

Objective

The goal of this award is to inspire members of the association to contribute to shaping the future of the financial management profession by producing compelling essays.

Award Criteria

Entrants must be members in good standing of the American Society of Military Comptrollers at the time of submission and selection. Authors may write on any one of three current topics:

The Growth of Artificial Intelligence:

We are currently witnessing the expansion of artificial intelligence (AI), defined as "systems with intellectual processes characteristic of humans, such as the ability to reason, discover meaning, generalize, or learn from past experience." While we have long embraced related capabilities like robotic process automation, AI represents a distinct paradigm shift. What roles should artificial intelligence play in the future of financial management? Please provide examples of potential applications and their potential impacts.

Centralization in Decision Making within Defense Financial Management:

Budget execution may seem relatively straightforward in times of financial abundance; however, when budgets become constrained, organizations tend to gravitate toward centralizing resource decision making. As a general premise, should decision making within defense financial management be more centralized or less? Please provide examples to substantiate your viewpoint.

Accelerating DoD's Path to Financial Auditability:

The Department of Defense (DoD) is on a path towards achieving financial auditability, but this journey is lengthy and challenging. What improvements should be prioritized now, such as policy guidance, systems integration, training/education, etc., to expedite audit readiness within the DoD?

How to Submit an Essay

Essays must be submitted using the web-based form through the nomination link at <https://asmconline.org/membership/awards>. Essays may be submitted by an ASMC chapter representative or by the author directly.

- Duo or group-authored essays will not be accepted.

- Essays must be original, unpublished, and should not exceed 1,500 words in length.
- The use of AI tools is prohibited.
- No member may be selected for an award consecutively for more than two years.

Deadline

All essays must be submitted via the ASMC Awards Online website no later than February 28 for consideration by the selection panel. If February 28 falls on a weekend or federal holiday, the deadline will be the following business day. There are no exceptions to this deadline.

Award Selection Procedures

A selection panel will be led by a member of the National Awards Committee and assisted by a member of the Armed Forces Comptroller Editorial Board. The selection panel will comprise a minimum of four members, representing various segments of ASMC membership. If a judge encounters a conflict of interest, they must recuse themselves.

Essays will be evaluated based on adherence to the topic (how effectively the essay addresses the contest theme), clarity and readability (the cohesiveness and comprehensibility of the essay), content (the originality and substantial nature of the essay's content), and general administration (length, grammar, spelling, sentence structure, punctuation). Winners will be notified via email by May 1, and the results will be published on the ASMC website.

Recognition

Winners of the Essay Contest may have their essays published in the Armed Forces Comptroller magazine and/or on the ASMC website. Distinguished and Meritorious winners will be selected from the qualified essays. The Distinguished winner will receive \$1,000, and the Meritorious winner will receive \$500. Prior to the distribution of the award check(s) to the winners, they must submit a completed W-9 form.

For More Information

National Awards Committee
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www.asmconline.org