



# AFCEA EUROPE

# NEWSLETTER

No. 02/2008

SUMMER 2008

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Dear AFCEANs,

There is quite a bit to focus on in this newsletter so I hope that I have managed to catch you before thoughts of holiday intrude!

I attended the business meetings and Joint Warfighting Conference held at Virginia Beach the week of 15 June. The President's report focused on several aspects in the first year of his tenure. The Association remains on a sound financial footing and although investment income is down there is steady revenue generation from events, etc., that leaves a solid net income level.

So far as membership is concerned Europe is down slightly over the year from 4472 to 4266. Corporate membership is static at 318. The membership committee (upon which my office is represented) is:

- a. Investigating new e-learning member benefits.
- b. Working on how to increase student membership (and keep them).
- c. Seeking to increase enlisted membership.
- d. Determining how to increase retention of individual members.

Any contributions that any of my readers may have to augment these ideas will be welcomed.

The other main area of focus is the Strategic plan – aiming at a five-year rolling programme. Most of you should have seen the first draft and I attended the Executive Committee meeting in April to work it through. A second draft was produced at Virginia Beach and even now it is being put into a more digestible format. Two new Committees will be formed – a Governance Committee and a Strategic Planning Committee to guide the plan's development forwards. There are four goals that the plan lays down and from these stem all the actions and measures to be taken. These goals are:

- a. AFCEA will set the benchmark for excellence to the government-industry C4I community.
- b. Strengthen community among government, industry and academia.
- c. Provide a world-class forum for knowledge exchange and networking.
- d. Promote world-class education and training that meets the need of the AFCEA community.

The strategic plan will be an agenda item at our TechNet Europe business meeting. On that subject I would like to share with you a title change. From October 2009, TechNet Europe will be re-named TechNet International, still run over two days. TechNet Europe will be a one-day event each May. The Annex to this letter shows you my 5-year plan for these two events. I am working on some other new European initiatives and will explain these in Prague or by e-mail beforehand.

One event that can be shared by us all is 'SOLUTIONS' and the second one of this four part event profile has just taken place in Washington DC but you will all have seen the e-mails that show how you could have participated from your desk-top – I hope some of you took the opportunity. Details of the next two SOLUTIONS can be found via the AFCEA home Page at [www.afcea.org](http://www.afcea.org).

The final issue I wish to bring to your attention reminds me of the idea of ignoring 'the elephant in the room,' i.e. it is so big we studiously try to avoid it. However the issue of Value Added tax (VAT) has become so insistent that we must now take it into account for all our dealings with both events and, most probably, membership. VAT is a tax on services and AFCEA's European office provides a service, therefore we are required to charge VAT on all event-related activities (and our registration forms are now starting to show this.) The rate to be charged for events will depend on the EU country where the event is being held: thus it will be at 19% in Prague this year, 21% in Brussels next year and 17.5% in UK in 2010. Assuming that we shall have to charge EU citizens VAT on their membership fees, be they corporate or individual, it will be fixed at the Belgian rate of 21% to reflect the location of this office. We are working to have the membership VAT mechanisms in place by the end of the year. I regret that EU citizens will not be able to circumvent VAT by attempting to pay their membership through the AFCEA HQ website – one will be directed to a VAT form. Of course, many, if not most of you, will be able to pay but claim back the VAT through national VAT authorities but I fear that the individual member who has no such option will be required to pay VAT. Once the situation becomes clearer we shall send out more detailed information in the October timeframe.

Hardly the ending I would have liked for a summer newsletter so let me end on a happier note and say that plans for this year's TechNet Europe in Prague on 16 and 17 October (with business meetings on the 15<sup>th</sup>) are progressing well. You will have received your invitation by now and I look forward to seeing you there.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Howell

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**NEW REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT**

We have the pleasure to welcome and congratulate the New RVP Central European Region, Mr. Wolfgang Taubert. Mr. Taubert takes over from Eberhard Müller-von der Bank. Our many thanks to Eberhard for his hard work and dedication as RVP since 1999.

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**AFCEA INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORS  
2008-2009 (EUROPE)**

Our congratulations to our recently elected or reelected members of the Board:

**Executive Committee**

Dr. Henrik Friman  
BGen. Reimar Scherz  
Dr. Karel Vavruska

**Class of 2010**

Col. John Doody  
Dr. Raffaele Esposito  
Mr. Petr Jirasek  
Mr. Jeff Richardson  
RAdm. Carlos Rodolfo

**Class of 2009**

Col. Bora Büyükoner  
BGen. Witold Cieslewski  
Prof. Marina Ruggieri  
Cdre Patrick Tyrrell

**Associate Directors**

Prof. Harry Athanasopoulos  
Col. Tracy Phillips  
Mr. Konstantin Zografov

Our many thanks for all your efforts and support to those of you who have reached the end of your term.

**AFCEA AWARDS 2008**

Our congratulations to the individuals and chapters in Europe that were the recipients of AFCEA Awards this year!

**Leadership Award**

Col. Ilkka Jappinen, Helsinki Chapter

**Meritorious Service Award**

BGen. Witold Cieslewski, Polish Chapter  
H. Wayne Henry, HQ U.S. European Command  
Mr. Claude Roche, Paris Chapter

**Model Chapter of the Year**

Bonn  
Czech  
Kaiserslautern  
Portugal  
Stuttgart  
UK Croughton  
UK Southern  
UK West

**Harry C. Ingles**

Kaiserslautern  
Stuttgart

**Albert J. Myer**

Munich  
Rome  
Helsinki

**NEW CORPORATE SPONSORS****ASPed GmbH**

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**Thales UK Ltd.**

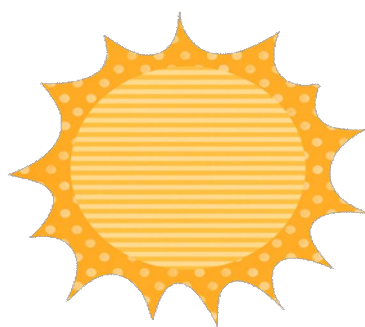
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For information on AFCEA's European membership, events, chapters, etc., consult the AFCEA Web site: <http://www.afcea.org> then click on to the AFCEA Europe button.

### Web Sites

CHAPTER	WEB ADDRESS
Belgium	<a href="http://www.afcea.be">www.afcea.be</a>
Bonn	<a href="http://www.afcea.de">www.afcea.de</a>
Bucuresti	<a href="http://www.afcea.ro">www.afcea.ro</a>
Czech	<a href="http://www.afcea.cz">www.afcea.cz</a>
<b>Hellenic (NEW)</b>	<a href="http://www.afcea.gr">www.afcea.gr</a>
Helsinki	<a href="http://www.afcea.fi">www.afcea.fi</a>
Kaiserslautern	<a href="http://kaiserslautern.afceachapter.org">http://kaiserslautern.afceachapter.org</a>
Mannheim	<a href="http://www.afceamann176.com">www.afceamann176.com</a>
Munich	<a href="http://www.afcea-muenchen.de">www.afcea-muenchen.de</a>
Oslo	<a href="http://www.afcea.no">www.afcea.no</a>
Paris	<a href="http://www.afceaparis.org">www.afceaparis.org</a>
Polish	<a href="http://www.afcea.pl">www.afcea.pl</a>
Portugal	<a href="http://www.afceaportugal.pt">www.afceaportugal.pt</a>
Rome	<a href="http://www.afcearoma.it">www.afcearoma.it</a>
Slovak	<a href="http://www.afcea.sk">www.afcea.sk</a>
Sofia	<a href="http://www.afcea-bg.org">www.afcea-bg.org</a>
Stockholm	<a href="http://www.afcea.org.se">www.afcea.org.se</a>
Stuttgart	<a href="http://www.afcea-stuttgart.org">www.afcea-stuttgart.org</a>
The Hague	<a href="http://www.afcea.nl">www.afcea.nl</a>
Türkiye	<a href="http://www.afcea.org.tr">www.afcea.org.tr</a>
UK Chapters	<a href="http://www.afcea.org.uk">www.afcea.org.uk</a>
Varna	<a href="http://www.afcea.bg">www.afcea.bg</a>

*HAPPY SUMMER HOLIDAYS!*



*FROM THE AFCEA EUROPE STAFF*