



COMPTROLLER

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1100 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1100

NOV 19 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS (FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND COMPTROLLER) DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOD FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Waiver for 2025 Society of Defense Financial Managers National Professional Development Institute

I have reviewed plans for the 2025 Society of Defense Financial Managers (SDFM) National Professional Development Institute (PDI), to be held May 28-30, 2025, in New Orleans, Louisiana. The conference is hosted in a different U.S. city each year, to be available to more personnel at Department of Defense (DoD) installations. The PDI will offer training meeting Continuing Education and Training (CET) requirements of the DoD Financial Management Certification Program (DFMCP). This program, under the authority of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012, directly supports auditability goals, a high priority for the Department. The conference also offers credits required for DoD Financial Managers with professional certifications.

This annual event is large by design, to be cost-effective for sending high-level speakers and instructors. In my review, I took into account the professional development and information-sharing opportunities the conference offers.

- The PDI will offer 6 general sessions and approximately 128 education sessions on subjects such as auditing, budgeting, accounting, execution, cost management, pay, financial systems, data analytics, organizational performance, leadership, and ethics.
- Participants will have opportunities to earn at least 20 CET credits and 100 additional credits by viewing recorded sessions after the event. All CETs meet National Association of State Boards of Accountancy standards and support DoD efforts to obtain and maintain certifications, a key part of the DFMCP.
- The PDI will offer workshops focused on the five strategic goals of the DoD Financial Management Strategy: cultivating a skilled and inspired FM workforce; optimizing taxpayer dollars for the highest-value outcomes; increasing the integrity of financial results; simplifying and optimizing the end-to-end business environment; and empowering data-driven, fiscally informed decision-making.
- Because this is a yearly event, senior leaders in the Defense FM community attend and address participants on Community Day, emphasizing current status, key issues, trends, and direction of financial management operations. The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) will provide several senior level speakers to address issues, major requirements, and status of key financial management topics. These sessions also provide senior leaders the opportunity to assess the level of

understanding and commitment to ongoing actions to further strengthen financial management operations and effectiveness.

- Consistent with current guidance, this conference has limited social events. All social events will be held after working hours.

Based on these facts, I believe there is a compelling purpose for this conference—specifically, legally required professional development including training related to audit readiness goals. I am satisfied this conference is the most cost-effective option to achieve this purpose and that the training justifies spending in excess of \$500,000 for government personnel to attend. My review also shows expenses have been limited to the levels required to carry out the mission.

I therefore grant a waiver for this event to proceed in accordance with the May 11, 2012, Office of Management and Budget memorandum, as amended, “Promoting Efficient Spending to Support Agency Operations,” and the June 26, 2016, Deputy Chief Management Officer memorandum, “Department of Defense Conference Guidance, Version 4.0.”

During tight budget times, we must ensure prudent use of government funds while cultivating the ongoing professional development of our workforce.



Michael McCord