

# Checkpoint

Monthly Newsletter of  
The Michigan Chapter of the  
National Defense Industrial  
Association

Issue #1 Volume 5

April 2009

## NDIA Michigan Chapter 2008 Events of Interest

ROTC Days at TACOM	TACOM/ TARDEC	Apr 16, 17
ROTC Awards Banquet	Dearborn Inn, Dearborn, MI	April 17
NDIA-MI Member Event	GM Heritage Center	April 28
Speed Networking (WID)	Mgt. Education Center in Troy	May 6
Intelligent Vehicle Ground Comp.	Oakland University	June 5-6
56th NDIA-MI Dinner Meeting	Grosse Pointe Yacht Club	July 17
Ground Systems Engineering and Technology Symposium	Troy Marriott and other sites as required	August 18-20
3rd Annual Fall Business Event	Troy Marriott	Sep. 15-16
NDIA National Combat Vehicle Conference	Dearborn Hyatt	Oct. 12-14
NDIA National—TACOM APBI	Dearborn Hyatt	Oct 14-16

## WID Announces “Speed Networking” Event. May 6

WID announces a “Speed Networking” event on Wednesday, May 6, 2009 at the Management Education Center in Troy. Don’t let WID sponsorship mislead you, men are welcome. Further information and registration is available at [events@wid-mi.org](mailto:events@wid-mi.org).

## President’s Message

Since assuming the responsibilities as President, Michigan Chapter (NDIA-MI) in July, 2008, this office has been a whirlwind of positive activity.

The first thing we are doing is upgrading the Michigan Chapter website which is resident inside the NDIA National website. This will assure timely, user friendly meaningful information available for your use.

Starting with this month's issue of the chapter newsletter, Checkpoint, will be sent directly to you via your email address. Checkpoint was previously embedded in the Michigan Chapter website. From now on, to facilitate relevant, timely, meaningful communications, you will receive Checkpoint directly in your inbox each month.

We are excited to announce a new program! We will roll out a Michigan focused Warrior and Family Advocacy Program as an extension of U.S.A. CARES. The program will go active in July of 2009. It will enable the Michigan NDIA Chapter to provide meaningful assistance to Michigan Heroes and their families who need assistance.

Your Michigan Chapter will host the first annual Ground Vehicle Systems Engineering and Technology Symposium on 18 through 20 August, 2009. We anticipate more than 700 attendees. See Chuck Prikopa’s article in this issue of the newsletter and visit his website for more information.

I hope to see you at the Member Appreciation Event on Wednesday, April 28. Major General Scott West, Commanding General, TACOM-LCMC, will keynote the event. This special event will take place at the General Motors Heritage Center. The GM Heritage is a private General Motors facility and we are pleased that GM is willing to share this fabulous automotive treasure with NDIA.

Paul Curtis

## Ground Vehicle Systems Engineering and Technology Symposium Aug. 18-20

NDIA Michigan Chapter will host the first annual Ground Vehicle Systems Engineering and Technology Symposium 18 -20 August, 2009. The Troy Marriott symposium will commence with a one day main session with national-level speakers. The subsequent 1½ days will see five mini-symposiums highlighting Survivability, Power & Energy, Vehicle Electronic Architectures, Robotic Systems and Modeling and Simulation.

The symposium will conclude with a ½ day round-up session to out-brief each of the technology symposiums listed above. Both government and industry speakers will participate. Proceedings of technical papers presented will be published and provided to attendees subsequent to the event. Details regarding the call for papers supporting the symposium will be forthcoming.

Exhibitor and volunteer opportunities (for planning and support) abound. As always, NDIA-MI events utilize only volunteers. If interested in either, please contact Chuck Prikopa ([chuck.prikopa@baesystems.com](mailto:chuck.prikopa@baesystems.com)).

Chuck Prikopa

## 52nd Annual ROTC Awards Banquet

The 2009, 52<sup>nd</sup> ROTC Awards Banquet is planned for April 17 at the Dearborn Inn. The event recognizes Michigan ROTC program cadets and midshipmen for outstanding accomplishments. For additional information on attendance or event sponsorship please contact Carolann Davis at [Carolann.davis@baesystems.com](mailto:Carolann.davis@baesystems.com) or Don Kotchman at [kotchman@gdls.com](mailto:kotchman@gdls.com)

Don Kotchman

## 17th annual Intelligent Ground Vehicle Competition scheduled June 5-8

The 17th annual Intelligent Ground Vehicle Competition (IGVC) is scheduled for 5-8 June 2009. This annual event features university level autonomous unmanned ground vehicles competing for \$25,000 in cash awards.

Four individual events include the autonomous challenge, navigation challenge, design competition and the Joint Architecture for Unmanned Systems (JAUS) Challenge. IGVC has been hosted by Oakland University since its first year in 1993

This year special high school events will be showcase related technical curriculum for high school robotics programs to include FIRST and Robofest.

39 teams have signed up from 34 universities and colleges including teams from Japan and Canada.

Teams from the US Naval and Coast Guard Academies will compete for the first time. The public is welcome and IGVC can always use sponsors to defer costs of equipment for this all-volunteer event. As part of the Michigan Chapters robotics support to TARDEC, the Michigan Chapter is an annual co-sponsor of the IGVC.

For more information on the rules or history or sponsorship visit the IGVC website at [www.IGVC.org](http://www.IGVC.org).

Jerry Lane

## NDIA-MI Chapter Affiliates with USA Cares, Inc.

NDIA-MI is proud to announce its new affiliation with the military family advocate organization, USA Cares, Inc. USA Cares is a national organization specializing in charitable support to military families through grants, resource coordination, and coaching to military families experiencing challenges associated with military service.

NDIA-MI will leverage its local and regional expertise and resources to provide support through various programs, in particular local assistance to families that contact USA Cares. NDIA-MI's objective to coordinate with USA Cares to have any funds, goods or services generated through this affiliation used to support Michigan families. Further information will be forthcoming.

Larry Rink