



Tony Allen, ARMA Board of Director Candidate

Question 1

Each candidate so far has described the importance of the ARMA Chapter network and the need to engage as a Board more strategically with them. Please provide at least 3 concrete suggestions you will bring to the Board to enhance the support for individual chapters.

Better communication lines – communication works both ways, so better contact with Chapters and better contact with the board for Chapters. A replacement of the regional structure may help with the burden of the CAC having to connect with individual Chapters. We already have a very good CAC but contact needs to be more structured and have some deliverables.

I think enhancing the new SPARK initiative, giving it more exposure and the administration support Chapters will need. Being able to provide the flexibility that some Chapters need to be able to exist when they face the pressure of not having volunteers to fill required Chapter Board positions. Spark is a valuable resource to help with Chapters not folding and leaving members without a local resource to connect with.

Aside from Chapters, I feel ARMA need to focus resources on member engagement more. As the structure of Chapters is hard to achieve in some regions and other countries, ARMA need to have a community for the 'non-chapter' member to give them the same engagement that we are providing to Chapters. Regional SPARK groups or Regional specific events should be considered to help gel the ARMA community.

Question 2

What do you see as some recent major successes of ARMA? ARMA chapters?

What do you see as opportunities for improvements within ARMA and/or ARMA chapters?

In what specific ways do you plan to support local chapters?

How will you bridge the disconnect between the Board and individual members and chapters?

What is one piece of advice you would share with ARMA members?

As I mentioned already the SPARK initiative is a successful idea that can help Chapters that have trouble filling Board Positions. ARMA has had the vision to look beyond the rigid Chapter structure and create an alternative with member engagement in mind. I see this as also a fantastic opportunity for improvement and growth.

I don't feel there is as much of a disconnect as it seems when it comes to Chapters. The CAC do a great job, and I would like to see the CAC be able to offer more support for Chapters in terms



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of the experience the CAC have, but Chapters need to be more proactive in making use of the opportunities they have for engagement with the committees that ARMA create. Even if it isn't perfect or exactly what you feel is needed or even useful, use that opportunity to connect and provide ideas for improvement or even just 'vent' if that's what you require.

My advice would be to take advantage of the community ARMA has as much as possible. You will be pleasantly surprised with the inclusive environment that other ARMA members create. Make friends, find people who are just like you, and don't be afraid to say what you think or feel. The membership can really be a family at times and the collaboration that comes from the environment that the members create can be invaluable at times.