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Dear AFCEANs,

I hope you have all seen my e-mail about the changes that are taking place with respect to membership dues for both individual and corporate members. There is a lot of detail in the e-mail but in summary this office is no longer able to accept payments for membership dues – all payments must be made to Headquarters and the easiest way is via the portal.

So what else is going on – well at this time of year, of course, TechNet Europe looms large on our calendar and I do look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in this beautiful Central European city, hopefully arriving in time to take in the NATO HQ C3 Staff Briefing Day on Wednesday 15 October before moving on to TNE itself on 16 and 17 October. All the details are on our website at < <u>www.afceaeurope.org</u> >. The website also explains how future TechNet events are evolving so please take a moment to read the detail.

We are making plans to run a NATO C3Agency Conference Day in Brussels (or, possibly, The Hague) in early March; a combined event with City Forum – a UK-based event running organization – in Rome in early May; the new-style one-day TechNet Europe in Madrid in early June and possibly an event on UAVs at SHAPE in late June. I am especially excited about a one-day seminar entitled 'The Art of Leadership' on Thursday 19 March that I am running in Brussels. It is aimed at middle management in the armed forces and industry and the class size will be limited to 20 attendees – and already the Bonn Chapter has promised to send five people! Our website will be kept up-to-date as the planning for all these events progresses.

I look forward to meeting you at least at one of these events in the coming months.

I attended the Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings at Headquarters in mid-September. The Association is well-placed to weather the current economic storms and whilst investment income is, not unexpectedly, down event revenue is positive. Perhaps the most interesting element of the briefings was the attention that is being given to on-line services and virtual technologies as exemplified by the SOLUTIONS series of events. Details can be accessed from <u>www.afcea.org</u> but the next one, in December on cyber-warfare promises to be especially interesting. In addition, I add below an extract from a slide used during the CEO's presentation that shows all the other areas that are becoming available to the membership, via the website.

- SecondLife: •
 - Successfully Launched AFCEA Island With Education Facility, Outdoor Courtyard and Amphitheater, Indoor Multimedia Facility, Exhibit Pavilion, Meeting Spaces and Streaming Video
 - Hosted Meetings With Groups From MITRE and ASAE on AFCEA Island
 - Trained Senior AFCEA Staff and Some of the Support Staff. The AFCEA SecondLife Group is at 40 Members
 - Developing Revenue Models and Supporting Processes
 - Will Roll Out This Year Offerings In Training and Education, Virtual Exhibits, Events, Collaboration
- Social Networking:
 - Facebook Group Has 260 Members—Link to SecondLife
 - LinkedIn Now Has 339 Members—Discussion Boards Are Being Used By AFCEA Members
 - SIGNAL's Twitter Page Has 100 Followers
 - Created Twitterfeed For Monitoring Chatter on Twitter About Virtual Worlds
 - Created Ning Spaces in GovLoop for AFCEA and for Government in • SecondLife
- Webinars Are Becoming More Popular With Sponsors and Participants
- *PodCasts Are Getting More Use*
- Our Blog Participation Is Up and We Are Working More Diverse Content

I hope you will feel that AFCEA is moving in the right direction to take advantage of these technologies for the benefit of the membership.

Finally, and a little belatedly, I trust that you have all enjoyed the summer break and have returned re-invigorated to your desks- and may AFCEA's activities loom large in your planning!

Yours sincerely,

Robert Howell

For information on AFCEA's European membership, events, chapters, etc., consult the AFCEA Web site: <u>http://www.afcea.org</u> then click on to the AFCEA Europe button.

Web Sites		
CHAPTER	WEB ADDRESS	
Belgium	www.afcea.be	
Bonn	www.afcea.de	
Bucuresti	www.afcea.ro	
Czech	www.afcea.cz	

Hellenic (NEW)	www.afcea.gr
Helsinki	www.afcea.fi
Kaiserslautern	http://kaiserslautern.afceachapter.org
Mannheim	www.afceamann176.com
Munich	www.afcea-muenchen.de
Oslo	www.afcea.no
Paris	www.afceaparis.org
Polish	www.afcea.pl
Portugal	www.afceaportugal.pt
Rome	www.afcearoma.it
Slovak	www.afcea.sk
Sofia	www.afcea-bg.org
Stockholm	www.afcea.org.se
Stuttgart	www.afcea-stuttgart.org
The Hague	www.afcea.nl
Türkiye	www.afcea.org.tr
UK Chapters	www.afcea.org.uk
Varna	www.afcea.bg