



AFCEA EUROPE

NEWSLETTER

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Dear AFCEANs,

With snow from southern Italy to Scandinavia and from Iberia to Bulgaria it may seem a bit optimistic to label this the 'Spring Newsletter' but at home in England snowdrops have appeared and even one or two hardy daffodils so I am optimistic enough to consider that the seasons are moving on! And after business meetings in San Diego, linked to WEST 2009, I can assure you that AFCEA too is moving on – in a very positive direction.

The AFCEA International Strategic Plan 2009 - 2013 is now the basis for a 500-day action plan that will be published in May. I would remind you that as well as the vision, mission and core values for AFCEA there are 4 goals which I list below:

- Goal 1 – AFCEA will set the benchmark of excellence for service to the government-industry C4I community.
- Goal 2 - Strengthen community among government, industry and academia.
- Goal 3 - Provide a World-class Forum for Knowledge exchange and Networking.
- Goal 4 – promote world-class education and training that meets the need of the AFCEA community.

Day One of the business meetings had staff, RVP and Chapter representatives allocated between the 4 goals for discussions and reviews to see what further developments were possible. The outcome of these very positive debates will be included in the 500-day action plan.

Day Two I attended the Executive Committee and Board of Director discussions. The CEO explained his top four priorities:

- Firstly, he emphasised his commitment to small businesses, the fastest-growing component of the AFCEA membership (now growing at 12% a year and making up 80% of corporate strength.) Tammy Goehring has been appointed small business programme manager on the staff (tgoehring@afcea.org) and work is on-going to develop a small business 'best practice' web page.
- 'International': Global reach is AFCEA's discriminator but at present the numbers are shrinking so reversal of that trend is a priority. One of the US DoD's top 3 priorities is interagency and coalition information-sharing so AFCEA is well-placed to capitalise on this objective and will be working to

improve on-line services to provide better reach to the international community.

- Homeland Security: AFCEA is building strong links with the US Department of Homeland Security but is taking a worldwide view as homeland security, whatever title it may have nationally, is a global commitment.
- Cyberspace: It is the #1 IT priority for the US government and touches everything that AFCEA does. It is not well-defined and presents an opportunity for AFCEA to take a lead, both nationally and internationally.

The CEO went on to discuss the state of the Association's finances and presented a positive outlook against the world-wide economic recession. Despite AFCEA's investments taking a major hit, events and event revenues are holding up well allowing a cautious measure of optimism for this fiscal year.

Let me return to European membership. As I said there is a downturn in numbers as in the table below.

Membership (Europe)		
	Dec 08	Dec07
Individual Members	2146	2358
Corporate Associates	2042	2179
Total Individuals	4188	4537
Corporates	327	328

The solution, of course, lies in all our hands but anything you can do to help to reverse this trend will be welcome. To that end the 'best practices' on the AFCEA Europe website are a starting point though they will shortly be subsumed into a major revision and inclusion on the www.afcea.org home page.

The CEO also pointed out a number of Web 2.0 initiatives and I shall be adding these to the version of the newsletter that I post on www.afceaeurope.org And that brings me to my last point and that is 'events'. Our website has details of forthcoming events and, most immediately, let me draw your attention to 'The Art of Leadership' that we are running in Brussels on Thursday 19 March. It has an aura of exclusivity about it (I am looking for 25 students) so you are well-advised to sign up sooner rather than later. But you will find details of events in Brussels, Madrid and SHAPE and, later this year, TechNet International in Brussels. I look forward to your company at some or all of these occasions.

Now let us look forward to a real Spring and an end to the dull weather. I wish all my European Chapters well in their 2009 endeavours. Do let me know if I can be of help to you as the year progresses.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Howell

Annual Reports and Nominations for AFCEA Awards and Directors

This is a "heads up" that you will soon be receiving the customary messages from AFCEA HQ about submitting your chapter Annual Reports (due in mid-March) and any nominations for Awards and Directors. Please do copy this office on your submissions.

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
Hellenic	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