



416TH ENCOM ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

“THE CASTLE”

Volume 21, Number 1, SPRING/SUMMER/FALL-2021

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ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Association President

Robert E. Chevas

Feb-2021 thru Oct-2023



First, I would like to introduce myself to the members of the 416th ENCOM Association. I have a strong connection to the ENCOM Association as I worked full time as the Staff Operations and Training Specialist from 1994 to 1999. That is when the ENCOM consisted of only the 416th ENCOM Headquarters and the Facility Engineer Group. I was employed with the engineers when the 416th ENCOM was located in Chicago and moved to Darien. In 2007, I returned to the 416th ENCOM as it was transitioning from the ENCOM to Theater Engineer Command, first as the Staff Training Officer and later as Staff Training and Operations Officer, before retiring from civil service in 2014. I was fortunate as a reservist to be a primary staff officer for most of that time, the exception of the year I served as the commander of the 372nd Engineer Brigade located at Fort Snelling, Minneapolis, Minnesota in 2011-2012.

My goals as I transitioned quickly to the Association President are:

- 1) The 416th ENCOM Association, having amended its Constitution in 2020, is now federally recognized as a tax-exempt public charity by the IRS. Consequently, donations made to the Association are now, within limits established by the IRS, eligible as a tax deduction. This process, through the determined efforts of past and present Board of Director members, is nearing completion. I want to ensure this tasking is completed fully to enhance our new mission of helping fellow engineers.
- 2) It has always been the goal of the 416th ENCOM Association to serve our Reserve Component Soldiers, civilians, families, employers, and friends who support a strong engineer element in our nation's defense. I want to continue this goal by seeking greater interaction between the 416TH TEC and the ENCOM Association, limited lately by the current pandemic.
- 3) To actively seek new members in the Association. The reason I joined the Association was to maintain contact with the Soldiers and friends I made while assigned to the ENCOM/TEC. I was shocked at how few members attended the previous ENCOM Association annual in-person dinner. As we increase the out-reach, let's increase member involvement too.



ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

1) With the 416th ENCOM Association certified as a 501 c (3) federal non-profit charity, there is the need to add six committees to help run and develop the Association. Committees will have a chair person and up to four additional members to accomplish the committee's objectives. Committee functions include developing operational guidance for procedures, conduct committee business, research objective targets, maintain monthly meeting minutes, report to the Board of Directors, ensure Association compliance with the Association Constitution and By-Laws, and fulfill legal requirements where necessary. Additional duties added as needed as the functional details are developed. Below are the six committees:

Committee #1 – Development and Fund Raising
Committee #2 – Communications and Outreach
Committee #3 – Disbursements

Committee #4 – Strategic and Long Range Planning
Committee #5 – Membership and Recruitment
Committee #6 – Core Documents (Constitution, By-Laws, Officer SOP and Vision & Mission Statement)

For the immediate future, the existing Board of Directors will assist with the assumed committee duties until additional Association members volunteer to fill these positions. Volunteers are needed for all six committees. Requirements to join one or more of the committee are that the Association member must be an active member in good standing. The member will help develop and plan the committee's duties and activities. Applicants may contact any Board of Director member via the email addresses listed at the end of this newsletter to apply for committee membership. The letter should indicate which committee you would like to be involved with and sent to the Membership Committee and the Board of Directors.

2. 416th TEC DINING OUT 25 SEPTEMBER 2021 canceled

416th Theater Engineer Command (TEC) Dining Out scheduled for 25 September 2021 at the Carriage Greens Country Club in Darien Illinois HAS BEEN CANCELED DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS.



ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Continued

416TH THEATER ENGINEER COMMAND (TEC) DINING OUT

WHEN:

Saturday, 25 September 2021
6:00 P.M. Cocktails (Cash Bar)
7:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M Dining Out

WHERE:

Carriage Greens Country Club
8700 Carriage Green Drive
Darien, IL 60561

COST:

\$45.00 per person (non-refundable)

MENU:

Family Style, Consisting of:
Roasted Sirloin of Beef Au Jus
Boneless Breast of Chicken Limon
And Penne with Vodka Sauce
Classic Mashed Potatoes
Roasted Vegetable Medley
House Salad with Dressing and
Freshed Baked Bread
Coffee and Tea

DESSERT:

Ice Cream and Cake Combo

ATTIRE:

Military
Mess Dress or Dress Blues
Class A with Bow Tie
Civilian
Coat & Tie or Evening Dress

SEND TO: (by 17 Sept 2021)

416th Theater Engr Command
ATTN: Command Group
10S100 South Frontage Road
Darien, IL 60561-1780
(list Rank, Name, and Guest)



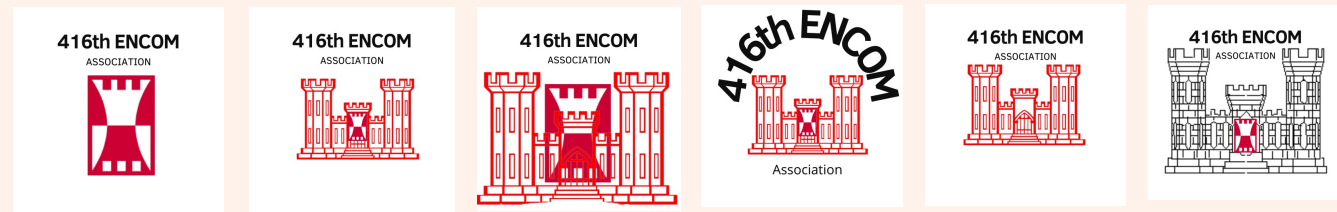
ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Continued

3. 416th ENCOM ASSOCIATION LOGO/EMBLEM

The 416th ENCOM Association is looking to develop a new and unique logo that takes into consideration our updated vision, mission, and objectives. Our charitable status pushes the requirement for a distinctive and novel logo that will be easily recognizable and provide for our new organizational identity as we move to help the engineer community. Association members and their families are invited to submit a logo with that displays a new design or any new suggestions to the Membership Committee. They will develop these new designs and or suggestions in a symbol representative of the 416th ENCOM Association. We ask that you please include a brief paragraph or two to explaining the design elements and how it supports the new Association. Suggestions will be reviewed during future board meetings.

Below are some samples already submitted. Feel free to explain and develop as you desire.:



4. 416TH ENCOM ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER 6 NOVEMBER 2021

The 416th ENCOM Association Annual Dinner is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, 6 November 2021 at the Argonne Lodge in Darien, IL. More specific details are pending and will be sent out in a separate email later this month. Expected start time will be around 5 PM for cocktails and with the dinner schedule to start around 6:30 PM.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Details provided by:

Association Secretary

Robert L. Stanek



(NOTE: Membership status report based on data as of 31 July 2021)

152 Total Membership

120 Lifetime Members

4 Honorary Members

(LTG Robert Flowers, Mr. Leon Ardelean, MG Glenn Lesniak, CSM Robert Dills)

24 Biennial Members (active)

4 Biennial Members (i n-active)

Interesting statics about the membership:

27 Numbers of states with active members living in

Distribution by Rank or Status:

LTG - 2	COL - 57	CPT - 1	SGM - 12	SFC - 2	Civ - 2
MG - 14	LTC - 27	CW4 - 1	1SG - 1	SSG - 3	
BG - 6	MAJ - 4	CSM - 13	MSG - 6	SGT - 1	



TREASURER'S REPORT

Details provided by:
Association Treasurers
Edgar Montalvo



Monthly Treasurer's Report

<u>Period Ending</u>	<u>7/31/2021</u>
Beginning BOA Statement Balance (see notes)	\$ 6,164.15
Revenue:	
None	\$ -
Revenue Sub-Total:	\$ -
Expenses:	
Credit card processing fee to Wild Apricot	\$ -
Expenses Sub-Total:	\$ -
Closing Balance:	<u>\$ 6,164.15</u>
Notes:	
None	
Expense Outstanding:	
Donation to Midwest BBQ for the Brave	\$ 500.00



TREASURER'S REPORT

Continued

Details provided by:

Association Treasurers

Edgar Montalvo



Can We Lose Our 501(c)(3) Status? By: Edgar Montalvo, Treasurer

The short answer is yes, tax-exempt organization can lose their status. Now that we are a federally recognized 501(c)(3) organization, there are a few things we should know about going forward so we can remain in compliance with IRS regulations and not jeopardize our tax-exempt designation. Specifically, the IRS lists a half dozen way organizations typically lose their status.

Private Benefit	Political Activity	Annual Reporting Obligations
Lobbying	Unrelated Business Income	Operating in Accordance with Stated Exempt Purpose

Private Benefit - The Association activities or finances cannot be directed towards benefiting an insider like a member of the Board of Directors; instead they must be centered around a charitable purpose. If a 501(c)(3) organization engages in private benefit or inurement, it could lose its tax-exempt status, and the individual benefiting could be subject to a penalty excise taxes.

Lobbying - Although a charitable organization can do *some* lobbying, it is limited and cannot be a substantial part of its activities. Specifically, organizations will be regarded as trying to influence legislation if it contacts or urges the public to contact members/employees of a legislative body to purpose, support, oppose legislation, or if the organization advocates for the adoption or rejection of legislation.

Political Activity - Tax exempt organizations are prohibited from engaging in political activity, which includes campaigning for, or against, any candidate running for any political office. They may invite a candidate to speak at an event – if they also provide equal opportunity for each political party a platform to share their beliefs.

Unrelated Business Income (UBI) - According to the IRS, UBI is the income from a trade or business regularly conducted by an exempt organization and not substantially related to the performance by the organization or its exempt purpose or function. If more than an insubstantial portion of a tax-exempt organization's income is coming from UBI, than its 501(c)(3) status could be in jeopardy.

Annual Reporting Obligations - After organization obtains 501(c)(3) status, the IRS uses Form 990 (Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax) to ensure that those organizations are using its finances for charitable purposes. Specifically, it allows the IRS to determine if the organization is continually meeting the public support test, that it is remaining organized for charitable purposes, and that it is not operating for the private benefit of an individual within the organization. Additionally, if an organization does not file as required for three consecutive years, it automatically loses its tax-exempt status.

Operating in Accordance with Stated Exempt Purpose - Tax-exempt organizations are expected to operate according to the purpose under which it was formed. If an organization decides to pursue a different tax-exempt purpose, it must inform the IRS as to this change. Fortunately, we have applied for tax-exempt status under the most broad and flexible public charity category. So as long as our activities and finances remain focused toward a charitable purpose, we should be okay.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Details provided by:

Association Chaplain

Robert Carter



Back when many of us served, getting copies of current FM, MTP's and TM's meant that someone had to order them, and then you wrote your name on it, kept it safe to have on hand and use when needed. Soldiers today can simply go to the Army Publishing Directorate page on the web and download them, <https://armypubs.army.mil/>.

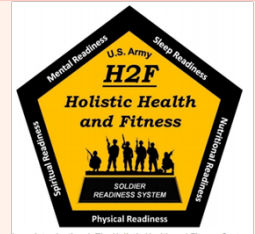
"Administrative publications-Army regulations, DA pamphlets, and HQDA policy notices-published in FY19 and beyond are now available in eBook format. This new format will enable the user to read the publications on portable devices, such as smart phones and tablets" (<https://armypubs.army.mil/News/news.aspx>, 08 AUG 21) as well as many being available as audiobooks. This allows Soldiers almost instant access to get the "right" answer, or see what steps need to be taken.

I can remember being out on Lanes and getting a question from the OC/T and having to dig out the MTP, read and follow each step to ensure that it was done to standard so we were a "T" or "Go". Now they can pull them up on a tablet or smartphone, carrying way more knowledge that I could fit in a ruck. One of the many ways our Soldiers today are able to work smarter.

One of the updates that's worth your read, whether retired or still serving is FM 7-22 Holistic Health and Fitness, https://armypubs.army.mil/epubs/DR_pubs/DR_a/ARN30714-FM_7-22-000-WEB-1.pdf.

For those who have not grown up following the guidance on nutrition and sleep from health class, did not participate in team and/or individual athletics, and are still working to develop constructive means to flourish this is a primer for success. 244 pages that provide strategies for Physical, Nutritional, Mental, Spiritual and Sleep Readiness.

Providing more tools than the old yearly surveys we would take and helping provide guidance so that the different agencies, Surgeon, Medics, Behavioral Health, Master Fitness Trainer, Master Resiliency Trainer, Chaplains and our Command Teams can structure guidance and training to help prepare our Soldiers for the challenges that they will face.





CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Continued

Details provided by:

Association Chaplain

Robert Carter



Anyone who competed in college and had all the support that comes at that level a lot that is heard may sound familiar. For those who have not done so this is a tool that helps them see how all aspects of health combine to get us to our peak levels of performance. Soldiers serving today will see these areas emphasized by the key personnel at the BDE level tasked with supporting this training.

The program element for the H2F System is the doctrinal description of how leaders will implement the H2F System in their units. The program includes the five domains of physical readiness, nutritional readiness, spiritual readiness, mental readiness, and sleep readiness. The doctrine provides the foundation for all Soldier readiness programs. It is the standard to optimize Soldiers' performance as they move about the Army and the battlefield.

The physical programming includes a much broader range of physical readiness training modalities than has previously been described in doctrine. It includes programs such as Army Water Survival Training, Running Skill, and Pregnancy and Postpartum Physical Training. The program also includes nonphysical domains of readiness.

Nutritional readiness emphasizes eating for performance in garrison and operational settings. Spiritual readiness is contextualized for all Soldiers and their leaders against the Army's moral and ethical fabric without regard for specific religious beliefs or traditions. Mental readiness includes techniques to improve cognitive thinking skills, emotional control, and interpersonal skills. Sleep readiness directs Soldiers on the proper dosing and techniques for maintaining the health of their most important body part—the brain." (<https://armypubs.army.mil/News/news.aspx>, 08 AUG 21)

There are also additional resources to help leaders who want to build these programs and do not have the experience or personnel on hand to support that training, ATP 7-22.01, Holistic Health and Fitness Testing, https://armypubs.army.mil/ProductMaps/PubForm/Details.aspx?PUB_ID=1020966, and ATP 7-22.02 Holistic Health and Fitness Drills and Exercises, https://armypubs.army.mil/ProductMaps/PubForm/Details.aspx?PUB_ID=1020967.

Just as we heard the stories from athletes who had trained to compete in the Olympics this Summer, Soldiers moving forward will have guidance now to help them address and prepare across multiple domains of fitness to be ready to execute their missions.



EAST COAST CORNER

Details provided by:

East Coast Chapter Rep

Lee Pryor



The East Coast Chapter of the 416th ENCOM Association is working tirelessly to have an Association Reunion and Meeting at the U.S. Army Museum at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia. The facility recently opened and closed again due to the resurgence of COVID-19 in the area. Because of the unpredictability of the disease, responses to any governmental actions, museum openings or varieties in the disease, the Association has decided not to have any East Coast functions in 2021.

For planning purposes, anticipate the next East Coast Chapter Association Reunion and Meeting will be in the Spring of 2022, at the National Army Museum facility. The date is still to be determined. For the 2022 festivities, the plan is to invite all Association members to attend and enjoy the event and of this phenomenal museum site. In addition to the Association members an invitation will be sent to the Theater Engineer Command (TEC) and its units to join the festivities. A gala event is being planned for 2022. Reserve your space in the spring of 2022 for this event.

With the appearance of virtual meeting capabilities like Zoom or Microsoft Teams in everyone's schedules, the Association is planning on conducting future Zoom meetings for the East Coast chapter members. A schedule or topics has yet to be set for these meeting. More info on these efforts will be made available as completed. Links to the TEC activities and units will be made available as well. That program is still under development,

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE U.S. ARMY

The National Museum of the U.S. Army is physically closed because of COVID-19. The Museum Virtual World is still open and very active. They offer a lecture series with programs changing daily. Also offered are programs presented by museum staff and many Army related topics. For a quick orientation to the virtual resources available check out this web site: [Army History.org](http://ArmyHistory.org); TheNMUSA.org; and armyhistoricalfoundation.org.



PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Engineers building Fort McCoy training capacity

By Zachary Mott 88th Readiness Division June 25, 2021

FORT MCCOY, Wis. – Taking a wooded, uneven plot of land and turning it into the first-of-its-kind training site for the Army Reserve allowed engineers from the 416th Theater Engineer Command to make the most of their annual training mission here, June 15, 2021.

USAR Soldiers from several units under the 416th TEC umbrella will be working at Fort McCoy through July in order to build a line of communications bridge, or LOCB, site. Once complete, a proof of concept exercise will validate the site and then, if all goes as planned, it will be used by bridge building units across the Army Reserve.

“The intent here is to provide a permanent site for those bridging units to come in and be able to provide training on their pieces of equipment and to provide force projection to all of our allies overseas,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Adam Herrera, construction engineering technician, 863rd Engineer Battalion out of Darien, Ill.

The construction project is broken down into separate parts; one is creating a 180-foot by 180-foot pad that will serve as the staging area for the bridging equipment. The second is building the bridge abutments. Another is a 60-foot by 60-foot pad and the final part is building a road connecting the two sides of the site.

“From a construction standpoint, there are so many parts and pieces that go into this,” Herrera said. “A lot of us in the past year, with COVID restrictions, we just haven’t been together in a setting like this. So, this has been really valuable time together to gel and form those teams to make us better and more proficient in our jobs going forward.”

This extended training time allows these engineer companies an opportunity to build the military occupational specialty skills as well as leadership skills within the units.



PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Continued



“This has been pretty fantastic,” said 2nd Lt. Colin Withrow, platoon leader, 996th Engineer Company out of Milwaukee, Wis. “We don’t always get to put blades in ground. A lot of equipment time is how the machines are supposed to work without necessarily being able to push dirt and see it work. There’s a certain amount of trial and error that comes with doing this sort of thing. You can understand the concept, but until you actually do it, you haven’t actually done it.”

For Sgt. Joshua Christenson, a horizontal construction engineer with the 996th Eng. Co., he is using this time to focus more on leading the new members of the unit and passing on his knowledge from previous deployments and civilian experience in the construction field.

“To be able to teach people those skills, it’s challenging but it’s also rewarding,” he said. “The challenge is getting people to understand that. Operating equipment is one of those things that it’s not overnight. Having the right touch, having the feel – is it a feel aspect? Is it a visual aspect? To be able to teach people the skills and watch them learn and see the factor that they want to learn what’s next, that’s a great learning tool for me because I get to lead and mentor as well as see progression and then see my work done in them.”

One of those newly assigned Soldiers to 996th Eng. Co. is Pvt. Luke King who is working as a horizontal construction engineer during his first extended training period outside of advanced individual training.

He said he has enjoyed “learning on equipment that I’ve always wanted to use with a bunch of good Soldiers around me who are working super hard and we’re all just wanting to get it done.”

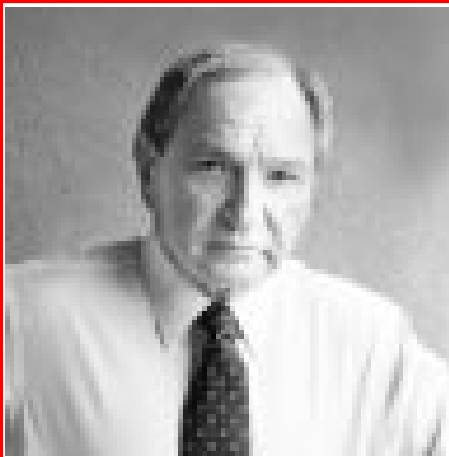
For their time here, the Soldiers are putting in long hours and working hard to building something that will have a lasting impact on the training landscape at Fort McCoy.

“It’s been a couple of years since we’ve had an opportunity to break ground and actually put something in,” Withrow said. “This has been a really great opportunity for them to build it and then it will create the opportunity for bridging engineers to come and re-use this site multiple times.”



CURRENT EVENTS

AFGHANISTAN



George Friedman is an internationally recognized geopolitical forecaster and strategist on international affairs and the founder and chairman of Geopolitical Futures

[When You're Wounded and Left on Afghanistan's Plains | Geopolitical Futures](#)

When You're Wounded and Left on Afghanistan's Plains

Thoughts in and around geopolitics. By **George Friedman** August 20, 2021

I was shocked by what happened in Afghanistan in the past week or so. Not because I didn't expect it – President Joe Biden had in fact announced that the military would leave – but because people seemed to expect the withdrawal to be somehow orderly. The Taliban and the United States had fought a war for 20 years. The U.S. was leaving in defeat. The Taliban rapidly retook control, capturing those who collaborated with the enemy with an apparent joy that the war was over and victory was theirs. I was shocked that people didn't understand that this is what defeat looks like.

Also shocking was America's decision to go to war in the graveyard of empires, as were the decisions of successive presidents to stay there for 2 decades. Wars are not gestures. Staying in a war is the most significant decision a leader can make, and losing is a terrible outcome.

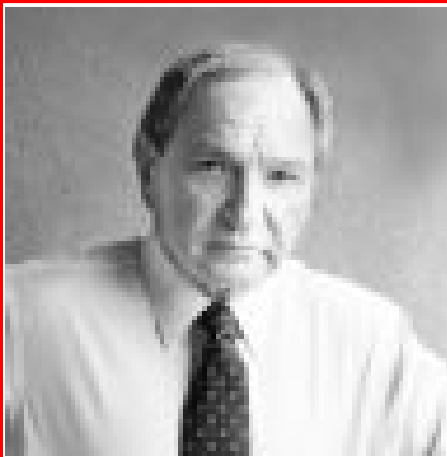
The war began before the dead and wounded on 9/11 were counted. It is remarkable that anyone 25 or younger is too young to remember. The rest of us remember that day. It was the Pearl Harbor of our time, an attack by an enemy that we did not think had the cunning to carry out such an attack. The attack, well organized and brilliantly conceived, was executed by men who were willing to calmly perform in the face of certain death. That sort of will was utterly alien to our own sense of duty, and it raised the question of how to stop people who attack like this. Such men, if they plan as carefully as they planned 9/11, could mount more unanticipated attacks.

I know many who claim they were not terrified by 9/11. They are lying to themselves. The nation as a whole was terrified, and those who actually weren't were out of touch with reality. The worst part was that we didn't really know what al-Qaida was, or how many more cells it had living among us. We feared that the next attack might be far worse, using chemical or nuclear weapons. If 9/11 could happen, then anything could happen.



CURRENT EVENTS

AFGHANISTAN (Continued)



George Friedman is an internationally recognized geopolitical forecaster and strategist on international affairs and the founder and chairman of Geopolitical Futures

This is how the war in Afghanistan began: in a wave of terror that gripped the country. I remember going to a meeting the day the airlines started flying again, sitting and watching my fellow passengers. They, like me, were planning what they might do if someone rose and headed for the cockpit. In those early days, we were all living lives that could not be sustained. We all wanted to do something. Since we are Americans, we went to meetings.

The people demanded action from the president, who, rightly or wrongly, had been blamed for failing to protect the country. So he did the only thing anyone could think of: He tried to capture Osama bin Laden, the leader of al-Qaida, who was believed to be in Afghanistan. The U.S. knew a lot about Afghanistan, having worked with the mujahedeen to defeat the Soviets. It picked up bin Laden's tracks and sent in CIA operatives who had been part of the war against the Soviets, some special operations forces, and a few Marines far away from the action. There was no plan for a war, only a raid to get him, dead or alive.

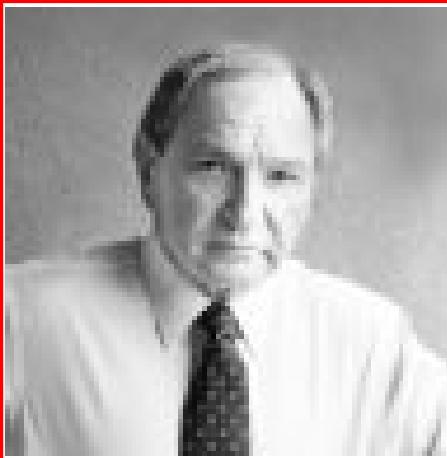
The operation was never going to work. Bin Laden's intelligence network was better than Washington's. Warned of the operations against him, he escaped into Pakistan at Tora Bora. That told me two things. The first was that the Pakistani ISI, its intelligence service, was prepared to provide sanctuary to bin Laden. And that told me that a significant part of the Pakistani government would be prepared to influence events in Afghanistan, particularly since the geography of the Pashtun people spilled over the Afghan-Pakistani border. The United States had allied with the Pakistanis to create the mujahedeen to defeat the Soviets. Now that group, still linked to Pakistan, was moving against the United States. Whether the Pakistanis lied to the United States or drifted into opposition to the United States, Washington's only potential ally, and a critical one at that, was not going to provide its full support.

The second thing it told me was that the U.S., having failed in its primary mission of capturing bin Laden, was not going to do the logical thing and move the fight elsewhere, but would follow its rule book of "nation building." It worked in Germany and Japan after World War II, the leaders thought, so it would work in Afghanistan too.



CURRENT EVENTS

AFGHANISTAN (Continued)



George Friedman is an internationally recognized geopolitical forecaster and strategist on international affairs and the founder and chairman of Geopolitical Futures

When the U.S. goes off on one of these moral reform missions and fails, the logic is to leave. When it leaves, it looks like the United States was defeated – because the United States *was* defeated. Leaving after losing bin Laden’s trail would have been logical, but then people would be demanding to know how the president lost him, as if presidents are more than onlookers in a covert war. Still, putting the distance of time between the failure at Tora Bora and leaving, the action was transformed from a manhunt into a war of transformation and redemption – of the Afghans.

The media has condemned Biden for his supposed incompetence. Implicit in that is that there was another way to handle ending the war. The thing is, there is no competent way to end a really stupid war. One day you just end it. Ideally, the president makes a rout look like victory. Talking heads like me might marvel at how incompetent he is, without saying how we would have done it differently. In the end, the only way to have avoided the final fiasco was to continue the war. Once it was clear we were leaving, the Taliban were going to open an all-out offensive. What else would they do?

The entire national strategy was each president keeping the war going so the next president had to bite the bullet. After 20 years, the bullet was bitten, and the end looked the only way it could. The chaos of the end was hard-wired into the system. We all believe we could have done better.

The amazing thing is that having made Afghanistan as hard as possible for the Russians, we didn’t grasp that Afghanistan is not a place to devastate and nation-build. The Taliban believe in what they believe and are prepared to die for it. They do not have our moral values, not because they don’t know them, but because they have contempt for them. And beating them on their own turf won’t happen. They live there. They are not going anywhere, not in 20 years or 100. We can cite the fate of women or those who worked for us, but we lost the war, and we don’t get a vote.

Rudyard Kipling would have had fun with American policymakers and their critics. He wrote a basic truth about Afghanistan: “When you’re wounded and left on Afghanistan’s plains, and the women come out to cut up what remains, jest roll to your rifle and blow out your brains and go to your gawd like a soldier.”



COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

The initial setup of the Association committees has been started with a goal to complete in the next 12 months. The Board of Directors (BOD) are tentatively filling the six different standing committees until more Association members can be found, this will include the committee chairperson (as selected by committee members). As these committee member positions are filled, the BOD members will turn over their seats to the new committee member. This process will help in the development of each of the committee's guidelines and operating procedures. The Association needs your participation and expertise. Each term for each committee should be for two years, but no restrictions on longer terms. Evaluate each of the committees open and match with your particular interests, then submit a letter of interest to any BOD member (listed on last page).

Development and Fund Raising Committee: Edgar Montalvo and Michele Marsden

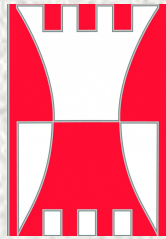
Communication and Outreach Committee: Bob Stanek

Disbursement Committee: Edgar Montalvo and Robert Chevas

Strategic and Long Range Planning Committee: Eric Larson, Scott Shrader and Bob Stanek

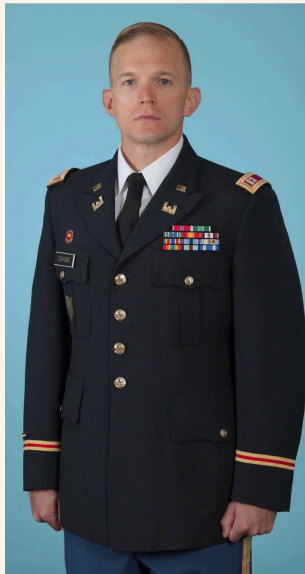
Membership and Recruitment Committee: Knute Weick, Ed Evans and Bob Stanek

Core Documents (Constitution, By-Laws, Officers SOP and Vision & Mission Statement: Edgar Montalvo and Bob Stanek



COMMAND ACTIVITIES

USAR winner of General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award



CPT Tyler Siskowic is one of 28 selected company-grade officers from across the Army, National Guard and Army Reserve to win the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award for Calendar Year 2020. The award recognizes company-grade officers and warrant officers who demonstrate the ideals for which General MacArthur stood:

Duty, Honor and Country and promotes and sustains effective officer leadership in the Army.

Although the award was in 2020 this information was released on 30 June 2021. This award is significant and is an indication of the dedication and professionalism maintained within the 416th Theater Engineer Command (TEC).

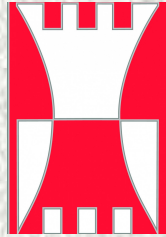
Army Reserve Soldier of the Year



Command Sgt. Major Andrew Lombardo, left, Army Reserve command sergeant major, stands with the winners of the 2021 Army Reserve Best Warrior Competition: NCO of the Year: Staff Sgt. Jonathan Chacon, U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command; Soldier of the Year: Spc. Nicholas Kyne, 416th Theater Engineer Command. Best Squad honors went to the 416th TEC.

Spc. Nicholas Kyne, 402nd Engineer Company, Houston, Texas recently competed in the United States Army Reserve Command (USARC) Best Warrior Competition (BWC) and won Soldier of the

Courtesy: DOD, DVIDS Service,
June 2021



COMMAND ACTIVITIES



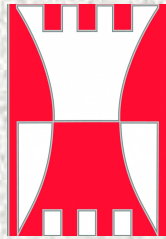
Army Reserve team competes in Best Sapper Competition

CPT Manuel Ramirez and 1LT Johnathan Trent with the 428th Engineer Company complete the poncho raft and swim task during the Best Sapper Competition at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri on 1 May 2021. The task requires each two-man team to swim with a Rucksack wrapped in a poncho 500 meters across a river. The intent is to water proof the equipment to ensure it remains dry during the water crossing.

DOD DVIDS Service

416th TEC wins Army Exceptional Organizational Safety Award

The 416th Theater Engineer Command is awarded the Army Exceptional Organization Safety Award for outstanding contribution to Army Reserve Safety during Fiscal Year 2020 DOD DVIDS Service



COMMAND ACTIVITIES

416th TEC Holds Resource Fair

Mr. Michael Rogers, V.E.T. Center, talks with a Soldier during the 416th Resource Fair on Saturday, June 5th at the Parkhurst Army Reserve Center. The purpose was to provide information on retirement support information and provide veterans resource contact information supporting smooth transitions to retirement and civilian life. Several organizations provided up to date and timely information to soon transitioning soldiers





VA HEALTH CARE INFORMATION

HAND HEALTH AND PHYSICAL FITNESS

Hand health? Who considers this during your normal day? An article in the MOAA Military Officer magazine August-2021, pointed out the importance of your hands and grip strength.

Think about how many times today you've used your hands. Sometimes we take these important tools for granted. Strong and healthy hands can prevent finger, forearm and wrist injuries. Although fingers contain some of the smallest joints of the body, maintaining strength is critical for routine tasks such as picking up groceries, heavy household items and even children and grandchildren.

Grip strength and dexterity can often be improved by implementing some conditioning exercises. Remember to work the hands throughout their range of motion. You should practice grasping both larger and smaller objects alternating between a claw grip with fingers and a pinch grip with fingers and your thumb.

Pay attention to your grip strength and take care of some of the underused muscles and tendons in the hands as it can lead to overall better health.

The short article was written by a former SFC Class Steven, a fitness consultant and trainer.

This article and the source, MOAA magazine just points to one of the many sources of information that are available on maintaining yourself in retirement, and the need to consider all your exercise needs to stay fit and healthy in post retirement. Have you developed your personal exercise plan? If not, why not? You do not likely need a trainer. The Army taught you about conditioning years ago.....remember?

For healthcare issues and questions and your veterans benefits: www.va.gov/healthcare.



SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

ARMY HISTORICAL FOUNDATION:

Supporting organization for the US Army Museum

www.armyhistory.org

ARMY ENGINEER ASSOCIATION (AEA):

Supports Army Engineer history and supporting activities

www.armyengineer.com

ASSOCIATION OF THE US ARMY (AUSA):

Supports legislative efforts for US Army issues

www.ausa.org

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MOAA):

Supports legislative efforts for the military

www.moaa.org

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USEFUL DIGITAL LINKS

(hold the CTRL key and click on BLUE web link to go to website)
(copy of the web site is listed after the blue web link if link does not work)

ARMY ECHOES

US Army's official newsletter for retired Soldiers, surviving spouses and families. The mission of Army Echoes is to educate retired soldiers and their families about their benefits and changes within the US Army, while supporting the concept of being a "soldiers for life". Past issues are available at:

[US Army | Soldier For Life](https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement/army-echoes) (https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement/army-echoes)

PAY MANAGEMENT

Retired Pay Questions or Problems: <https://mypay.dfas.mil>

RETIRED SOLDIER HANDBOOK

[2021 US Army Retired Soldier Handbook.pdf](https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Documents/static/2021%20US%20Army%20Retired%20Soldier%20Handbook.pdf)

(https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Documents/static/2021%20US%20Army%20Retired%20Soldier%20Handbook.pdf)

[Microsoft PowerPoint - DA Retirement Planning Briefing Slides as of 3 April 2020 \(army.mil\)](https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Documents/static/Pre/DA_Retirement_Planning_Briefing_Slides_as_of_9_April_2020.pdf)

(https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Documents/static/Pre/

DA_Retirement_Planning_Briefing_Slides_as_of_9_April_2020.pdf)

(these are downloadable PDF documents)

REPORT DEATH OF A RETIRED SOLDIER Call 1-800-626-3317, Army Casualty Assistance and Mortuary Affairs Operations Division

TRICARE

<https://tricare.mil/Contactus/securelogin/DSLlogon>

MY ARMY BENEFITS

[The Official Army Benefits Website](https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil) (https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil)

416th TEC FACEBOOK PAGE

[416th Theater Engineer Command | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/416thTEC) (https://www.facebook.com/416thTEC)

ARMY SERVICE CAREER

1-888-276-9472



416th ENCOM ASSOCIATION Board of Directors (Nov-2019 thru Oct-2021)

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robertas1@juno.com

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416th ENCOM ASSOCIATION CASTLE PUBLICATION INFORMATION

THE “ CASTLE”

The 416th Engineer Command (ENCOM) Association Newsletter, the “Castle” is a digital publication distributed to Association membership and selected organizations or individuals, quarterly. The purpose is to inform members and interested parties of the activities of the Association and the 416th ENCOM/TEC and other articles of interest. It offers unofficial information. Information on other organizations and logos are used, with permissions. Replies concerning the information included, as well as critiques, comments, suggestions, and letters to the editor should be addressed to the editor: Robert Mittelstaedt. The publisher reserves the right to publish or not, in whole or in part, all letters received. Specific comments to co-editors (Board of Directors) can be addressed to them as well, as this publication summarizes concerns and activities that they are involved with and have written about. Copyright © 416th Engineer Command Association.

The issues of the Castle” are scheduled for April 1, July 1, October 1, and December 1, 2021.

Suggestions, recommendations and articles can be submitted to <bmitt75@yahoo.com>.

For article submission, please use MS Word.

For article submission request use of the Times New Roman font, 12 point characters, if possible.

For photograph submission, please use JPEG.



416th ENCOM Association

"past and present, working together for the future"



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION October 2021 – September 2023

I hereby apply for membership/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 mailing a check or using your credit card 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 60487-8624

Current Member Change / Update Records Request:

Name: Last _____ First _____ M. _____

Spouse: First _____ M. _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Contact Info: Home Phone _____ Work _____

Cell _____

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

Last Unit Served: _____

Retirement Date: _____ (If not retired please state active)

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

We are now a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit Association and we are here to help those in need!

**416th ENCOM
ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION
FORM**