



COMPTROLLER

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF WAR

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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1100

JAN 22 2023

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

SUBJECT: Waiver for 2026 Society of Defense Financial Management Defense Financial Management Institute Regional Events

I have reviewed plans for the following Society of Defense Financial Management (SDFM) Defense Financial Management Institute (DFMI) events and found a compelling purpose, including required professional development tied to audit readiness. The events are the most cost-effective option for achieving this compelling purpose, and the training justifies costs exceeding \$500,000 for these events. My review also confirms expenses are limited to what is necessary to accomplish the mission.

- DFM Regional Conferences:
 - February 24–25, 2026, Huntsville, Alabama
 - May 27–29, 2026, Orlando, Florida

The regionally hosted conferences offer broad participation and training to meet Department of War (DoW) Financial Management Certification Program Continuing Education and Training (CET) requirements.

In my review, I considered the events to be structured for efficiency, feature leading experts, and offer essential professional development and information-sharing opportunities.

- The DFM-Huntsville event directly supports the DoW by advancing the digital, analytical, and financial skills of its workforce. This training equips attendees to meet statutory requirements, improve the Department's auditability, and manage risk. Ultimately, it strengthens the DoW by leveraging data and automation to enhance decision-making and improve mission outcomes. <https://sdfm.org/event/dfmi-huntsville-copy/>
- The DFM-Orlando event directly supports the DoW by creating a comprehensive learning environment that deepens expertise in financial management, audit, and analytics. By aligning with senior leadership and Office of the Secretary of War priorities, the program reinforces the specific competencies the DoW needs to execute financial stewardship, enable digital modernization, and strengthen its internal controls. This directly contributes to developing the next generation of the Department's financial management professionals. <https://sdfm.org/event/dfmi-orlando/>
- Participants at each event will have opportunity to earn up to 28 CETs through in-person sessions (8) and on-demand access (20).

- These annual events allow senior leaders opportunities to deliver timely updates on critical financial management topics.

Based on these facts, I grant a waiver approving estimated spending in excess of \$500,000 for these conferences in accordance with the May 11, 2012, Office of Management and Budget memorandum, “Promoting Efficient Spending to Support Agency Operations,” as amended; and the June 26, 2016, Deputy Chief Management Officer memorandum, “Department of Defense Conference Guidance, Version 4.0.” Individual attendees in the DoD Components must comply with their Component conference policies, and all travel must comply with the Joint Travel Regulations.

As fiscal stewards of American taxpayer funds, we must ensure prudent use of funds while cultivating the ongoing professional development of our workforce.



Jules W. Hurst III
Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of
War (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer