AFCEA TURKIYE'S INTERVIEW WITH TURKISH DEFENSE INDUSTRY NEWS

TDI News: Mr. Selcuk, could you please explain the purpose of AFCEA Association, which has been carrying out important activities in defense industry and technologies recently?

Kamil Zafer Selcuk: First of all, I would like to personally thank our valuable stakeholder Turkish Defense Industry News Group for providing the opportunity to introduce AFCEA with this interview.

AFCEA is built on the “Open Communication Foundation” of the government, academia and industry professionals to ensure ethical information exchange among stakeholders. After explaining the purpose of the association in summary, that will be useful to explain the establishment process in order to understand the purpose of the association. First, I want to tell about the founding leader of the AFCEA, David Sarnoff, with a short biography. David Sarnoff started his career as an amateur telegrapher and continued in the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company, and he was recalled from a brief military service in the First World War to work for the company. He is assigned to senior management during the post-war purchase of the Marconi company by RCA (Radio Corporation of America), which later became NBC. During the Second World War, he served as Eisenhower's communications advisor with the rank of Brigadier General. Throughout these works, Sarnoff experienced firsthand and closely the importance of communication in war and how open dialogue and strong relations between government and industry in times of peace can help ensure effective combat during war.

Based on his experience, after the war, by incorporating other previously established communication associations, in 1946; established the Army Signal Association to promote communication, dialogue, and open and ethical exchange of information between the government and private sectors. After gathering of the services as American Armed Forces under a single roof in 1947, the name of the association was changed to Armed Forces Communication Association, and in 1954 it was changed to "Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association" (AFCEA).

AFCEA's first chapters was founded by US forces personnel based in Europe were at NATO, Allied and USA Headquarters in Paris in 1952, London in 1954, Naples in 1961, Belgium in 1968, Stuttgart in 1973, in Kaiserslautern in 1976 and in Worms in 1977. With the increasing interest of US defense companies with the association at the end of 1970s, the Brussels Symposium, which started as a chapter event in 1979, has grown gradually since 1981.

This event became an exhibition primarily serving NATO C3 infrastructure improvements, followed by the establishment of an office in Brussels in 1982. In 1979, with the participation of European, Asian and Canadian chapters, AFCEA gained an international identity. Finally, in 2018, to reflect the association's mission to serve the global security community, it was approved by the board of directors to change the name as AFCEA International, which was previously used as an abbreviation and became a global brand.

TDI News: You mentioned about the communication associations established before, can you explain them?

Kamil Zafer Selcuk: Of course, the history of communications associations goes back to the American civil war. Previous communication associations that joined AFCEA; U.S. Veteran Signal Association and the American Signal Corps Association.

US Veteran Signal Association was established aftermath of the American Civil War from the original Signal Corps under the command of Major Albert James Myer of the US Army. Major Myer, who developed the Wig-Wag communications system, is also known as the father of both the US Army Signal Corps and the US Army Weather Bureau. This organization remained active for many years and was later reinforced by the Spanish American War and World War-I veterans. Another World War-I group, the American Signal Association, merged with the US Veteran Signal Association in 1918 and remained active until the World War-II in 1944.

TDI News: You mentioned the Wig-Wag Communication System, could you explain it?

Kamil Zafer Selçuk: It is a form of historical communication in which Wig-Wag messages, which we can call the visible aerial telegram, are transmitted with a single flag.

Instead of the two flags in the semaphore communication used on ships, the Wig-Wag communication differs in that a single flag is used and each letter symbol is represented by the movement of the flag rather than the position of the flag. Its larger flag and its movement allow messages to be read from greater distances than the semaphore. In addition, thanks to this system, it was possible to send messages using torches instead of flags at night.

The most common coding used with Wig-Wag is making moves one and two to form alphabet letters. With these movements, that is, the flag is shown as swinging to the left and right, respectively, the codes corresponding to the letters are formed. We know that similar to the Morse code, different codes are set for each letter and the shortest codes are used for the most common letters.

Major General Harry Clyde Ingles served during World War II and commanded the United States Army Signal Corps.

Major Albert James Myer was a surgeon and United States Army officer. He is known as the father of the of the U.S. Weather Bureau and the U.S. Army Signal Corps,where he served as its first chief signal officer prior to the U.S. Civil War, and as the inventor of wig-wag signaling.

TDI News: I understand that SIGNAL Magazine, the official publication organ of the association, got its name from here.

Kamil Zafer Selcuk: Quite right, by the way, I can give a brief information about SIGNAL magazine. The magazine was first published in 1946.

SIGNAL

More than a magazine: We're AFCEA.

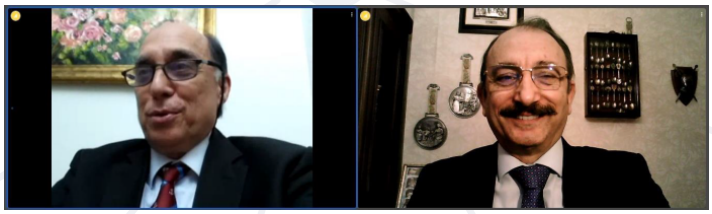
SIGNAL is a monthly international news magazine operating in the fields of information technology and intelligence, targeting the government, armed forces and industry professionals. Among the topics covered in the magazine are command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (C4ISR) and information security, cyber security, research and development, artificial intelligence, machine learning, big data, cloud technologies, electronics and internal security.

TDI News: Does the association have other publications?

Kamil Zafer Selcuk: Yes, AFCEA, by taking advantage of today's electronic media opportunities, a monthly online newsletter, SIGNAL Connections, is sending to members by e-mails. The association's online directories contain corporate member directories that provide access to detailed information about companies that support AFCEA. In addition, the information in this directory is also available in cyber security, intelligence, health, information technologies, education, and internal security directories by corporate focus categories. Organizations provide information in these online publications, including contact information, business focus, products, services, or customers.
AFCEA uses additional communication technologies, including webinars, podcasts, blogs and RSS, and is also featured on social media platforms.

TDI News: Can you summarize the other activities of the association?

Kamil Zafer Selcuk: AFCEA; provides professional development, various continuing education programs, leadership development and technical training courses. Courses are provided on the premises of member organizations.



In addition, some sessions at AFCEA conferences and branch events are counted as continuing education for cybersecurity certificates. The association also has partnerships with a higher education institution, which offers its members discounts on both classroom and online tuition fees. AFCEA has more than 130 chapters and subdivisions worldwide to provide professional training and networking opportunities. Various meetings are organized by these chapters to exchange ideas about communication, intelligence, cyber security and information systems technologies. They also organize symposiums and seminars. Finally: I would like to talk about the conference, exhibition, technical panels and webinars organized by AFCEA. Problem solving opportunities are offered here to C4ISR, intelligence, cyber security, homeland security and information technology professionals. Important annual events are;

- Western Conference and Exhibition held in San Diego, California
- "TechNet Indo-Pacific" Conference and Exhibition held in Honolulu, Hawaii
- AFCEA / George Mason University Symposium held in Fairfax, Virginia
- Homeland Security Conference held in Washington DC
- Intelligence and National Security Summit held in Washington DC
- "TechNet Augusta" held in Augusta, Georgia,
- "TechNet Cyber" held in Baltimore, Maryland,
- "TechNet Europe" conferences held in Europe.

TDI News: Thank you for your explanations on behalf of our stakeholders.

Kamil Zafer Selcuk: On behalf of the AFCEA Turkiye chapter, I would also like to thank you for providing this opportunity. Our stakeholders can access more detailed information and explanations about our current activities on our official website at www.afcea.org.tr.