



**416th Engineer Command
(ENCOM)
Association Newsletter
“THE CASTLE”**

Volume 20, Number 1, Spring/Fall
1 Oct 20



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All
2020 Events
Have Been Cancelled
Due to
COVID-19
Except ONE!!

Virtual Zoom Annual Meeting
November 7, 2020
Time: 6 PM (CST)

Set up Zoom now on your
Phones and Computers

Association 2021
Calendar is pending!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteer Opportunities: As you see with this newsletter, the Association is growing and changing. In the future a greater participation in the organization is needed and wanted. Several areas are open for volunteer support. Review opportunities and if you feel you can support and perform various functions, your efforts are requested and needed. Expect announcements for more opportunities in the future. On the Job Training (OJT) is the norm.

Membership and Recruiting: Like many organizations, the Association is always looking to recruit more members to participate and promote our efforts. Consider your fellow retirees or existing service members of any unit and pass on the membership application. Encourage them to submit their application and consider participating in one of the new Association's projects. They can submit their application by mail or digitally, remitting the check by mail or on line with PAYPAL.

Letters to the Editor: Want to see an article in the Newsletter? Send a letter to the editor? Have an idea for an article, then write a letter to the editor and write up your article. Complaints? Suggestions? Write that letter for the next newsletter. To improve, ideas are needed, including yours. Let us build and grow. **Additional Announcements Follow @ Page 3.**



The President's Message



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As senior military leaders, we are duty bound to the men and women who serve our country. As such, we are guided by a set of principles that originated with the founding of the United States; that our strength emanates from the people.

As we move further into the 21st Century, the 416th Engineer Command (ENCOM) Association finds itself in an age of transition that provides greater opportunities for supporting soldiers, civilians, their families, employers, and others who support a strong national defense and a vibrant engineer profession. To position our Association so it can fulfill its duty, we must evolve. If we do not change, we will fail.

It has always been the goal of the 416th ENCOM Association for its members to serve our Reserve Component (RC) soldiers, civilians, their families, employers, and those friends who support a strong engineer element to our nation's defense. Each of you is a part of this and I "Thank You" for your honored service.

Below is the Association's main purpose...

"The 416th ENCOM Association is a professional engineer association that develops and maintains social linkages to past and present members of Army Reserve engineers, their families, employers, civilians, and those who support our engineers. The Association accomplishes this by promoting the RC Engineer community through social, patriotic, educational, charitable, benevolent, and civic activities and by offering leadership positions, recognition awards, and sponsoring scholarships."

Our association is not something to take for granted, and consequently, it requires great care to ensure we remain relevant, adaptable, and strong. The path we travel is littered with those who have failed to heed lessons of the past. I am asking you to help support a reorientation of the association to promote, foster, and improve the well being of the RC Engineer community.

Thank you.

Scotty Shrader
President, 416th ENCOM Association

"In peacetime, reliable communications makes or breaks a commander; in combat, good communications makes or breaks a unit." – Overheard discussion between an American and a British general officer, during the fighting in the Second Battle of Fallujah, Iraq, November 2004



ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCEMENTS



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NEW PRESIDENT ELECT!

Colonel (RET) Robert E. Chevas selected for President Elect Position!

Colonel (RET) Robert E. Chevas retired from the United States Army on 28 February 2014 after 36 years of commissioned service. COL Chevas served on Army active duty status from 1980-1990. His assignments included serving as the Training Officer for the 130th Engineer Brigade in Hanau, Germany and as the Training Officer of the 528th USAAG in Cakmakli, Turkey.

After his active service, COL Chevas returned to the United States by serving in the Army Reserve. His assignments include serving as the S-1 Officer for the 372nd Engineer Group and the 73rd Combat Support Hospital in the 88th Regional Support Command. Following those assignments, COL Chevas was the Chemical Officer and Training Officer for the 416th ENCOM. In that assignment, he was mobilized and served as the Operations Officer, Military Liaison Team, Lithuania. COL Chevas also served as the Plans Officer and later the G3 Officer for the 308th Civil Affairs Brigade. During that assignment, he was mobilized and assigned as the Chief, J9, Operations and Plans, KFOR in Pristina, Kosovo. COL Chevas then served as Command Historian, Headquarters European Command (EUCOM) in Stuttgart, Germany.

COL Chevas then served as the Training Officer for the 416th Theater Engineer Command. He was the selected to command the 372nd Engineer Brigade, Fort Snelling, MN. COL Chevas' last assignment was the G2 for the 416th Theater Engineer Command.

ENGINEER READING BOOK REVIEW

Military book reading does not end with retirement. As part of the Association newsletter a new column is to be added, a review of military engineer related books. There are many books on military engineering exploits during various conflicts and wars. Do you have a favorite? Write up a review. Length? Format? For the next one, you develop the format and submit it. Consult almost any military organization publication and it will have a book review. Use any format you see or develop your own. Topics are open, but should be related to military engineering. Select a book; send the editor (bmitt75@yahoo.com), here at the association a note providing a date for completion of your work so it can be scheduled.



TREASURER'S REPORT AND ENGINEER BOOK REVIEW



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TREASURER'S REPORT

Prior Period Ending 7/31/2020		
Beginning BOA Statement Balance		\$ 5,245.38
Revenue:	New lifetime membership	\$ 96.80
Revenue Sub-Total:		\$ 96.80
Expenses:	IRS 501(c)(3) application fee	\$ 275.00
	Wild Apricot web hosting renewal	\$ 540.00
Expenses Sub-Total:		\$ 815.00
Closing Balance:		\$ 4,527.18
Notes: As of 10/02/2020		

CHANGE IN PAYMENT PROCESSING

Effective 1 October 2020, the 416th ENCOM Association changed our merchant service provider. Online payments, purchases, and donations (hint, hint), will now be processed through Affinipay versus PayPal. Affinipay is affiliated with Wild Apricot, our web hosting provider. Reasons for the change include:

- The primary reason for this change was to avoid the additional \$108 annual fee charged by Wild Apricot when using a third-party merchant service provider.
- There are no monthly or setup fees.
- Members and others are not directed to a third-party site to complete their payments. PayPal Express Checkout and PayPal Payments Standard process the payment from a PayPal site.
- Wild Apricot Payments/AffiniPay will deposit funds automatically into our bank account. PayPal accumulates funds until we manually transfer them to our account.
- PayPal deducts its service fees from our funds *before* depositing into your bank account. While Wild Apricot Payments/AffiniPay deposits all of our funds and then withdraws its fees each month from your bank account.
- One-stop support for both Wild Apricot software and Wild Apricot Payments.

Of course, for those that prefer the old fashion way, everyone is still able to send their payments by check via snail mail (USPS). When mailing your payments, make any checks payable to: **416th ENCOM Association**

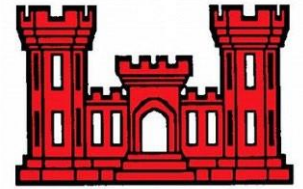
Our mailing address is:

416th ENCOM Association
c/o Edgar Montalvo, Treasurer
8719 Timbers Pointe Drive
Tinley Park, IL 60487

Please be sure to include any special instructions with your payments. Thank you.



BOARD MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS



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Association Board Member Introductions



Colonel (R) John A. P. Gessner: Vice President for Programs and Activities

The VP's role is to plan and organize the annual meeting and dinner, normally held in early November. This is a great event to join with fellow past and present members of the 416th TEC for a night of comradeship, dinner and an update on current ENCOM operations. As other important veteran and military activities are announced throughout the year, the VP for Programs and Activities is responsible for getting the word out to the membership.

John has been on the ENCOM board for 9 years and has served as the President and a Director at Large. During his term as President, he and the board worked closely with the TEC to develop and construct the Fallen Heroes Memorial Wall, culminating in a dedication ceremony in May 2015.

John's tour with the 416th Engineer Command began in March 1995 when he joined the Engineer Section as a Project Engineer and later, as an engineer team leader. In 1996, he deployed to Saudi Arabia with an Engineer Augmentation Team to assist the 3rd Army Engineer with recovery efforts following the Khobar Tower bombing. Other deployments included Bright Star 1997 and 2005 in Egypt and the Hurricane Mitch Recovery in Honduras in 1999. In 2002, he deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, forward deploying to Bagram Air Base as the Base Engineer. He further participated in the opening months of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. His last positions with the 416th TEC were as the G-7 Deputy Chief of Staff, Engineer and G-3 operations.

Returning to active duty in 2007, he served as the United States Army Corps of Engineers Liaison Officer to the Customs and Border Protection under the Department of Homeland Security. His duties included designing and constructing several border patrol station expansions to handle the 2000 agent increase and to work with the Engineer Construction and Support Office (ECSO) to construct 660 miles of border wall and barriers along the United States southwest border. He retired from active duty in April 2010 with 32 years of service. His military awards include the Legion of Merit, 2 Bronze Stars, 4 MSMs, the Department of Homeland Security Achievement Medal, and the Corps of Engineers Silver and Bronze de Fleury Medals.

He currently works as the Program Manager for Versar Inc, providing engineering, environmental and professional services to the 88th Readiness Division, Fort McCoy, WI. His business footprint covers 19 states and includes over 280 facilities assigned to the United States Army Reserve (USAR). His post retirement activities include former USAR Ambassador, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Military Outreach Coordinator and Assistant State Chaplain for the Wisconsin American Legion. He resides in Sparta, WI with his wife Dawn, of 41 years. He and Dawn have 3 married children and 6 grandchildren.

Become an active member of the Association and volunteer to support a project or be part of a committee. After COVID 19, the VP will need assistance in setting up our next Annual Meeting and Dinner. Date is still TBD. Consider joining him in this effort if you live in the local area.



BOARD MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS



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Association Board Member Introductions



Lieutenant Colonel (R) Edgar Montalvo: Treasurer

LTC Edgar Montalvo was elected of the 416th ENCOM Association's Treasurer in November 2019. He is a Chicago native and holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Excelsior College, a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Chicago, and a Master of Civil Engineering degree from Norwich University.

LTC Montalvo's career covers over 30 years in the United States Army Reserves starting as a Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP) Cadet at the 416th Engineer Command and included two tours in Iraq serving in the Economic Affairs section of the U.S. Embassy and later managing reconstruction projects for the United States Army Corps of Engineers. He returned from Iraq in 2011 and retired in 2012.

LTC Montalvo worked as a Project Management Professional (PMP) for over three decades in construction and finance, while managing and operating his own international project management consulting firm called Kirkuk Global LLC. They successfully completed multi-million-dollar projects in India, Canada, Iraq, and the United States. Additionally, he worked as an instructor in macroeconomics and accounting at Moraine Valley Community College and currently serves part-time as the Vice President of Finance for Northwest Suburban College in Rolling Meadows, Illinois. Previous professional assignments include Controller, Accounting Manager, Senior Financial Manager, Cash Analyst, and Senior Engineer Technician.

In addition to being a life member of the 416th ENCOM Association, he is also a life member of the Veteran's of Foreign Wars (VFW), the American Legion, and the Reserve Officers Association. LTC Montalvo and his wife, Cecilia, are both graduates of Lane Tech High School in Chicago, where they first met. They have been married for over 35 years and live in Tinley Park, Illinois. They have two adult children, Elizabeth and Matthew.

Letters to the Editor are welcomed!

A new section of the Association newsletter will be devoted to your questions and concerns. What are your interests, concerns or questions concerning the Association? Have concerns about your old unit? The ENCOM? Have interests in the Annual Meeting in Chicago Area or East Coast?

Your concerns can only be answered if you express yourself. Write up your interests and email them for response: (bmitt75@yahoo.com)



BOARD MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS



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Association Board Member Introductions



Lieutenant Colonel (R) Robert E. Mittelstaedt: Newsletter Editor and Historian

LTC Robert E. Mittelstaedt's military career covered 24.5 years and offered a wide variety of engineer experiences at the battalion, TAACOM, FORSCOM and ENCOM levels and retired in 1994. He accepted an early retirement offer as life took on a new direction or two.

LTC Mittelstaedt misses the pace and activities of active military life, He spends most of his time working with the Ohio Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) working up to a Regional Chair position, and is still an active member. He works in my brother's law office dealing with Veterans Affairs paperwork and accounting.

Bob keeps active while reading and staying up with military affairs. He is a life member of the Reserve Officers Association (ROA), Association of the U.S. Army (AUSA), Air Force Association (AFA), and Navy League of the U.S. (NLUS), Military Officer Association of America (MOAA), The Army Engineer Association (AEA), and the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA). Other annual memberships he's involved with include the American Legion (27 years) and the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem (SMOTJ) for 10 years.

During the three years from 1996 thru 1998, Mittelstaedt worked as the Assistant Director of the American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR) in Amman, Jordan, a research 501(c) (3) institute located near the University of Jordan, specializing in archaeological research. In the process, he earned a Master of Arts in Archaeology and Heritage from the University of Leicester, UK in 2002.

LTC Mittelstaedt for twenty years worked in various positions as a volunteer staff member for Wadi Thamad Survey and Excavations (an archaeological field school with 20 to 55 students) near Madaba, Jordan during the summer months. It was sponsored by Wilfrid Laurier University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. Starting as a photographer and excavator, his responsibilities changed to eventually becoming the camp manager, photographer, teacher and problem solver until the project was halted in 2012. After the project closed, he looked south and started doing surveys of the Eastern Desert of Egypt with a geologist who was finishing a book on mines and quarries in 2013. He has been working with the Gebel Silsila Excavation and Survey project on the Nile between Aswan and Luxor. It is a large quarry site with quarries, tombs, temples, etc. Five to six months have been spent in Egypt, supporting the Swedish University of Lund sponsored excavation since 2014 and am on hold because of COVID-19. The geological surveys are also on hold at this time.

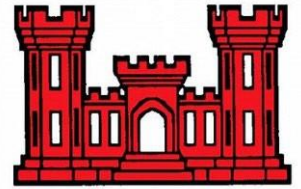
LTC Mittelstaedt joined the 416th ENCOM Association while assigned to the 416th Engineer Command in Cicero, Illinois, but dropped out upon retirement. At some point in time, he received a copy of the Association newsletter and re-joined as a life member. A year ago or so he sent in a member update for the newsletter and shortly thereafter found myself as a volunteer to create newsletters and manage historical files.

Comments and suggestions always welcomed.

Do you like to write? Want to contribute to the Association? E-Mail your interest to bmitt75@yahoo.com). The Association looks to have a very busy future with planned quarterly newsletters. We can use a volunteer writer or two to assist. To start things out complete a member update and let us all know of your experiences.



ASSOCIATION MEMBER STATUS UPDATE



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Association Member Status Update



The Association would like to know what you, as an Association member, are doing since retirement in a short biographic summary. The format is not specific as we will tailor your input if needed but content will remain much the same. To encourage submission of your data we have developed a series of questions to help gather your thoughts. Draft your paragraphs and submit them. Size is approximately one page as seen in this newsletter but a little more or less is welcomed.

Here are a few of the thought creating questions or topics:

- a) Provide your name and address, email address and Phone
- b) What have you been doing since retiring from the Army/DAC
- c) Summarize key events in your military career
- d) Comments on your family and community
- e) Retirement hobbies or activities
- f) Assignment(s)
- g) add photos with caption if possible

Summarize your life after retirement and provide highlights of your military experience, enhanced with family experiences and what future plans do you have, in a few paragraphs. Length is up to you but an internet page should be the goal. See other bio updates in previous newsletters or introductions above. Expect some editing. There is no prescribed format. Feel free. Be Bold! One member submitted his update recently. Thank you!



Lieutenant Colonel (R) Gary H. Turner

He retired in 2004 and left full time employment at that time as well. He has 10 grand children and that occupies most of his time. As most others have found, he still works part time to stay busy, supplementing retirement and just enjoying life. Performing construction inspections and auditing concrete plant operations fills in his spare time.

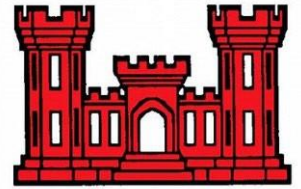
LTC Turner's career covered 28 years in the Army Reserve with the last 10 with the 416th Engineer Command. His civilian jobs included serving as the Facility Engineer for Army Aviation Systems Command in the United States Army Corps of Engineers, St Louis District and the Chief of Transportation of the City of St. Charles, Missouri. His latest occupation is as a Special Consultant for Hanson Professional Services Corporation.

Gary's favorite time in the military was as the Team Leader, Facility Engineer Team of the 416th when the mission was to inspect, improve and renovate Army Reserve Centers. It was a job where the effects of your work could be seen and appreciated by the using units. During 1996 and 1997, he served as the Assistant Chief of Staff, Engineer, 416th ENCOM, FE, TDA.

When not a grandpa or a part time engineer services provider, he builds and operate model HO trains, developing the scenery and layout for trains.



416TH THEATER ENGINEER COMMAND COVID 19 ACTIVITIES



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This year (2020) started out as any other in the winter, slowly with the normal winter snows and other bad weather. No one imagined that things could get slower in the rest of the year. Then in February inklings of COVID-19 appeared in scattered news items. Before March all activities went from full speed ahead slow to no speed ahead and all went on a strange on-hold status. Activities were cancelled for 3 months, then 6 and now it looks like until the end of the year. The whole concept of time stopping is strange to the military and even stranger for an engineer who likes things on a clear time table with measures of progress and details of project progression. For all intents and purposes 2020 does not exist. Life will not begin until 1 Jan 2021 or later.

Routines have to change and life begins to get uncomfortable but the military and life must go on in some manner. It is difficult to do while not traveling, practicing social distancing and life does not resemble anything in recent memory anymore. What happens to the ENCOM with all on hold? Here in writing and some photographs are a few of the ENCOM activities that have progressed since March.

416TH TEC



**2.45 MILE
RUN
CHALLENGE**

Celebrating 245 Years of Service to the Nation with the Army Birthday. Join the virtual run challenge. It's virtual so you can participate from anywhere, worldwide!

RUN A 2.45 MILE AND TRACK YOUR TIME DURING THE WEEK OF THE ARMY BIRTHDAY. POST YOUR TIME WITH #ARMYBDAY AND TAG @416THTEC

The 245th Anniversary of the founding of the U.S. Army was noted and celebrated with a 2.45 mile Anniversary Run, a virtual run that is. It is a run without a course, without an entrance fee, or even a T-shirt.

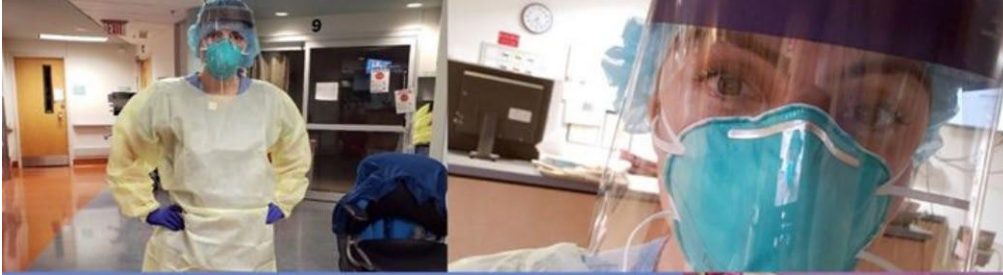
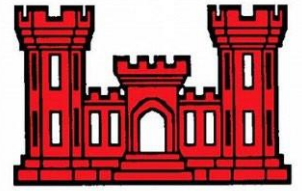
Without meeting or organizing all members of the Army were invited to participate in the run on their own selected course and to post their time and videos to the Army www page, with their unit to facilitate unit recognition. Participation is/was voluntary.

The Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army, Michael Grinston challenged all to participate in celebration of the anniversary on 14 June 2020. The actual number of ENCOM participants is undetermined at this point, but all who participated likely are helped to maintain their fitness to some degree.

During this time of COVID-19 all personnel are encouraged to maintain physical fitness and train as much as possible, to readiness standards. This is a challenge as gyms and athletic facilities are off limits and personnel are limited to us available resources that they have on hand or available in their homes. These guidelines are good for retirees also.



416TH THEATER ENGINEER COMMAND COVID 19 ACTIVITIES

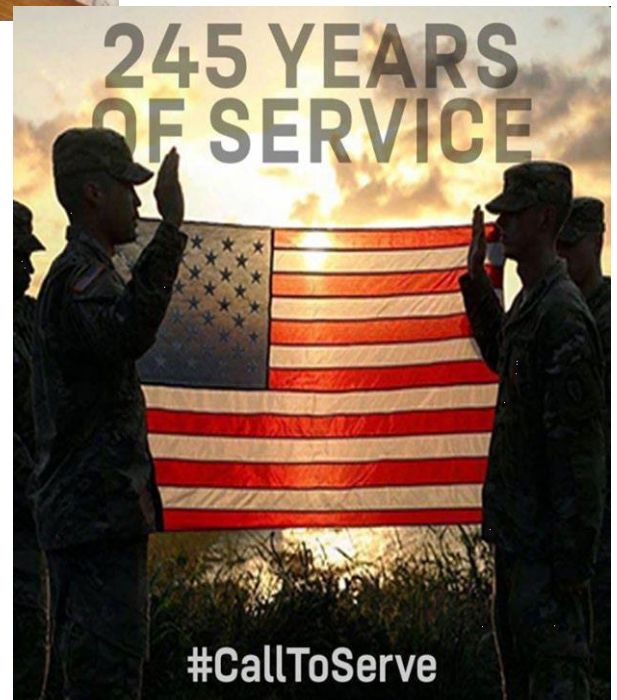


WHAT IT'S LIKE BEING A NURSE WORKING ON THE FRONT LINES OF COVID-19

1LT Banesa Chavez is a nurse at a Chicago Veteran Affairs Medical Center Intensive Care Unit (ICU) during the COVID-19 pandemic. "I provide care for patients when they are most vulnerable, when they can't speak or care for themselves. Through all the uncertainty and their battle against COVID. Some people may say I'm a hero, but I disagree. I take care of America's heroes, the Veterans of the US military. They are the true heroes who sacrificed their lives to fight for our freedom."



In May it was National Nurses Week. 1Lt Banesa Chavez a member of the 416th Theater Engineer Command (TEC) was recognized for her work with the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Chicago during this COVID-19 crisis situation. Her words noted above say it all, about her motives and dedication to the military and veterans. During this time of need, she has stood out and sets an example for the younger soldiers and the younger generations yet in school.





416TH THEATER ENGINEER COMMAND COVID 19 ACTIVITIES



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416th Theater Engineer Command 2020 Best Warriors

Noncommissioned Officer

SSG Cuttler Holland

402nd EN CO (Sapper), 389th EN BN, 647th RSG

Junior Enlisted

SPC Dominic Titterton

HHC, 372 EN BDE

Warrior Awards

After the survey of personnel qualifications, unit commanders of the 416th Engineer Command submitted the names of their best trained personnel for consideration for the 2020 Best Warrior Awards.

Upon further boarding and evaluation two individuals stood out among their peers.

Staff Sergeant Cutler Holland was selected as the Best Warrior Non-Commissioned Officer.

Specialist Dominic Titterton was selected as the Best Junior Enlisted Soldier.

MG Miyako Schanley, Commander and CSM Michael Boyd, 416th ENCOM Presented the awards to these exceptional soldiers. **Congratulations!**

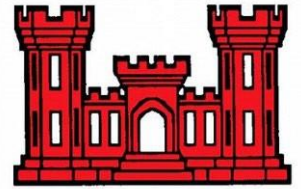
COVID-19 and Battle Assemblies:

Covid-19 changed the meaning of Battle Assemblies. The need to eliminate gatherings and personal contact promoted emphasis upon personal training and On-Line Training. The new term is VBAs or Virtual Battle Assemblies. Travel restrictions also forced these revisions to the meaning of Training Time. There are many options for personal training including using the computer. Suggestions are: Physical Training; On-Line Courses (civilian); Army Professional Development; Army Training Network (ATN); the Digital Training Management Program; Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP) Virtual Events and Soldier/Family Resiliency Training.

Although the Chief of the Army Reserve put Virtual Battle Assemblies in place and much of training is on hold, the individual responsibilities to maintain normal readiness standards has not changed, Individuals need to maintain physical fitness, medical readiness and other administrative requirements of their commands. On-Line resources are available for almost every area of military training and personnel management. The chain of command is still in place, just virtually, with available support and resources, as needed. Supervisors are still responsible for validating individual training and administrative actions. COVID-19 has made normal training days, more challenging to supervise, document, record and guide efforts of the individual soldiers. **Training emphasizes the Individual now!**



416TH THEATER ENGINEER COMMAND COVID 19 ACTIVITIES



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Closed Hospital Converted to an Alternate Care Center

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Jason Proseus
416th Theater Engineer Command

MELROSE, Ill. – A team from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), along with additional Soldiers, and contractors had less than three weeks to convert a hospital to an Alternate Care Facility (ACF) that can hold a total 430 beds.

Time was an extremely important factor, as varying levels of patient care would be needed immediately due to novel corona virus disease response.

Sgt. Maj. John Nelson, 416th Theater Engineer Command, Darien, and Sgt. Maj. Steven Lotz, 86th Training Division, Arlington Heights, both arrived April 6 to assist USACE, along with contractors, all tasked to rehabilitate what was formerly Westlake Hospital, and turn it into an ACF.

Initially, Lotz said he thought there might be communication differences between the USACE and civilian contractor relationship; the general contractor, Bulley and Andrews hadn't worked with USACE since 1944. However, that was not the case. "They all went into this dedicated, and strived to make the deadline while doing a professional job," said Lotz. "Everyone worked side-by-side and understood the mission to be accomplished."

The two sergeants major were tasked to provide quality assurance and quality control of contracted work covering a wide range of construction disciplines including mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems. The pair of reserve engineer soldiers also assisted with the management to the repairs and upgrades of the heating, cooling, and building automation systems.

"My experience working in the same role for USACE in Afghanistan was helpful, because I was familiar with the systems and procedures USACE uses to manage construction," said Nelson, an engineer from the 416th's general engineering operations cell (GENOC), with several years of experience in both the Army Reserve, and in his civilian career.

"Definitely beyond satisfied with the results, and how quickly everyone got this facility up and, running in the short suspense of time given," said Lotz. "Was glad to be part of this project!"

Nelson explained that the Westlake Alternate Care Facility was turned over to the State of Illinois and the Illinois National Guard April 25, 2020. They will furnish the building, and finish preparations for COVID-19 patients.

The moniker ACF is important to reveal, because this will not be considered a hospital, and will not intake new patients on a walk-in status. Patients will be checked in at hospitals throughout the Chicago area, and then transferred, by ambulance, to the ACF to mitigate overcrowding due to COVID-19.

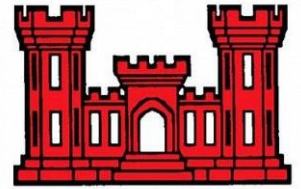
Like Nursing, Some Engineer Work is deemed Critical and performed in COVID-19 Times.



Sgt. Maj. John Nelson 416th Theater Engineer Command (left) and Sgt Maj Steven Lotz, 86th Training Division look over conversion plans. The Corps of Engineers project for COVID-19 Support was completed in 21 days.



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF US ARMY



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National Museum of the U.S. Army update:

As you all know, the museum is located at Fort Belvoir, Virginia and is near completion and opening that was until Covid 19 arrived on the scene. Although the displays and construction were near completion, that work was suspended and all is on hold until the Governor of Virginia feels the state is safe from the infectious Covid 19 virus. The Museum is intended to be the interface between the Army and the general public. Operations intend to present the Army story, since 1775 to the present, honoring those who were a part of history while in the U.S. Army, National Guard or Army Reserve.

That does not mean that all is lost. The Grand Opening Day is still to be determined but much activity is being maintained in a restricted or limited manner. With some humor intended the Museum Gift Shop is still open virtually at <shop.armyhistory.org> offering unique items such as Museum water bottles, hats, coins, shirts, calendars, etc. Want more information check out the web site for your gift needs or just for your own desire to support the Museum in a personal way, before the Grand Opening.

On a more serious note, many of our 416th ENCOM Association members, families or friends have an untold U.S. Army related untold story. As we age and work our lives past our military experiences, we have a tendency to blend and merge memories or even forget memories of significant military experiences or even just humorous events. Your experiences should not be lost. Take a few moments to write up or even just outline your thoughts and record memories over a couple weeks, fill in the details and complete your story/s. The Museum would like to collect your story and might publish it in the "On Point: The Journal of Army History." Do you feel your story is not significant enough? Let the Museum Staff review your work and make that decision. Do you feel you are not comfortable enough to write an article? See assistance then from friends or other members of this Association for support before submitting your article to the Museum. Perhaps you have photographs or can sketch scenes to support your article. It can give you a good feeling to have your experiences recognized and published so that many other Army personnel or supporters can appreciate your experiences. Even if not published in the Journal, your experiences will be preserved in the Museum Archives for future researchers.

Want more? Are you a member and supporter of the Museum? Why not join? Want more information on how to join and become a member supporter? Phone: 800-506-2672 or email: <customerservice@armyhistory.org>

**Latest Museum Update
Construction Continues
Exhibit Preparation near Completion
At Present: COVID-19 Controls Grand Opening
Health and Safety are our Primary Importance**



416TH ENCOM ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM



416th ENCOM ASSOCIATION Membership Form

Past, Present, Working together for the future

I hereby apply for membership/bi-yearly renewal in the 416th ENCOM Association:

- Two-Year Membership (\$10.00)
- Lifetime Membership (\$100.00 One Time fee)
- Associate Membership (\$5.00) (Active Component, Reserve Component, Civilian)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Payment can be made by check or PayPal on the Association website:

<https://416thencomassn.wildapricot.org/join-us>

Please make check payable to the 416th ENCOM Association and mail completed form to:

LTC (R) Edgar Montalvo
8719 Timbers Pointe Drive
Tinley Park, IL 60487

Current Member Change / Update Records Request:

Name: Last _____ First _____ M.

Spouse: First _____ M. _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Home Phone _____ Work _____ Cell _____

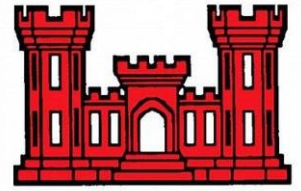
Army Info: Rank _____ Current Status (circle one): Active Reserve Civilian Retired Last

Unit Served: _____ Retirement Date: _____ (State Active if not retired)

Please Note: All Information provided to the 416th ENCOM Association is for Association use only and will be handled confidentially



VA HEALTHCARE APPLICATION & MILITARY 501 (c) (3) ORGANIZATIONS



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VA Healthcare Application Process

In these slow moving COVID-19 times, there is an opportunity to take care of some items that members might have put off during busier times. Are you entitled to Veterans Administration (VA) Health Care Benefits? Applications are easy to prepare and establish your eligibility and get your healthcare for yourself as well as your dependents. See the process summary below and the one form required.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION (VA) HEALTH CARE APPLICATION PROCESS:

The application for Veterans Health Care is rather simple to apply for. Below is an outline of the process but the easiest way to approach the process is to go to <www.VA.gov>. Under Health Care select “Apply Now for VA Health Care” and follow the prompts.

The process consists of 4 stages: a) Gather your needed information (DD214, Most Recent Federal Tax Return, Social Security number and dependent documentation, Insurance Programs and numbers, VA Disability Rating and any other specialized, related documents that relate to other VA benefits or programs that might impact your application for health care benefits; b) Complete a on-line form VA Form-10 EZ <www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/10-10EZ-fillable.pdf> and print copies. Questions on completion, phone (877) 222-8387; your local county or state Veterans Service Officer (VSO) can also assist you. c) Mail form to Veterans Administration, Health Eligibility Center, 2957 Clairmont Road, Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30329; d) Make weekly follow-up calls until response is obtained Phone: (877) 222-8387, Ext 2; and e) Locate nearest VA medical facility and set up an appointment.

CONTACT US or VISIT US ONLINE VA.gov. GIVE US A CALL (877) 222-8387 (press 2)

Military Supporting Non-Profit Organizations

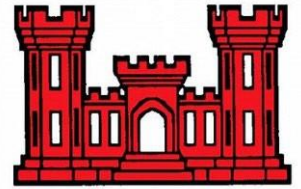
With all the military activity in the last few decades, numerous military and veterans supporting organizations have formed and exist with only one purpose and that is to support the military. Some are small with limited resources but finely detailed supporting objectives. Others have developed from small organizations into very large organizations with goals beyond just supporting individual needs of the military, retirees and veterans. Many are very localized and unique in their support services. In this issue of the association newsletter, and in future issues, selected organizations will be highlighted, noting their support capabilities and services.

If you know of an organization that supports the military and you think might benefit others, submit their names and contact information and their efforts will be highlighted in our pages or complete a summary and submit it for publication in this newsletter.

If you have special needs request support, and you may be directed to a supporting organization. Searching for support at times can be difficult and we will assist in putting you in contact with an agency or activity or organization. These support areas and support needs are constantly evolving. Perhaps the 150 pairs of eyes and ears of our association can assist and expand your search.



MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN



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Military Officers Association of America

Many of us know the MOAA organization, might be members and are aware it is one of the leading organizations watching the legislative progress or regression as budgets are passed and monies expended. It is our watchdog, of sorts, as it sees itself as the protector of the military personnel and a guardian of the national defense of our country. It does all that and more. It sees itself as becoming the leading association advocating on behalf of the uniformed services. Its mission is to positively advocate for the uniformed services. Its dedication is to never stop serving.

As we have found out after retirement, many of us still never stop serving. Your membership in the 416th ENCOM Association is evidence of our continued interest in the military, the Army and our ENCOM experiences. In these organizational reviews, we want to look at the support capabilities that these institutions provide to the individual, or assist in providing or support provided to military families. In this organization, the goals are lofty and concern government direction in support of the uniformed services. An example of the most recent MOAA email notice was concerning the military hospital consolidation under the Defense Health Agency and the need to not consolidate hospitals. This response was needed as COVID-19 identified the problems caused by bureaucratic centralization at the Federal level as entities become non-responsive.

We want to look beyond this role and examine their charitable and or support roles. These secondary roles for the organization developed over time and most are continuously growing in size as the military population grows and retires. To facilitate these activities the MOAA created a 501(c) (3) foundation. Through a network of chapters the MOAA maintains grassroots support at the local levels to work with local and national issues.

MOAA's purpose also has grown to include career transition assistance, improved member products, military benefits counseling, educational assistance to children of military families (to include enlisted), and strong involvement in military professionalism activities. Most of these activities are provided through two MOAA sub-organizations:

A) The MOAA Foundation

The MOAA Foundation creates, enhances, expands, and supports high-impact, proven-successful programs and services that enable the nation's uniformed service members and veterans of all ranks and their families to maintain a quality of life reflective of their selfless service to America. The foundation funds these programs and services through philanthropic contributions from the American people, corporations, MOAA members along with Councils and Chapters, those who seek to assist members of the military community, and additional organizations that support our mission.

B) The MOAA Scholarship Fund

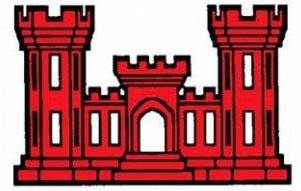
The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) established the MOAA Scholarship Fund in 1948 and to this day continues to provide education assistance to children of both officer and enlisted personnel. Those dependents who meet the requirements and qualifications to receive these scholarships and further educational assistance benefits encompass one of the association's founding principles: education is the cornerstone of a strong democracy. It is funded by donations from MOAA members, Councils and Chapters, corporations, and others with a desire to help military families.

Additional activities are available from MOAA. Membership in MOAA is helpful in gaining support, although not entirely essential. Spouses/dependent support can be provided where needs are present and other guidelines are met.

Let MOAA help you attain your career and employment aspirations! MOAA has partnered with Indeed.com to create a job board, helping connect service members, veterans, retirees, and military spouses with a million employers, for free. Search the listings below to see a wide array of all levels and types of positions, and find your best match. Have questions, or want to learn more about MOAA's Job Board? Check out: www.moaa.org, or indeed.com/help.



MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN



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Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) continued

Educational Assistance is available in many forms. See if any fit your needs and if appropriate, apply.

Application Details and Requirements:

Applicants for a program must be planning to attend an accredited college or university as full-time students. All loans, scholarships, and grants are for students seeking their first undergraduate degree and are awarded for no more than five school years. No loans, scholarships, or grants are available for graduate-level studies.

General Eligibility: Applicants must be under 24 years old. Applicants must have a parent eligible for MOAA membership or be children of active duty, Reserve, National Guard, or retired enlisted military personnel. If the applicant served in a uniformed service before completing college, his or her maximum age for eligibility will be increased by the number of years he or she so served, up to five years. Applicants must have a high school GPA of 3.0 or higher. Children attending U.S. military academies and academy prep schools are not eligible. If selected for any Educational Assistance program, the sponsoring parent must have a paid MOAA membership throughout the college years and, if applicable, until the loan is repaid. Male applicants must affirm they have registered or will register for the Selective Service (by accepting the terms at the end of the application).

Selection Criteria: We evaluate students based of their scholastic ability (1/3), extracurricular activities (1/3), and financial need (1/3). The applicant provides this information in the online application.

Process: We notify semifinalists in mid-March, and they must submit supporting documentation. We notify finalists in early June, and they must submit proof of MOAA membership as appropriate and a fully executed promissory note.

a) Loans:

Interest-Free Loans: This is our main program. The interest-free loans are renewable annually for up to five years of full-time undergraduate study. The interest-free loan program currently provides a \$7,000 loan per student each year. Students selected as loan recipients and their sponsoring parent must sign a promissory note before receiving funds. We disburse funds electronically in two increments: one-half in early August and one-half in mid-December.

b) Scholarships:

American Patriot Scholarship: Limited to students who qualify for the interest-free loan program and whose military parent has died on active service or is receiving Traumatic Service members' Group Life Insurance (T-SGLI) payments. Currently, students receive scholarships of \$7,000 each school year.

c. Grants:

Designated Scholar Program: We consider all loan recipients for this program. Students chosen receive a \$6,500 interest-free loan and a \$500 grant named by the donor. Students must correspond with the donor or their designee each fall.

Senior Grants: We notify current loan recipients entering their final year in college of these grants in January of their junior year. Students who believe they are eligible for these grants and who do not receive an emailed link to the application should email edassist@moaa.org for additional information. Recipients of Senior Grants become ineligible for further Educational Assistance programs. The number of grants awarded varies from year to year.

General John Paul Ratay Educational Fund Grants: These grants are limited to children whose military parent retired and subsequently died. Students qualifying for a loan who meet the criteria of a Ratay grant are automatically considered. Students who believe they are eligible for these grants and who do not receive a request for supporting documentation should email edassist@moaa.org. Funding for this grant is limited, so we might not award these annually.



MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN



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Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) continued

We disburse scholarships and grants in early August. Students may only receive one type of Educational Assistance each school year. For more information about the scholarship program, including how to donate, visit www.moaa.org/scholarship.

For other financial aid resources, and more information about MOAA member-only discounts on programs to prepare for college entrance exams such as the SAT and ACT, email edassist@moaa.org. Funding for this grant is limited, so we might not award these annually. We disburse scholarships and grants in early August. Students may only receive one type of Educational Assistance each school year.

MOAA offers a lot of possibilities for educational support packages if you have student age children. Membership can be a valuable resource. Contact: www.moaa.org

Note: MOAA offers grants for MOAA Chapters to apply for up to \$5,000 for local veterans support groups in their local areas, due to COVID-19 caused issues.

Donation procedures and application procedures are noted at the MOAA www.moaa.org web site.

Engineer Memorials

During this period the Association has lost no members.

416th ENCOM Association Newsletter “Castle”

This digital publication is distributed to the Association members, semi-annually or quarterly in the future. Its purpose is to inform members and interested parties in the activities of the Association and of the 416th Engineer Command (ENCOM). It offers unofficial information to interested parties. Any replies to this newsletter should be directed to the Editor, Robert Mittelstaedt, bmitt75@yahoo.com and will be handled appropriately and forwarded to appropriate parties. Suggestions, recommendations and draft article submissions are welcomed.



ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS



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416th ENCOM Association Board Members Tenure Years – November-2019 thru October-2021

President Scott Shrader	srs.shrader@gmail.com
President (Elect) Robert Chevas	robertas1@juno.com
VP Membership Knute Weick	kwikair69@hotmail.com
VP Membership (Assistant) Edward Evans	eevans3747@aol.com
Treasurer Edgar Montalvo	edgar.montalvo@comcast.net
Treasurer (Assistant) Ken Yoshitani	kenyoshitani@gmail.com
Secretary Jon Casillas	pavlovasdad@cs.com
Newsletter/Historian Robert Mittelstaedt	bmitt75@yahoo.com
Newsletter/Death Notices Robert Carter	robert.t.carter.jr@gmail.com
Past President Robert Stanek	robert.stanek@comcast.net
Director at Large (Senior) Robert Heine	bobheine@sbcglobal.com
Director at Large VP Programs-Activities John Gessner	jaggessner@charter.net
Director at Large Gerald Meyer	gmeyer3131@yahoo.com
Director at Large Eastern Chapter Lee Pryor	leejprior@me.com
Director at Large Michele Marsden	michele.marsden@hotmail.com
Web Master (Non-Voting) Shaun Murphy	slyan132@gmail.com

Next Issue of the CASTLE will be a Christmas Issue!

The next issue of this newsletter is planned for December 1, 2020 and quarterly thereafter.

For suggestions, recommendations or to submit an article < bmitt75@yahoo.com >.

For article submissions, please use MS Word.

For photo submission, please use JPEG.