

AFCEA Washington, DC

40th Annual Winter Gala

Thursday, December 10 | 7:30–10:30 PM | Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AFCEA DC Announces 40th Annual Winter Gala

Defense Community's Staple Holiday Event to be Held at New Venue this Year

Washington, DC – November 6, 2015 – The Washington, DC chapter of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) today announced that it will be hosting its highly-anticipated 40th Annual Winter Gala on December 10, 2015. Every year, the Winter Gala brings together senior leaders from the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, Armed Services, intelligence agencies and industry for a night of fun and philanthropy. This year brings a change of venue and will mark the first year that the gala is held at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium in Washington, DC.

In celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the gala's founding, AFCEA, DC will literally be rolling out the red carpet and transforming the elegant Mellon Auditorium into a beautiful "Enchanted Forest." As part of the "Enchanted Forest" theme for this year's gala, the chapter will be displaying giant gingerbread houses, specially themed, which will be donated to the Walter Reed Medical Center, the Fisher House at Walter Reed Medical Center Children's Hospital and the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital. The gala will also be providing attendees with opportunities to fill Santa's Sleigh with unwrapped toys for donation to the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program and to have their photo taken with Marines next to the gift-filled sleigh. In addition to these donations, proceeds from the gala will go towards funding AFCEA DC's promotion of STEM education through its scholarships for high school seniors and its partnership with McKinley High School in Washington, DC.

"AFCEA DC is proud to be bringing together government, military and industry stakeholders in celebration of the winter holidays and to foster opportunities for collaboration among them," said Tim Solms, President of the AFCEA DC chapter. "We look forward to continuing the Winter Gala's 40-year established tradition, which includes our partnership with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program and history of \$2.3 million in cumulative contributions to local student scholarships and STEM programs."

Last year's Winter Gala was attended by nearly 500 people, 30% of whom were military and civilian attendees, including 15 flag officers. Government and military representatives were present from each branch of service, the Department of Defense, Congress, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Defense Information Systems Agency, the Department of Homeland Security, the National Security Agency and a wide selection of civilian executive agencies.

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To learn more about AFCEA DC's 40th Annual Winter Gala, or to register for the event, please visit: <https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/140104/319598/>

About AFCEA DC

AFCEA Washington, D.C. Chapter largely focuses on the Defense Department, intelligence agencies, security and health related offices (DHS, VA, Military Health). Chapter activities include nine monthly luncheons featuring a panel of key speakers, and a scholarship luncheon. AFCEA DC also hosts a Winter Gala that is typically attended by 900 military, civilian and industry guests, and a Military IT Leadership Awards dinner that honors upcoming military IT leaders. The Chapter hosts three large educational summits a year, and has an active Small Business Committee and Young AFCEAN program. The Chapter sponsors approximately 20 STEM scholarships for graduating high school seniors; sponsors two science fairs; awards three science teaching awards to Washington, DC area high schools; and supports McKinley Technology High School in their mission to become a nationally recognized STEM high school. We also provide two Zelinger Awards to McKinley students who exemplify the core values of the institution based on teacher nominations. <http://dc.afceachapters.org/>

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