

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.

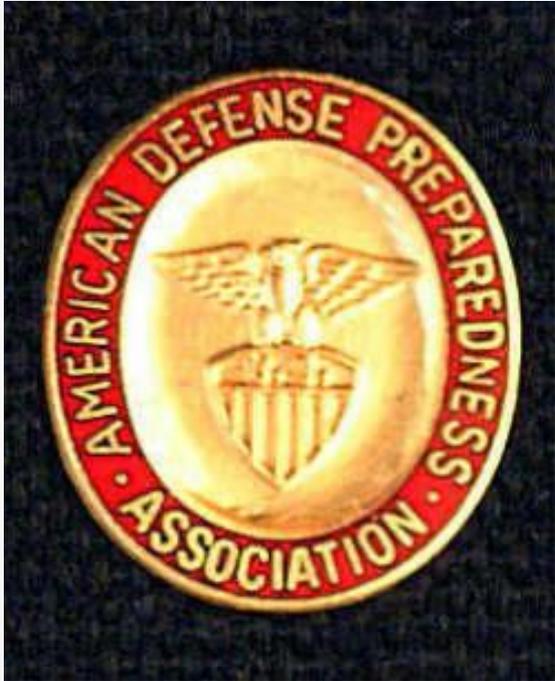
American Ordnance Association

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



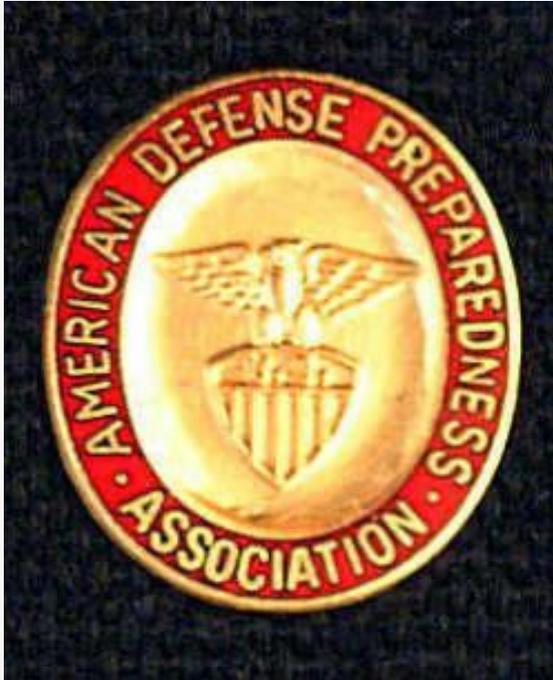
- *[As an aside, I became a member in the early 1970's, working predominately with the Bombs and Warheads Group.]*

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 Beaugard presented the first Insensitive Munitions presentation to the Load, Assemble and Pack division of ADPA.

ADPA (continued)

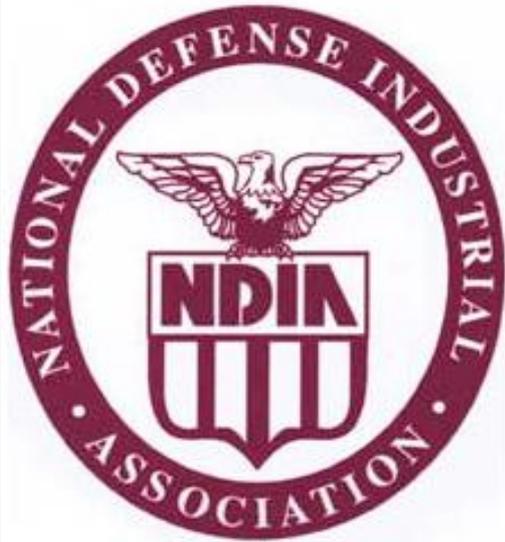


- During the 1990's, there were separate IM and EM divisions, each holding technical symposia, and documenting their works in large, printed proceedings (but lacking an index and page numbers).

[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!*

National Defense Industrial Association



- 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.

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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.

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- **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:
 - develop an agenda
 - select the papers
 - create the brochure
 - 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.

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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...

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NDIA Distinguished Service Gold Medal





- On behalf of the IM/EM committee, we say...
- **Congratulations, Gary, on a job well done !!!**