



Pelican Chapter

Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association
Tampa/St. Petersburg Chapter
P.O. Box 6345, MacDill AFB, FL 33608
www.tampa-afcea.org



Western Region Distinguished Young AFCEAN of the Year

Mary Allison Yourchisin

Tech USA Government Solutions
Western Florida Region

Mrs. Mary Allison Yourchisin is the Distinguished Young AFCEAN for the Western Florida Region. As the Tampa-St. Petersburg Chapter Secretary, Mary Allison is a tireless promoter within AFCEA and the local community. She consistently reaches out and immerses herself in activities that bring others to understand what AFCEA is all about and what it can do for them as individuals or as organizations. She has lead or volunteered as a primary participant for eleven AFCEA and community-related events. Her professionalism, selfless service and outgoing character inspires those around her to do the same.

AFCEA International has over 35,000 members throughout the organization. This distinguished award is only given to 15 people around-the-world each year.



AFCEAN Awards Ceremony February 2, 2010, San Diego, CA



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Over the past 12 months as a Young AFCEAN, Mary Allison was nominated and selected to serve as the Chapter Secretary and has led or volunteered as a primary participant for at least a dozen AFCEA and community-related events including the following:

- Actively involved with monthly coordination of executive meetings and luncheons as well as ensuring all meetings are documented and posted
- Primary Young AFCEAN lead for Tampa TechNet 2009. During this year's Tampa TechNet, Mary Allison volunteered countless hours to promote attendance from corporate sponsors and Young AFCEANs, directly resulting in record breaking attendance and increased chapter membership.
- Pelican Chapter's Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament, March 09. In addition to her efforts during TechNet, Mary Allison was a volunteer at the annual Golf Tournament, responsible for organizing, planning and executing the most successful tournament in the past 23 years, with over 165 players and netting in excess of fifteen thousand dollars towards the chapter's scholarship funds.
- Hope Children's Home orphanage (www.hopechildrenshome.org) Holiday Party, December 2008 and 2009 - As one of our premiere events for Young AFCEANs, Mary Allison organized the past two Christmas events for the Hope Children's Home, coordinating the overall event and gift giving tailored to each individual child from the orphanage.
- Coordinated five Young AFCEAN social events, with attendance in excess of 30 Young AFCEANS per event, to increase awareness and resulting in developing camaraderie and teaming of young AFCEANs within the chapter.
- 3rd Annual Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business and Veteran Owned Small Business Technology Conference, 28 & 29 October 2009 - Mary Allison dedicated two full days at this event in the Tampa Convention Center as a "walking AFCEA booth", visiting with SDVOSB owners in promoting how AFCEA can provide assistance in their efforts in promoting small businesses. Additionally, she targeted SDVOSB whose owners fell into the Young AFCEAN category in encouraging their involvement in the Young AFCEAN program, either here in Tampa or at their respective home station locations.
- LandWarNet - she attended as the Pelican Chapter's Young AFCEAN representative and initiated a connection with Miami chapter's Young AFCEAN program to start developing a regional Young AFCEAN program.
- Operation Helping Hand - Mary Allison has attended monthly dinners at the local James Haley Veterans hospital, bringing encouragement and hope to those recovering in our local veteran's facility. Additionally, she regularly sends care packages for special events and holidays to other VA hospitals throughout the United States
- Wounded Warriors foundation - Mary Allison has been active with USSOCOM's Wounded Warrior Foundation in supporting Special Operations Forces who are recovering from wounds received in Iraq, Afghanistan and other SOF deployments world-wide.



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- Walter Reed Army Medical Center - Mary Allison has actively promoted of other local and regional young AFCEANS to send cards and letters to military members recovering at the medical centers in Maryland
- Young AFCEAN professional development event - Mary Allison attended Lockheed Martin's War on Terrorism educational seminar as a Young AFCEAN chapter representative, contributing to the professional dialogue and discussions during the event.

In summary, Mary Allison is the spirit and energy of the Pelican Chapter's Young AFCEAN efforts. LTG(R) Dubia and COL(R) Stripoli from AFCEA International and COL(R) Ramos, Regional VP for all Florida chapters have reached out to Mary Allison and asked her to become the regional Young AFCEAN, coordinating the efforts of all Florida chapters into a cohesive and coordinated program. Her contributions ensure that our chapter continues to grow and contribute to the local community as well as the future of Communications and Electronics among the Armed Forces. She is a dynamic individual and Young AFCEAN, well-deserving of the recognition of Distinguished Young AFCEAN of the Year.