Written by Nick Sanders Wednesday, 21 September 2016 00:00

A while ago we noted that Darrell Oyer believed DCAA was going to do away with its Contract Audit Manual (CAM). For those who don't know, the CAM has been the "go-to" manual for government contracting compliance practitioners—as well as Federal contract auditors—for (quite literally) many decades. It has been the Number One resource for quite a while. To hear that it might disappear causes us to wonder what resources the next generation of practitioners is going to use.

That's not to say that we always agree with the CAM. Many times we use the CAM as but one (probably biased) data point in our analysis of a thorny problem. But it's been nice to have. We have used it extensively when researching DCAA's probable position on certain types of transactions (e.g., uncompensated overtime). We have used it when preparing to rebut an audit report with adverse findings, to make sure that the auditors followed their own guidance in reaching those findings. We know it's been used by auditors of other, non-DOD, agencies. In short, it has been an invaluable resource and we hope its sticks around for some time.

In what Darrell might view as another piece of evidence to support his assertion, CAM Chapter 7 (Selected Areas of Cost) was recently removed—or, to use DCAA's phrase, it was "reserved". In its place, DCAA created a new resource, the <a href="Selected Areas of Cost Cuidebook">Selected Areas of Cost Cuidebook</a>

DCAA describes its

new Cost Guidebook as follows ( sic

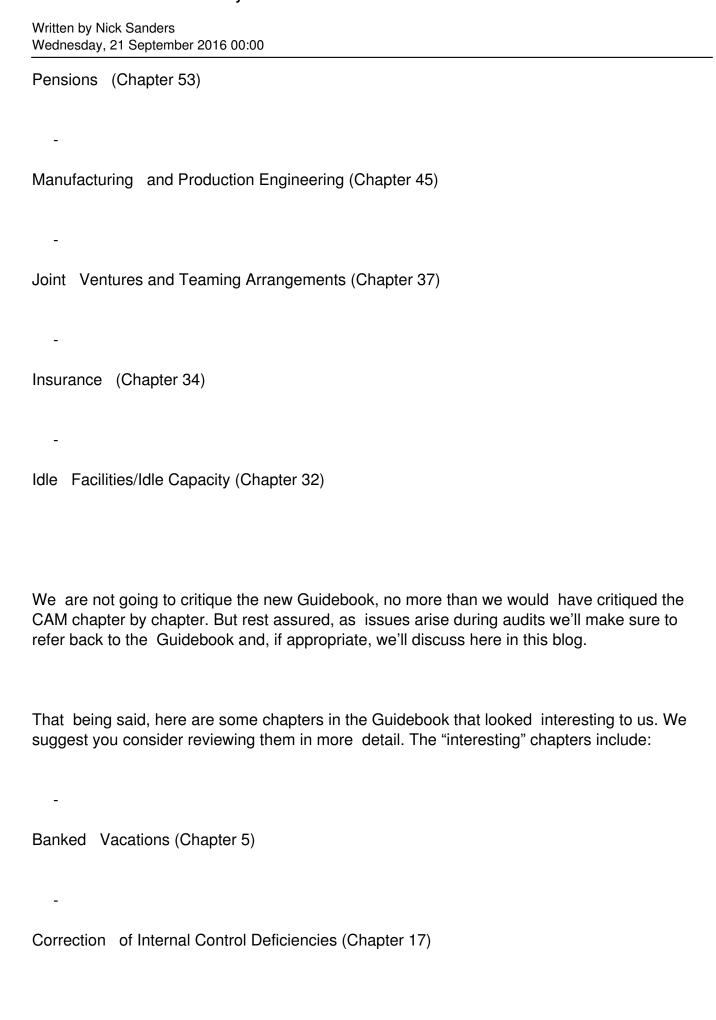
- misspelling in original)-

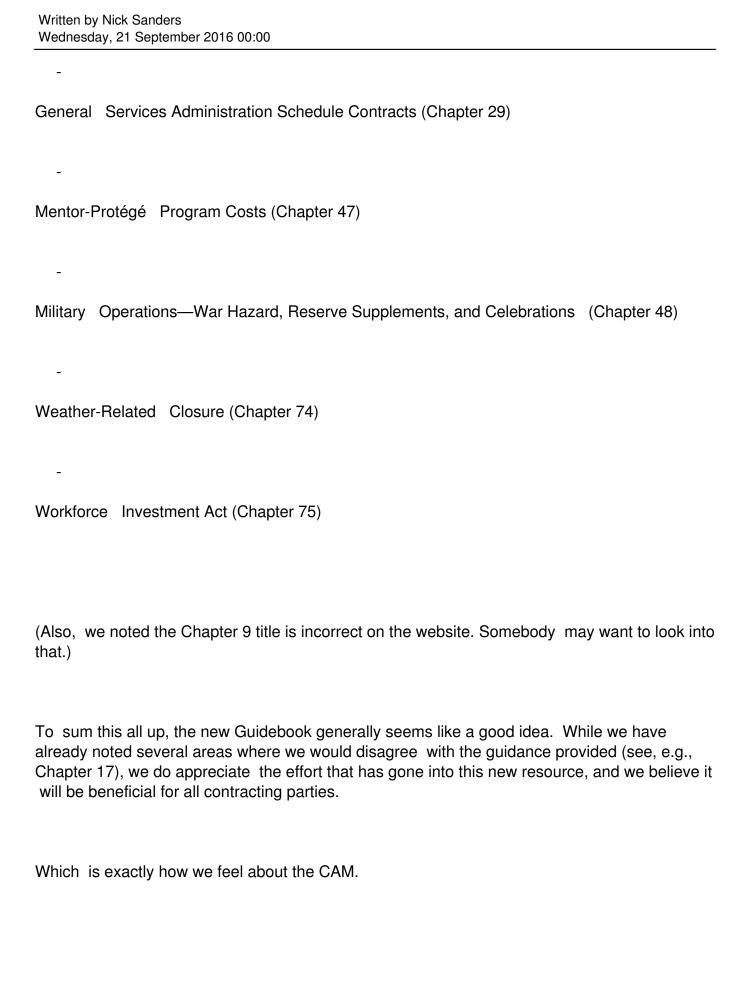
This Guidebook addresses FAR 31.2 and other areas of cost audited. In this first edition of the guidebook, we have expanded what used to be included in Chapter 7 by adding 23 additional chapters to address FAR 31.2 cost principals that had not previously been included in CAM. Initially, many sections of the guidebook are a replica of what was in Chapter 7; however, we have rewritten and updated 13 areas of cost. We will be continuing to rewrite the other chapters in this guidebook and will publish them as completed.Â

Right now, the intent is to have 75 individual Chapters in the Guidebook. As the blurb above states, the starting point of the Guidebook is the former CAM Chapter 7. But there will be 23 new "selected areas of cost" addressed in the Guidebook that were not addressed in the former CAM Chapter 7. Further, the guidance with respect to 13 areas of cost that were covered in the former CAM Chapter 7 has been "rewritten and updated." In many cases, the revisions add FAQs to assist the audit teams.

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- Alcoholic Beverages (Chapter 2)	
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Bonus and Incentive Compensation (Chapter 7)	
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Consultants (Chapter 58)	
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Depreciation (Chapter 19)	
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IRAD/B&P (Chapter 33)	
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Legal Costs (Chapter 41)	
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Patents (Chapter 52)	
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Royalties (Chapter 64)	
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