

Robert Chevas opened the 5 August 2023 ENCOM Association meeting @ 0901 hrs. (9:01 am) with the Roll Call of Officers. Robert reported all Officers are either present or accounted for.

Roll Call of Officers

President	(COL-Ret)	Robert Chevas	Present
President (Elect)	(COL-Ret)	Eric Larson	Present
Vice President of Membership	(CSM-Ret)	Knute Weick	Present
Treasurer	(LTC-Ret)	Edgar Montalvo	Present
Secretary	(SGT-Ret)	Chip Wood	Present

Association Board Members - 2021-2023

The Association Board is appointed by the incoming President, and each serve a two-year term effective in conjunction with the incoming President. The term begins at the annual dinner, November of every odd year.

Position	Rank	Name	Contact
President	COL (R)	Robert Chevas	email a board member
President (Elect)	COL (R)	Eric Larson	email a board member
Vice President (Membership)	CSM (R)	Knute Weick	email a board member
Treasurer	LTC (R)	Edgar Montalvo	email a board member
Secretary (Meetings, Minutes & Memos)	SGT (R)	Raymond B "Chip" Wood Jr	email a board member

Past President

Past President remains a vital part of the continuity between successive boards and is eligible to vote.

Position	Rank	Name	Contact
Past President (P19-21)	COL (R)	Scott Shrader	email a board member

Directors At Large

Appointed by the President and serve a two-year term concurrent to the Association Board.

Position	Rank	Name	Contact
Director at Large (Senior) (P09-11)	MG (R)	Robert Heine	email a board member
Director at Large (Programs & Events) (P13-15)	COL (R)	John Gessner	email a board member
Director at Large (Eastern Chapter)	COL (R)	Lee Pryor	email a board member
Director at Large (Eastern Chapter)	SGM (R)	Michele Marsden	email a board member
Director at Large	COL (R)	Gerald Meyer	email a board member
Director at Large (Newsletter)	LTC (R)	Robert Mittelstaedt	email a board member
Director at Large (Historian & Death Notices)	CH (COL)	Robert Carter	email a board member

Director at Large (VP Membership Assistant)	CSM (R)	Ed Evans	email a board member
Director at Large (Co-Treasurer/501c focused)	COL (R)	Ken Yoshitani	email a board member
Web Master (non-voting position)	Mr.	Shaun Murphy	email a board member

Directors at Large attending today's (5 August 2023) Monthly Meeting.

Robert Chevas – Present
Eric Larson - Present
Knut Weick - Present
Chip Wood – Present
Edgar Montalvo – Present
Michele Marsden – Present
Lee Pryor – Present
Gerald Meyer - Present
Shaun Murphy - Present
Ed Evans – Present
John Gessner - Present
Robert Mittelstaedt – Member Present
John Erickson – Member Present

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes of the meeting from June and the Ad-Hoc meeting last month in July. Robert and Eric commented that Chip did a good job. Any other comments? Do I hear a motion to approve the minutes? Ed Evans - proposed a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Edgar Montalvo seconded it; the minutes are approved as public.

Financial Report with Edgar Montalvo, he commented that he was logging into the Bank of America account and wasn't quite ready to give an updated balance of the account. He asked if we could wait a few minutes. Robert stated that was fine.

The next item on the agenda is the 4th of November meeting at The Argonne. John, could you tell us where you are regarding the November meeting? John stated the information has been sent out. I sent it as an e-mail showing a picture of Gen Heine, also that the TEC Commander may also speak. John also stated that when you send in the money, send it to the PayPal account. I stated that it should be sent to Zelle – usar416thencom@yahoo.com so that Edgar will receive the payment. John asked who sends out the BLAST e-mails regarding the dinner? Robert replied that Shaun will send out Blast e-mails to all members. John will contact Argonne to determine the last date for individuals attending the dinner in November to sign up. John Erickson stated that there should be a cutoff, for people that have paid and decide at the last minute they will not be able to attend, to receive a refund. John will let everyone know when the last date will be. He also stated regarding the Punch Ceremony that Gen Heine would like to participate. Does anyone have any input regarding this? POW Ceremony will have a table. The ENCOM wine glasses will be used if we can find enough, which may be a problem since we are not sure where they are at present, so we may have to use the wine glasses that Argonne provides, we'll see what happens.

Attached is the Dinner Announcement.

1. Please review for suggested changes. Once complete, it needs to be sent to the ENCOM mailing list.
2. I have the checks and our payments that will be going to Ed Montalvo.

3. Ed and I will need to coordinate the list. We need a complete list by 1 Nov for security.

Also attached in the draft agenda.

1. Additions/Deletions?
2. Need to coordinate with the TEC to see if the CG or designate to present the "state of the 416th."
3. Do you want to do the engineer punch ceremony?
4. I don't think we have enough ENCOM wine glasses. Do we want to order some or use Argonne provided glasses?
5. Need slate of 2023-2025 officers to present to the membership for affirmation.
6. Any changes to by-laws to vote on?
7. Time in agenda for outgoing and incoming president remarks?

John asked about the new slate of officers for the 2023 – 2025 Years. Eric stated that all the officers are in place for the next 2 years, but the position of "President-Elect" is not yet filled. We are currently looking for someone to step up.

Lee brought up to John Gessner, is there a place on the agenda for the presentation of the Certificate and the Replica Brick that will be displayed at the US Army Museum in Virginia? John stated that he had presented all the info needed currently. He dropped off indicating that he had another meeting to attend.

It is with great sadness that I announce the death of Master Sergeant (Retired) Norman Sabah who passed away on 30 July 2023.

MSG Sabah died from complications of Parkinson's disease. Norman and his wife Ezra moved to Istanbul, Turkey two years ago. He joined the Army Reserve in 1957 and retired in 1999 at the age of 60. MSG Sabah was assigned to the 416th ENCOM from the early 1990s until his retirement in June 1999. He was the staff chemical NCO for the ENCOM and a member of the 416th ENCOM association for over 20 years. MSG Sabah is survived by his wife Esra Sabah. MSG Sabah was 84 years old. Our Association President, COL (Retired) Robert Chevas and his wife flew to Istanbul and attended his funeral and burial on 31 July 2023.

The photo below is from 1998, taken at the back of the Parkhurst Reserve center at Battle Assembly (Drill at that time). DCUs were the standard uniform back then for the ENCOM headquarters as the unit was deeply involved in CENTCOM missions and exercises. (Picture is Below)

Robert stated that he would circle back to the financials with Edgar. He stated that we had a substantial amount of funds. He is currently trying to put everything together.

Next on the agenda is membership with Ed. He stated that he had scrubbed everything. Ed stated that he contacted everyone by text, e-mail; voice mail; or spoke to them on the phone. He sent to Shaun a list of people that he had contacted, which was about 80% of membership. Knute states that only 1 had been up for a 2-Year membership then John interjected those 18 members had a 2-Year membership up for renewal there is 20 altogether. Knute asked the board if we should send out an e-mail for membership request then another one at 30-day reminder. John said currently we have the e-mail request 30 days out then at 15 days out is another e-mail; "That was nice about the new system that it already kicks out the reminder notice". I stated that I had a conversation with John Erickson who had called me about 2 or 3 weeks ago. I told him that I had paid \$100 dollars for a lifetime membership.

Lee interjected that since we're talking about the plaque for the Museum if you had talked to Mr. Murphy at the TEC to make sure they were agreeable about the plaque for the US Army Museum to

work with them on agreeing on raising the money for the plaque, because it would be a joint plaque. We will have to work with the TEC and ENCOM together to make sure all concerns are covered. Is there a reason to raise \$10,000 for 2 plaques then Robert stated "no.

We must consider that going through my e-mails I say we have about \$1,500 Dollars already saved up for the plaque. I interjected, "I have donated \$250.00 for the plaque" Lee said thanks Chip. Lee also said that from the July Ad-Hoc meeting it was determined that we'll have a separate line for the donations received for the plaque. Once you have determined that the TEC is onboard, we should get with Knute and see what kind of design we would like on the plaque. Lee asked Knute if he was willing to take on the task of designing the plaque, since you did the coin, are you willing to design our plaque for the TEC & ENCOM? Knute agreed that he would design the plaque. Eric said it would be a good idea to make the plaque for the 416 ENCOM rather than the TEC, can we see the ones that are out there, when you're talking about the ENCOM Association versus the 416th itself, many of those plaques out there are donated by other groups for the units that were out there. That's the way they are associated. I would encourage us to do it the same way. It's for the 416th but it's from the 416th ENCOM Association. There are good examples for us to do that. Lee stated that he has an example and the requirements for the plaque that he has downloaded, and he will e-mail Knute all the information. Lee also said that he took a couple of pictures of the plaques when we were at the museum in May.

Robert said he will contact the TEC to see who's going to the dinner. Knute stated that for those who did not buy any coins,..... the everyone chimed in that they would like some coins so I will bring them to the November dinner.

The one thing that came out after the agenda was the recovery phone number for the website, I believe John Erickson mentioned in his e-mail to me that it should be changed to Eric Larson. John said it was for the Gmail account. Eric does see a problem since it switches over every 2 years.

Lee said we had been toying with the idea of what to do with the funds we have accumulated. Due the objections with the legal eagles at the TEC, we ran into some roadblocks for our original ideas to be helping out our soldiers in need so one of our alternatives we had at the July Ad-Hoc meeting, Eric suggested that we could offer scholarships. I came up with the idea that we could contact the Scholarship Program leader with my veterans organization the 11th Armor Cavalry, his name is Mike Rafferty and I wrote an e-mail to him. He was nice enough to call me late this week. We had a nice discussion. They are a much larger organization than what we have, they usually give out 50 scholarships a year at about \$3,000 apiece. Their scholarships are offered to children, and as the 11 Cav Veterans are aging out, they now offer them to grandchildren as well. The first year they did that they had 160 applications. Then you must decide who gets it. I think we should be talking about just \$250 as we had originally discussed. Do we open this to children of members of the TEC or even the grandchildren? If that's the case, we must determine the criteria for the scholarships.

Maybe we could approach one of the high schools near the TEC who are the target recipients as a step in this process, and of course if the TEC is agreeable with us doing this. Are there any legal problems with this approach? Robert stated that his VFW worked thru the high schools in the area near Western Springs and LaGrange, Illinois they would submit them to their counselors, the high school would select the winner and they would have to submit an essay or report then we would give them the check.

Eric chimed in, I think we need to draft something, with all the challenges, rather than decide how we are going to give it out. We can engage another group and get that to the TEC Attorneys to see if they are accepting of this approach. The biggest thing is that the financial stuff could impact their security clearances which we need to take into consideration. This might have an impact. The Scholarship could

be subjected to your application stating why should you get it we could put some type of criteria in there and pose that to the TEC then we could pick the number and the amount we can give per year. Then we could decide at the beginning of the year. There are a few categories like the service member, spouse, children and even grandchildren. This could apply to current or former members of the TEC. We could open that as much as we wanted to try and support as many people as we can that are looking for that on how that criteria could be. I reported there are 3 high schools in the area near the ECNCOM (Hinsdale South High School, Darien – Westmont High School, Westmont, IL and Bolingbrook High School, Bolingbrook, IL) also I stated I think all of them have ROTC Programs. Ed agreed, let's look at a ROTC students. We need to keep the target program.

We should initially target the 416th Personnel. And we wait to see what the 416th Legal Eagle has to say about our new proposal.

Where are we on the next newsletter, do we have a deadline for the publication on the next newsletter, Michele stated not that I am aware of, I will probably need the rest of August to get it done and aim for September. It was stated by Lee that it should be done by 15 September then Rober chimed in that would be a good date since our next meeting is 9th of September.

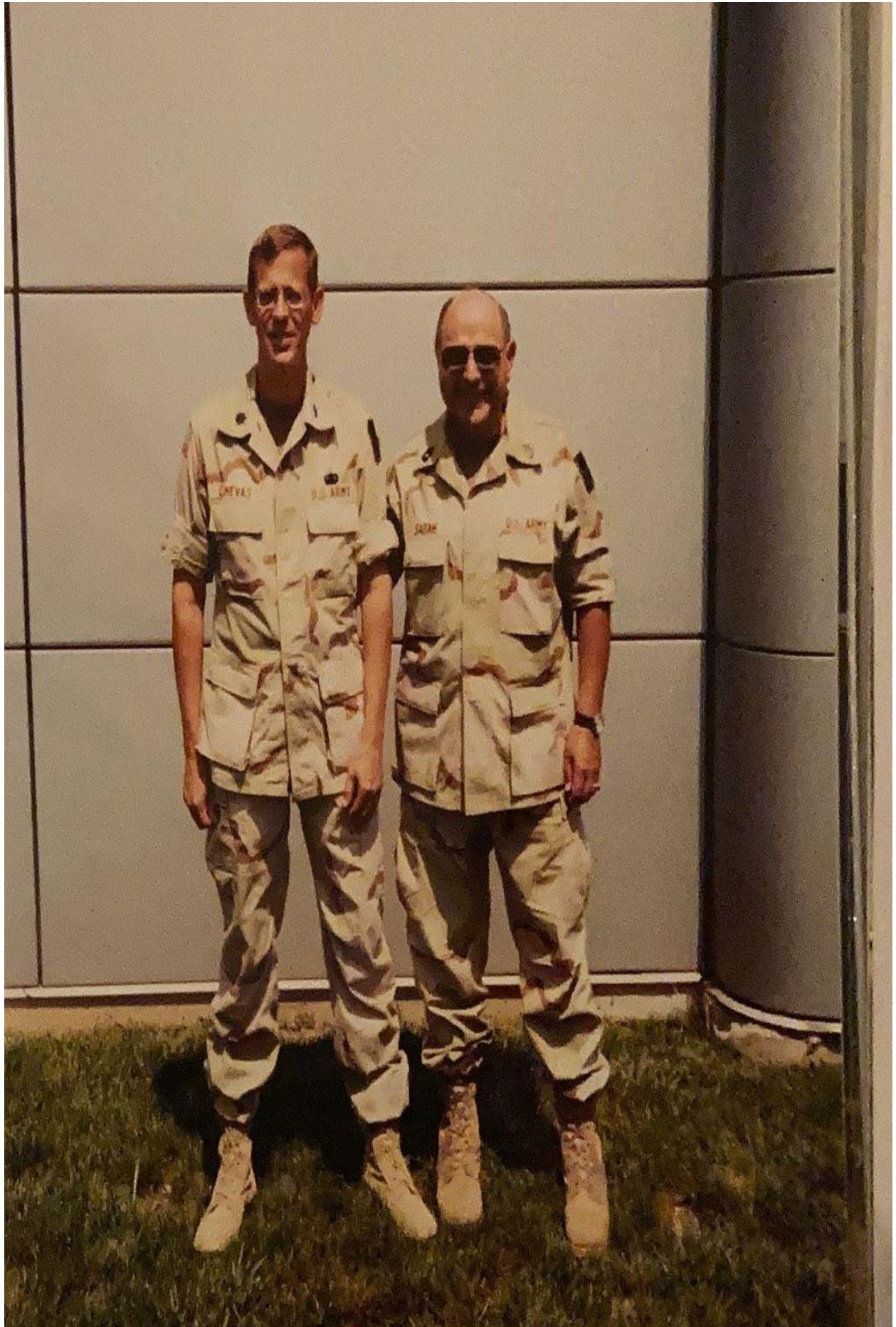
John Erickson stated that the renewal fee for the website is coming at the end of September for the next 2 years will be increasing to \$1,530.00, that's an expense you need to think about.

If there is no further business, can I get a motion to adjourn the meeting? Ed Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting; do I hear a second? Knute Weick seconded it. All those in favor say "Aye" everyone responded with "Aye".

5 August 2023 Association Meeting was adjourned at 0951 Hrs. (9:51 am)

Next Association meeting will be on 9 September 2023 @ 0900

The next Get Together will be on November 4, 2023, at the Unit (Argonne Laboratory) for the Annual Dinner in Darien, IL



416th ENCOM ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

Saturday, November 4, 2023

Cocktails: 5:30 pm

Program: 6:00 pm

Dinner: 6:45 pm

Conclusion 9:00 pm

******PLEASE RSVP no later than November 1, 2023******

ARGONNE GUEST HOUSE

9700 South Cass Ave., Bldg. #460

Argonne, Illinois 60439; phone # 630-739-6000

Please contact the Argonne Guest House directly for overnight accommodations

Program: 20th Anniversary of Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment

Guest Speaker: MG (Ret) Robert Heine

Dinner: Sirloin Beef Medallions, Boneless Chicken Breast, Garlic Mashed Potatoes,

Vegetable, Mixed Greens Salad, Dessert, Coffee and Tea

(Please Advise if Special Diet is Required)

\$50 per person/guest (checks should be payable to 416th ENCOM Association)

Mail checks to:

Edgar Montalvo

8719 Timbers Pointe Drive

Tinley Park, IL 60487-8624

PayPal payment option will be available on ENCOM Association Website

Or Zelle – usar416thencom@yahoo.com

Attire is Business Casual (ties optional) with de Fleury Medals

Questions or additional information: John Gessner, 815-713-7229, japgessner801@gmail.com

NAME: _____

GUEST: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

416th ENCOM Association Annual Meeting

4 November 2023

5:00 pm	Board Meeting	Robert Chevas
5:30 pm	Cash bar reception	Argonne
6:00 pm	Move to seats	MC John Gessner
	Welcome by Argonne	Andrea M. Viel
	Welcome by Association Pres	Robert Chevas
	Engineer Punch ceremony	MC John Gessner
	Introduction of Special Guests	MC John Gessner
	Toasts:	
	Recognition of Fallen Comrades	MC John Gessner
	Invocation before Dinner	MC John Gessner
6:30pm	Buffet Dinner	
7:15pm	Annual Meeting and Special Presentations Association Pres Remarks	Robert Chevas
	2023-2025 Slate of Officers Confirmed	
	Presentation of de Fleury Medal	
	Intro of 416 th TEC CG	MG Brian Miller
7:45 pm	TEC update	MG Brian Miller
8:15 pm	20 th Year OIF Deployment	MG (RET) Robert Heine
8:45 pm	Closing Remarks	New President Eric Larson

PACT Act Filing Deadline for Back Dated Benefits is 9 August 2023

This message is intended for all members of the 416th ENCOM Association who are veterans of the Korean War, the War in Vietnam, the First Gulf War (Operations DS/DS), or the War on Terror with deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. The newly enacted PACT Act expands VA benefits for those who served in these conflicts. Even if you are already drawing VA benefits, the PACT Act expands the list of health conditions that are presumed to have caused these conditions.

While a VA claim for benefits due to a health condition covered by the PACT Act can be made at any time in the future, there is a special deadline approaching for all veterans. If you begin the claim process by filing for VA benefits by 9 August 2023, your claim will be back dated to 10 August 2022. This means that if your claim is approved, your benefits will have assumed to have begun on 10 August 2022. You will receive back benefits paid from the date your claim is approved to 10 August 2022.

You can find more information, and a claim form, at the following web link:

[The PACT Act And Your VA Benefits | Veterans Affairs](#)

For assistance in filing a claim under the PACT Act you can contact a local Veteran Service Officer (VSO), or one of the many veteran organizations (VFW, DAV, Wounded Warrior, etc.) that supports veterans.

You can start the process by submitting the intent to file a claim (VBA-21-0966-ARE) before the deadline of 9 August 2023.

[VBA-21-0966-ARE.pdf](#)

INSTRUCTIONS: Before completing this form, read the Privacy Act and Respondent Burden on page 2. This form is used to notify VA of your intent to file for the general benefit(s). For more information, contact us online through ASK VA: <https://ask.va.gov/> Ask us a question online or call us toll-free at 1-800-827-1000 (TTY:711). VA forms are available at www.va.gov/vaforms