



CAPT (ret) Kamil Zafer Selcuk

Founder of the Turkish Defense Industry News Communication Network (TDI News), CAPT (ret) A. Zafer BETONER interviewed CAPT (ret) Kamil Zafer Selcuk, International Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association Turkiye Chapter President about the association's organization, objectives, policies and activities. We appreciate to AFCEA Turkiye chapter sparing time to us before the Artificial Intelligence in Cyber Defense seminar they will conduct on February 27.

TDI News: Mr. Selcuk, first of all, can you explain what AFCEA is?

Kamil Zafer Selcuk: AFCEA stands for "Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association" founded in the USA in 1946, this association has gained an international identity over time. During the foundation period of the association, in order to help overcome the problems experienced in the World War-II especially in the fields of communications and electronic systems; It aimed to create ethical forums to exchange views among industry, academia and the armed forces. SIGNAL magazine, which is the main publication of the association, still maintains its popularity today and publicizing that will enlighten its stakeholders on technology and needs. The association currently has over 130 branches, more than thirty thousand individual members and about 1600 member companies established in America, Europe, Asia and Australia. The philosophy of the establishment, which was defined as creating a bridge between the government, academia and civil professionals, turned into an international identity in time and started to be expressed as a service to the stability of global peace. The association has removed the open name of "Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association", as well as carrying the name AFCEA, which has become a brand today, and instead adopts the slogan "connecting people, ideas and solutions globally", which is "connecting people, ideas and solutions globally".

TDI News: Can you talk about the establishment of the AFCEA Turkiye chapter?

Kamil Zafer Selcuk: Establishment of the AFCEA Turkiye chapter was initiated by request of the Under secretariat of Defense Industries in 1988. This initiative to support developments in the defense industry in Turkey and to prepare ground for the obtaining of defense technologies, with the support of the company ASELSAN, AFCEA Turkiye chapter has been realized. Bureaucratic process resulted at 29 November 1989 by approval of the Council of Ministers' in accordance with the act number 3335, AFCEA Turkiye chapter or official name "International Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association Turkiye Chapter" has been approved. The chairman of the board of directors, who carried out the

establishment, was Dr. Sedat ÇİLİNGİR, who was director in Undersecretariate of Defense Industry. In the same period, the letter received from the Ministry of National Defense stated that the association is a scientific institution and TAF personnel could be members.



Founder of the Turkish Defense Industry News Communication Network (TDI News), CAPT (ret) A. Zafer BETONER (left) interviewing CAPT (ret) Kamil Zafer Selcuk, International Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association Turkiye Chapter President (right)

TDI News: What are the goals and objectives of your association?

Kamil Zafer Selcuk: First, I would like to mention that, AFCEA Turkiye is a scientific association, that is non-profit, non-political interests and no relationships with political. The purpose of the AFCEA Turkey; can be summarized as providing mutual ethical forums supporting information exchange between national and international government, academia and industrial organizations in information technologies, communication and electronic systems and other related fields. And, to be a respected and leading association in our country, for national and international public institutions and organizations, industrial and academic circles in the field of information technologies, communication and electronic systems.

At this point, it would be appropriate to talk about the basic values of our association. Ethics is our most fundamental value, and all activities are treated ethically at the highest level. We try to implement our idealistic leadership value, especially for the target audience, and to

encourage members at all levels in this regard. In accordance with our commitment value, constant efforts are made to continuously improve the association and to improve the service provided to our members. In accordance with our value of quality, we strive to ensure that everything performed is of the highest quality, and it is aimed to do everything possible to increase education in our members and the communities served. Finally, our diversity value in line with this, all our members and all segments of our stakeholder community are encouraged and embraced, and new member acquisition is continuously supported.

TDI News: Could you tell us about the scope of your association's activities and on which subjects you provide services?

Kamil Zafer Selcuk: If we summarize the activities of our association; I can say that first of all, it is to conduct researches for development of activities. In this context; We organize national and international seminars, conferences, panels and training courses. In addition, it is among our activity goals to obtain all kinds of information, documents and publications required for the realization of the purpose, and to publish publications such as newspapers, magazines, books and bulletins. Organizing social events and meetings to develop and maintain relations between our members, participating in international activities, and cooperating on events or projects with other AFCEA chapters and organizations for this purpose are among our activities. In addition, activities to be carried out by AFCEA International and its chapters, to which we are affiliated, on subjects of our interest are also supported. In order to support the activities and activities we have announced, donations are accepted from within the country and abroad after obtaining the necessary permissions within the framework of the legal legislation.

TSS News: Can you explain the AFCEA Association membership subject to Turkey?

Kamil Zafer Selcuk: Any natural or legal person who has reached the age of 18, who does not have any restrictions defined as "the capacity to act" in the civil law, and who accepts the aims and principles of the association and accepts to work in this direction has the right to become a member of our association. Our memberships are divided into classes in accordance with AFCEA International regulations. These are: Individual, Student, Honorary and Corporate memberships.

Individual Membership; are all natural persons who meet the conditions for membership. Our Individual Members have the right to attend and vote in the general assembly meetings of the association. They also have the right to be elected to the association management, auditory boards and to be elected as a delegate to represent the association in AFCEA International's general assembly meetings.

Student Membership; Members who do not have any income, who meet the membership conditions and who continue their full-time education, whose dues amount and duration are determined by the general assembly in order to encourage students' membership. Student

Members cannot vote in the general assembly, be elected as a delegate, or take part in association bodies.

Honorary Membership; Those who have completed 40 years in permanent membership or over 65 years of age and have at least 35 years of permanent membership can be accepted as honorary members with the decision of AFCEA International. Honorary Members do not pay dues, cannot vote in the general assembly, cannot be elected as a delegate, or take part in the organs of the association.

Corporate Membership; All legal entities meeting the conditions for membership are defined as corporate members. Legal entities have the right to register a number of personnel as members, determined according to the amount of membership they will choose at the stage of becoming a member. Every Legal Entity is represented in the board by their corporate members. Corporate members, having the same rights as individual members, can take part in the organs of the association, be elected as a delegate, and vote by participating in the general assembly.

TSS News: Could you tell us about your member profile?

Kamil Zafer Selçuk: Our members; most of them are engineers and academics who have served in the Turkish Armed Forces, who are or are currently working in the defense sector. Among our members, there are also university students and TAF members who are on active duty. The average duration of corporate and/or individual membership in our member profile is over 15 years. We consider this as an indicator of our members' affiliation to the association.

TSS News: What contributions does the association make to its members? Can you explain briefly?

Kamil Zafer Selçuk: Before explaining the contributions of the association to its members, it is important to consider the platform formed by about 1,600 companies with 30,000 individual members who have adopted AFCEA's global security mission and have innovative ideas and thoughts, solutions and visions. Thus, our members; It is part of a wide network of public, academic and industrial experts on a global scale in fields such as information technologies, communication, intelligence and homeland security.

The SIGNAL magazine, the association's main professional publication in the field of communication, electronics, intelligence and information systems, is sent to members every month free of charge. It offers more convenient opportunities to participate in events than non-members to our members organized by AFCEA International or AFCEA Europe, by Turkiye chapter or any other chapter or supported by national and international conferences, symposia, seminars, exhibitions and so on.

Members have immediate access to a "local AFCEA chapter network" that is available wherever they are in the world. Members are invited to participate in organized, chapter and regional activities to learn about professional development needs. AFCEA cooperates

with various centers of academic excellence to provide members with training and certification opportunities at a more affordable price. In addition, if the members wish, they can attend various courses organized by AFCEA for their own training. The leadership forums organized by the AFCEA Education Foundation in small groups for the leaders of the future provide the participants with the opportunity to listen to experienced and proven leaders in a friendly environment and to learn a lot from them. like applications that are organized by the AFCEA Turkiye chapter.

In order to meet the demands of the global security market, AFCEA brings together small, medium and large-scale companies to establish communication, sharing and cooperation between them. In addition, AFCEA events and conferences provide networking opportunities at international and regional levels.

AFCEA brand and membership base is widespread worldwide. Wherever you go, you can join our network through local branches and interact with the local business environment and global markets.

To corporate members; discounts are provided in sponsorship and exhibitions at international events, and priority is given to advertising in SIGNAL magazine, which is the main media organ of AFCEA. In addition, discount advantage in advertising on AFCEA website, inclusion of a free company profile in SIGNAL magazine, making the image of the company more effective before public and industrial organizations through AFCEA's on-line corporate member directory can be counted among the advantages.

Among the advantages provided by AFCEA are the announcement of corporate achievements through SIGNAL magazine, providing the necessary opportunities to the corporate personnel to be successful, providing products and services, organizing workshops and events for special training and networking, attending international AFCEA events with reduced registration fee, many branches around the world. and opportunities to establish close relationships with.

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