



AFCEA EUROPE

NEWSLETTER

No. 05/2006

DECEMBER 06/JANUARY 07

CONTENTS

General Manager's Report
New Sub-Chapter - Young AFCEANs
Chapter Event
New Corporate Sponsors
Chapter Web Sites

Dear AFCEANs,

October and November are traditionally our busiest months of the year and 2006 has been no exception. We were again selected by Allied Command Transformation to administer their annual Industry Day, on this occasion in Paris at the beginning of October. The highlight had to be a ride in an unmarked police car, under a blue flashing light, down the 'Champs Elysées' to get to the planned reception at 'Les Invalides' in good time to make sure all the arrangements were complete for the evening reception!

Towards the end of the month all four of us from the Brussels office decamped to the Kempinski Hotel in Sofia, Bulgaria, firstly to run the Briefing Day that we were administering for the Director of the NATO HQ C3 Staff followed by TechNet Europe 2006. Yet again the Regional Vice President, Director and Chapter officers from Sofia and Varna demonstrated how vital local contributions are to TechNet. Their combined efforts guided us among the dignitaries and the bureaucracies to achieve a successful conclusion. Whilst overall net income from these three events is down on last year the value of either being associated with or actually running them ensures AFCEA International is known to a wider audience which can only bode well for the future. I am enormously grateful to all those involved in helping us.

Planning for TechNet Europe 2007 is now well 'underway' – a particularly apt word to use as we plan the event to run on the scheduled ferry trip between Stockholm and Helsinki. The details are being kept up-to-date at www.afceaurope.org and I look forward to rising interest as we move towards next October. I need to explain that, in this instance, the word 'ferry' means a ship with 900 cabins and over a thousand square metres of exhibition space plus a shopping mall. The scheduled programme hours are virtually the same as every other TechNet but this year you get two capital cities for the price of one plus sea-time, so please go to the website for the latest information.

I was privileged to visit the Polish and Rome Chapters in November. The first to attend the VII International Electronics and Telecommunications Conference of Students and Young

Scientific Workers (SECON 2006) held at the Faculty of Electronics, at the Polish Military University of Technology. The Rome visit was to call on the Chapter President, Major General Pietro Finocchio, ITAF, Director of Telecomdife. Also present was Professor Marina Ruggieri, Professor of Telecommunications at the Department of Electronics Engineering at the University of Rome. I have come away from these two visits determined to capitalise upon the student potential that exists within these Chapters. To that extent I am working on the concept of a European Student Network which I hope to be able to develop in more detail in a forthcoming newsletter.

Mention of Rome allows me to congratulate them on remaining the largest Chapter in Europe as the details of membership below shows.

Rome	581
Stockholm	534
London	436
Kaiserslautern	325
Bonn	321

For those chapters who cannot aspire to these numbers I would wish you to know that the membership trend across Europe is upwards, particularly with corporate recruitment, and I greatly appreciate the effort that goes into maintaining this momentum. However, there is also an enthusiasm to be the largest chapter in Europe which I am happy to develop competitively! And on Chapter news I congratulate Col. Bill Kennedy of the UK Southern Chapter for standing up a new Young AFCEAN Sub-Chapter at Blandford (see article on page 2).

To conclude, I would mention our Professional Development Europe courses. I offered a couple during TechNet Europe with limited success so have decided that, in future, they will be held either in Brussels, Fairfax, or at the request of a Chapter when we shall send the moderator to the local area to run the course: again, the latest details are on our website.

Along with PDE issues (Elodie), membership (Linda), events (Pia) or just general enquiries (first one to answer the phone!) the office is available to help any Chapter officer or any member who may need assistance. And, of course, if you are in Brussels please come and visit us.

It only remains for me to wish all those who celebrate it a very Happy Christmas and, to you all, may 2007 bring everything that you wish. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in the coming months.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Howell

General Manager, AFCEA Europe

NEW SUB-CHAPTER

For some years now UK Southern have been recruiting young AFCEANs through the attendance on CIS courses at The Royal School of Signals, Blandford by awarding them Student Membership status and paying their year's subscription from AFCEA UK South funds. The scheme had two main objectives: first to interest them in the only CIS professional body that combined users, requirements staff and

industrialists in joint for; second to promote their continued professional development through AFCEA.

The students are encouraged to attend those meetings organised by AFCEA UK South which are thought to be particularly applicable to them, and they are always invited to the Chapter's Biannual Symposium. In conjunction with the academic and training staff at the School,

meetings and speakers are programmed especially for them at Blandford Camp.

The numbers on courses are now such that a Sub-Chapter is the most appropriate way to meet their academic and technological interests focusing especially on the needs of Young AFCEANs. In the longer term there are two other mainstream interests cherished by UK South. The first is to develop a comparable organisation based upon the Royal Navy's equivalent organisation, the Maritime Warfare School at HMS COLLINGWOOD. The second is to expand AFCEA interests into the much wider academic environment through contacts with the UK Defences' selected universities to which military students are sent to study first and second degrees in CIS and associated disciplines. We hope that Blandford and the Sub-Chapter is the start of a major Young AFCEAN movement.

CHAPTER EVENT

AFCEA Portugal VIII International Atlantic Symposium on C4I

May-8-9, 2007, Instituto de Estudos Superiores Militares, Pedrouços - Lisbon, Portugal

"Intelligence in the Global Age"

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For information on AFCEA's European membership, events, chapters, etc., consult the AFCEA Web site: <http://www.afcea.org> 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
Helsinki	www.afcea.fi
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