A Little History...
The Beginning...

• In 1919, Brigadier General Benedict Crowell, Special Consultant to the Secretary of War, realized that there needed to be a method of involving industry with national defense.
Army Ordnance Association

- He founded the Army Ordnance Association (AOA) and became its first president, serving for 25 years until 1946.
- The goal was industrial preparedness, both in peacetime and in time of war.
Recognition

• For his contributions, BG Crowell received the Major General C.C. Williams Gold Medal for Distinguished Ordnance Service.

• This was the highest honor of the Army Ordnance Association, for outstanding service to the Nation and to the Army.
American Ordnance Association

• In 1948, the Association was renamed the American Ordnance Association (AOA), broadening the scope from predominately Army to all the services.

• [As an aside, I became a member in the early 1970’s, working predominately with the Bombs and Warheads Group.]
American Defense Preparedness Association

- In 1973, the name changed again to the American Defense Preparedness Association or ADPA.
American Defense Preparedness Association

- At this time, there was a section on Energetic Materials, that held annual Symposia, producing large, printed volumes of technical papers of benefit to both Industrial and Defense personnel.

- In 1980, Ray Beauregard presented the first Inert Munitions presentation to the Load, Assemble and Pack division of ADPA.
• During the 1990’s, there were separate IM and EM divisions, each holding technical symposia, and documenting their works in large, printed proceedings (but lacking an index and page numbers).

[As an aside, I was the meeting chair in the San Diego IM Symposium. Being frustrated by no index and no page numbers, I started the meeting and then went to my hotel room and using my portable printer, numbered every page of the master document and produced an index.]

• The result was MUCH BETTER!]
In 1997, a significant change occurred. The ADPA and the National Security Industrial Association (NSIA) merged to form the National Defense Industrial Association, or NDIA.

Accompanying this merger was the merger of the Energetic Materials and the Insensitive Munitions committees under the Munitions Technology Division.

This IM/EM committee is what exists today.
IM/EM Mission

• The mission of our committee is to gather technical information pertinent to IM and EM and exchange technical information in an open forum.

• We partner with the NATO Munitions Safety Information Analysis Center (MSIAC) in Brussels, Belgium to further the IM/EM mission.

• Symposia are held every 18 months and every third one is produced by the Insensitive Munitions European Manufacturers Group (IM/EMG), and held in the member country.
IM/EM Chairperson

• It is important to realize that the success of this committee is due to the strong leadership of its chairperson, Mr. Gary Wittmer.

• He has been associated with ADPA and NDIA for over 30 years.

• During the planning for this year’s symposium, he announced that he would be stepping down from his role in the IM/EM committee, and as such, this will be his last conference as the Committee Chairperson.
• So at this time, I would like to invite Gary Wittmer and Major General Barry Bates, NDIA Vice-President of Operations to the stage.
Gary Wittmer

- Under Gary’s leadership, the IM/EM committee has come a long way over the years.
- Industry participation has been high, and the committee meetings exemplify genuine cooperation from all of the participants in getting the administration work completed so we can:
  o develop an agenda
  o select the papers
  o create the brochure
  o and manage all the details of the event
Leadership

• The fact that Gary can shepherd a room full of (wrangling) IM/EM technical specialists at all is a test in patience in itself; that he can get us to successfully deliver a complete symposium agenda is a testament to Gary’s leadership skills.
Thank You to Gary

• On behalf of NDIA and the IM/EM Committee Members, we wish to thank Gary for his tireless support and leadership of the committee.

• He is an unflagging supporter of the nation’s IM/EM program and his tireless leadership over these many years has helped to forge lasting partnerships and strong working relations between the nation’s IM/EM industry and government participants at all levels.
Presentation to Gary Wittmer

• In recognition of this outstanding service, Major General Bates will present the **NDIA GOLD MEDAL AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE** to Mr. Gary Wittmer.

• MG Bates...
NDIA Distinguished Service Gold Medal
• On behalf of the IM/EM committee, we say…

• Congratulations, Gary, on a job well done !!!