a Platinum rating, and we are already working hard this calendar year to repeat last year's success. In July, the CEC met to discuss priorities, share ideas, and develop a plan for next year.

With AGA National's focus on Citizen Centric Reporting, our chapter is revamping up the Citizen Centric Committee and has begun brainstorming ideas for possible reports and ways to expand into our community. Accountability is one of my goals this year and the Citizen Centric Report is integral to accomplishing this chapter goal. Additionally, the CEC has identified a great list of possible speakers for the upcoming program year, including a few speakers focusing on an accountability related topic.

I also would like to increase participation by all members in the chapter. Some ideas have been discussed, but I will be looking for feedback throughout the program year to make sure AGA is serving your needs and continues to be such a strong chapter.

As in past years, wellness continues to be a chapter focus. The Wellness Walk was a big hit last year, and we look to repeat the success this year. We will also be looking to you for feedback on events and ideas on how to expand wellness in AGA.

I hope to see you all at upcoming AGA events and look forward to upcoming events starting soon. Thanks for your support and remember, share the experience, invite a coworker to join AGA.

Laura Jankovich
AGA President, Indianapolis Chapter

WELCOME!

Welcome to the redesigned AGA Newsletter. Today the Chapter Newsletter is relaunched — marking the start of a new approach to connect with and reach out to our members. This newsletter will be sent out and posted on the website monthly. It will contain important community news, conference updates, CPE opportunities as well as interesting articles.

Enjoy!

AGA Indianapolis Articles

These articles were picked for the AGA Member Audience:

Know any other good articles? Submit to the Newsletter Committee!

Transforming the Pentagon—One System at a Time

Few executives in government likely have as challenging a job as Elizabeth McGrath.

As the Defense Department's first deputy chief management officer, her task is to harmonize and consolidate the department's thousands of business systems. And that means getting organizations across the department to change how they do virtually everything — whether that's keeping electronic health records, accounting for spare parts or managing an employee's personnel file.

Among her other tasks:

- Writing and executing the department's strategic management plan.
- Consolidating the department's thousands of financial management systems in order to produce an auditable financial statement by 2017.
- Moving the Defense and Veterans Affairs departments toward a common health records system for both active-duty military personnel and veterans.
- Tracking efficiency savings mandated last year by Defense Secretary Robert Gates.

In her quest to transform a department legendary for its obstinate and bureaucratic ways, McGrath applies extensive expertise (22 years of Defense Department experience in financial management, acquisition and logistics), the clout of a Senate-confirmed position, the backing of her boss, Deputy Secretary Bill Lynn and, on occasion, some sharp elbows. "I will never win Miss Congeniality," she says half-jokingly.

There is one other, more compelling factor at play, she adds: tightening budgets. "I've been [at DoD] for a very long time, this is sort of the tightest it has felt to me from a fiscal perspective that I can remember, so we're all taking a really hard look at every function," she said.

So what's her approach?

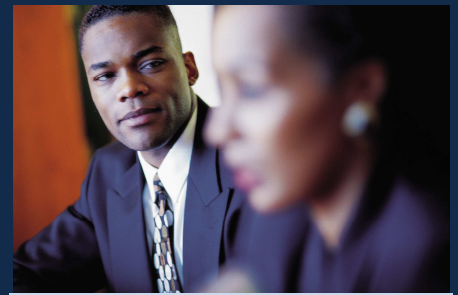
Read More  <http://www.federaltimes.com/article/20110613/DEPARTMENTS01/106130303/>

FIAR Blog

Did you know that the OSD FIAR Office has an active blog? It is a great way to ask questions, get questions answered, learn more about FIAR efforts.

Want to learn more? Log onto MilBook and join the FIAR group.

Log on here  <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/fiar>



What about DFAS Audit Readiness?

In the next six years, DFAS is scheduled to assist customers in more than 200 audit assertions. Audit assertions are the first formal step in the audit process. They are declarations by customers' management at the Army, Navy, Air Force, or DeCA, as examples, that an assessable unit is ready to withstand the rigors of an audit -- or measurements -- against generally acceptable accounting principles. An assessable unit could be a financial statement, financial statement line item, a process, a system, a class of assets, or a service.

In the Defense Department, a memorandum from the customer's management is addressed to the deputy chief financial officer at the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense and the DoD inspector general declaring management's assertion, along with the scope and assertion documentation.

The assertion documentation must be provided in either hard copy and/or electronic format such as a CD-ROM. It is then reviewed or validated prior to being examined by an independent public accountant.

"When customers *assert* they are saying, essentially, they are compliant with federal accounting standards and ready to withstand the test of an audit," said James Davila, Office of Audit Readiness. "DFAS plays a role, depending on the assertion, sometimes a small role and other times a large role, in the end-to-end process of our customers' assertions."





AGA Indianapolis Announcements

Community Service

Please mark your calendars with the upcoming community service events:
School Supply Drive - August 2011
Our Lil' Bit of Heaven Animal sanctuary (Poland, IN) - Oct. 15, 2011

VITA

It's never too early to start thinking about VITA!

What is VITA? The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is a national program providing free assistance to low income, elderly, limited English proficient, and disabled individuals who require assistance in preparing their tax returns and cannot afford services of a paid professional tax preparer.

The VITA program is typically operated at schools, colleges, community centers, public libraries, and various other locations that are easily accessible to the community. The volunteer sites generally operate between **mid-January** and continue until **April 15th**, the end of the tax season.

Volunteers are **trained** through an instructional seminar with materials provided free of charge by the IRS held here at DFAS or through self study online. Volunteers learn basic tax preparation techniques and technology, enabling them to easily handle most returns, or at least know where to find the answer to a taxpayer's particular issue, in the IRS quick reference guides. A tax background is **NOT** required. Complex returns are not prepared at VITA sites. Volunteers are welcome to volunteer as many or as few hours as they are available, though the IRS prefers a minimum of 3 hours per shift. The AGA Indianapolis Chapter promotes participation in VITA by linking volunteers to the program and facilitating on-site training.

There will be an informational session held in mid-December 2011 to sign up interested individuals and provide training dates and materials. However, it's never too early to start thinking about and planning for this great opportunity to give back to your community!

Contact VITA Chair Jayme VanHorn with any questions. Hope to see you in December!

www.againdy.com/vita

What about DFAS Audit Readiness? continued

"Preparing for an assertion is a lot like preparing your tax return," said Davila.

Davila went on to say that when you prepare your tax return you make sure all your receipts, W-2s and other proof are available to support what you report. This demonstrates credible evidence, especially if the IRS questions your return. He said the same principles apply when DFAS is preparing its own assertions or assisting customers with their assertions.

All employees impact the processes and procedures DFAS has in place to support audit readiness.

"The biggest advice I offer to any DFAS employee wanting to help with audit readiness is to make sure you have credible evidence for transactions," Davila said. "That means a valid hard or electronic copy of a document that can be retrieved under audit timelines such as in 48 to 72 hours. No one knows our processes and systems better than we do; we just have to prove that under game-time conditions – against federal accounting standards."



"We need to prepare for our audit. Organize a game of dodge ball!"

AGA Indianapolis Announcements, continued

August Cookout

Stay tuned for more information about the program year kick-off cookout in August.

Indianapolis Chapter Receive Platinum Status!

The Chapter Recognition Program (CRP) is a noncompetitive program recognizing a chapter's performance in relation to a standard or benchmark linked to AGA's mission. The objective of the CRP is to support, encourage and promote the accomplishment of AGA's mission, and to provide flexible noncompetitive guidelines for a well-rounded chapter.

The CRP year begins on June 1 and concludes on May 31.

AGA's Program year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30.

The difference provides for continuity between chapter officers, that is the incoming officers have a vested interest in the outgoing officers' accomplishments for the program year, and the determination/preparation of the awards presented at the national Professional Development Conference held in Atlanta, GA in July 2011.

This year AGA Indianapolis received **Platinum Chapter Designation** (our chapter attained between 19,501 and 22,000 credits for the year) the highest award. The picture to the right shows AGA Indianapolis Chapter President's plaque being received by Past President Greg Schmalfeldt.



Awards Banquet

The AGA Indianapolis Chapter Annual Award Banquet was held downtown on June 25th. It was a great turnout and the meal, music, and visiting resulted in a very fun night. We had 69 attendees. For a quick glance at the photos from the night, visit our website at <http://againdy.com/ChapterPictures.aspx>.

Winners from this years banquet include:

Community Service Volunteer of the Year

Katie Buck

Brandi Hobson

Sally Thelen

2010/2010 AGA CEC Member of the Year

Jessica Wisler

AGA Member of the Year

Jamie Whitman

Recruiter of the Year

Jamie Whitman

Member with Most Incentive Points

Jamie Whitman

2010/2011 Team of the Year

Corporate Sponsorship

Continuing Education Scholarship

Camille Schultz

Door Prize Winners:

Kammie Douglas

Mark Everhart

Jason Foster

Brandi Hobson

Kandis Noe

Mary Jelev

Jelyo Jelev

Akeysha Prakasah

Jodi Spahr

Ann Ulrich

For additional details visit the Awards section of our website: <http://againdy.com/AwardsCommittee.aspx>



Member Spotlight

NAME and Job:

Ernest Bell

Accountant, Security Assistance FMS, Lead for TBO. My customer is AF Training at San Antonio.

HOW WOULD SOMEONE DESCRIBE YOU?

Focused, good sense of humor

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU AREN'T WORKING?

Fishing or camping at Indiana State Parks, hanging out with friends

HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH AGA?

I had heard about it when I was working at San Antonio from the Director of Accounting and it sounded like something I would be interested in.

WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT WOULD SURPRISE US TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?

Grandfather to 9 grandkids—age range from 2 years to 25 years old

MEMBERS PAGE!

This page is dedicated to our members. Any articles you would like to write and have

DoD Cyber Threats and Cyber Strategy - Doug Reynolds

Earlier this year, William J. Lynn, III, Deputy Secretary of Defense (D-SECDEF) announced the development of a Department of Defense (DoD) cyber strategy based on the threat. It is important that every member of the Association of Government Accounts be familiar with the current cyber threat and the strategy to address the threat.

The D-SECDEF recently explained that, " Department of Defense networks are probed millions of times a day." "Foreign intelligence agencies have tried to penetrate our networks or those of our industrial partners." "Cyber threats are growing more serious and more prevalent." <http://www.defense.gov/speeches/speech.aspx?speechid=1566>

Each of us uses automated information systems daily that are connected to DFAS and DoD networks to perform our work in support of the DoD mission. Therefore, each one of us plays a role in protecting the information systems and networks that we use.

DoD Cyber Threats

The D-SECDEF has identified following types of cyber threats:

1. Network Exploitation - Theft of information and data from both government and commercial networks. To date this threat has been the most prevalent.
2. Network Disruption - Adversaries seek to deny or degrade the use of important government or commercial networks. More recently, this second threat has emerged
3. Destruction - Cyber tools are used to cause physical damage resulting in economic damage, physical destruction, or even loss of life. This third threat is beginning to emerge.

DoD Cyber Strategy

The D-SECDEF explained the following 5-Pillar strategy to counter the above types of cyber threats:

1. DoD has formally recognized "Cyberspace" as a new domain of warfare like land, air, sea, and space.
2. Networks are being equipped with "Active Defenses" [e.g., Host Based Security System (HBSS)].
3. Ensure that critical infrastructure is protected. This includes government and financial systems, and physical assets like the power grid.
4. Building collective cyber-defenses with our allies. Just as our air defenses are linked to those of our allies.
5. Marshal our technical and human resources to remain pre-eminent in cyberspace. [This included the introduction of a program akin to the cyber-security equivalent of the Civilian Conservation Corp from the 1930's.]

The 5th pillar includes Industry-Government (I-G) Cooperation and is most interesting. This involves the following:

- Information Sharing. Identify vulnerabilities & mobilize I-G expertise to address security risks before harm is done.
- Reverse the advantage held by intruders seeking to penetrate networks.
 - - Example 1: Malware written with as little as 125 lines of code can penetrate anti-virus software containing ten million lines of code.
 - - Example 2: Embed higher levels of security and authentication in hardware, operating systems, and network protocols.
 - - Example 3: Implement the National Strategy for Trusted Identities in Cyberspace and the "Cyber Accelerator" pilot.

DoD Cyber Threats continued



You may ask, "What can I do?" I suggest each of us can begin by taking advantage of the opportunity to complete DoD Information Assurance Training annually. http://mattche.iie.disa.mil/eta/iaav9/iaa_v9/index.htm

For additional information on this subject, please see the complete text of the D-SECDEF's address at <http://www.defense.gov/speeches/speech.aspx?speechid=1535>

Doug Reynolds works at DFAS for Annette Perkins at HQs Ops FM & Admin Services



Questions about Sponsorship?

AGA Corporate Sponsors support the Chapter for an entire program year. The benefits and engagement opportunities run from January through December. Between October and January, we solicit Sponsors for the upcoming program year.

We currently have four sponsorship echelons ranging from Bronze to Platinum, each with increasing support levels and engagement opportunities. All Sponsors receive advertising space on our website and in our Chapter Newsletter which publishes six editions per year, with distribution to over 300 members.

Several other benefits are offered depending on your giving level, including complimentary access to our Holiday Party, Awards Banquet, & monthly luncheons for employees from your company. Speak with an AGA Corporate Sponsorship representative for more details.

Contact Andrew Tyler at andrew.tyler@dfas.mil

Thank you to our Sponsors

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BRONZE

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Becker offers government employees unlimited CPE for \$100/



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strategy and technology consultants

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— Finance Center Federal Credit Union

Contact Us



Newsletter Articles

The deadline for submitting articles and updates for the next newsletter is the end of each month. Please email submissions to:

Heather Crews
Carlton Carley

heather.crews@dfas.mil
carlton.carley@dfas.mil

OFFICERS

President	Laura Jankovich
President-Elect	Mike Leist
Treasurer	Martha Welch
Treasurer-Elect	Jose Munguia
Secretary	Meg Hart
Previous President	Greg Schmalfeldt
3 Year Board Member	Donna Cox
3 Year Board Member	Nate Pierce
3 Year Board Member	Melissa Jacobs
3 Year Board Member	Maranda Summers
3 Year Board Member	Neil Anderson
3 Year Board Member	Shane Douglas

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Awards: Shane Douglas
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Community Service: Brandi Hobson
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Early Careers: Calley Cannon
Education: Sally Thelen/Kinzie Kinser
Meeting Arrangements: Deirdre Valentine
Membership: Katie Radle
Newsletter: Heather Crews
Programs: Tamra Vincent
Social: Sarah Pank
CGFM: Dan Neuman
Chapter Recognition: Jessica Wisler
Historian: Brooke Neuman
Incentive Points: Jessica Wisler
Photography: Andrew Tyler
Publicity: Mary Jelev
VITA: Jayme VanHorn
Website: Richard Baughman
Wellness: Tom Spahr

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