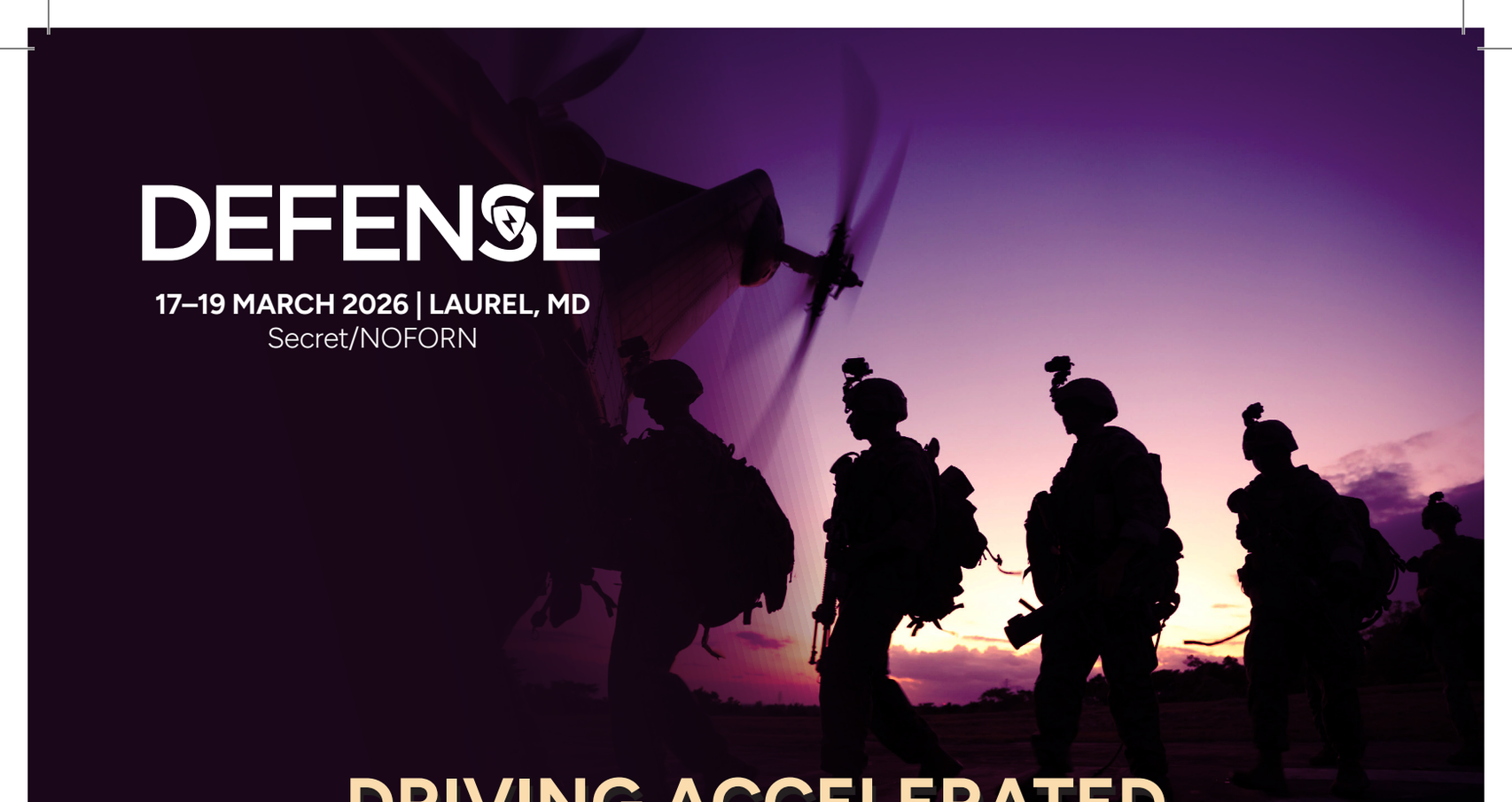

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WELCOME TO DEFENSE

The AIAA DEFENSE Forum 2026 Executive Steering Committee (ESC) and Technical Program Committee (TPC) are excited to welcome you to AIAA DEFENSE Forum. We have assembled high-level, technical, and in-depth discussions centered around the theme of **Driving Accelerated Innovation to the Warfighter**.

We hope the program, the defense and national security leaders, topics, and discussions inspire you. Should you have any questions or comments, please see the AIAA staff at the registration desk, or talk with any of the ESC or TPC members. We welcome your feedback!
Enjoy the forum and make it a great week!

AIAA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All committee meetings will be held in the Kossiakoff Center Classrooms.

TUESDAY, 17 MARCH

6:30 P.M. **Missile Systems TC**

WEDNESDAY, 18 MARCH

6 P.M. **Weapon Systems Effectiveness TC**

6 P.M. **Airborne Directed Energy IOC**

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Chris Reynolds, Lockheed Martin

SIGNATURES AND SENSING
Peter Cross, U.S. Army DEVCOM AvMC

Tim Deschenes, Spectral Sciences, Inc.

SPACE ACCESS AND SPACE SYSTEMS
Michael McFarland, RTX

STRATEGIC MISSILE SYSTEMS
Mark Olmos, Northrop Grumman

Alexander Edsall, Charles Stark Draper Laboratory

SURVIVABILITY
Beldon Lin, Lockheed Martin

SYSTEM AND DECISION ANALYSIS FOR NATIONAL SECURITY
Bradley Steinfeldt, Sandia National Laboratories

Jarret Lafleur, Sandia National Laboratories

Keith Labbe, Navy Strategic Systems Program

SYSTEM PERFORMANCE MODELING AND SIMULATION
Nicholas Mueschke, Southwest Research Institute

Jeff Komives, Modern Technology Solutions, Inc.
Otmar (Nick) Yakaboski, U.S. Air Force AFLCMC

TACTICAL MISSILES
Eleonora (Nora) Dimas, Aerojet Rocketdyne/L3Harris

Trevor Lee, RTX

TEST AND EVALUATION
Nicholas Mueschke, Southwest Research Institute

Jeff Komives, Modern Technology Solutions, Inc.

WEAPON SYSTEM OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE
Nicholas Mueschke, Southwest Research Institute

Jeff Komives, Modern Technology Solutions, Inc.

WEAPON SYSTEMS HISTORY AND LESSONS LEARNED
Eleonora (Nora) Dimas, Aerojet Rocketdyne/L3Harris

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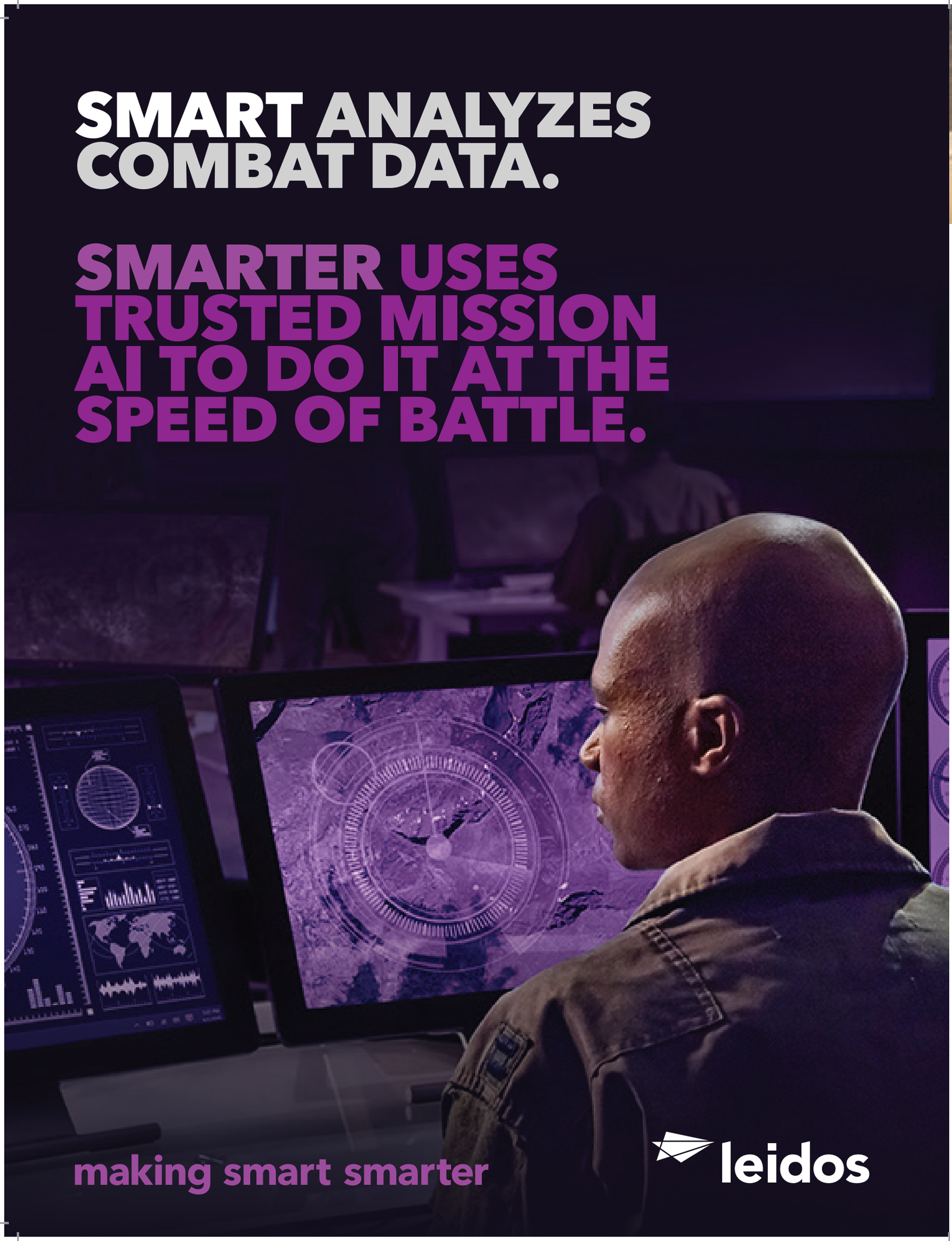

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FORUM OVERVIEW

	TUESDAY, 17 MARCH	WEDNESDAY, 18 MARCH	THURSDAY, 19 MARCH
7:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast	Continental Breakfast	Continental Breakfast
8 a.m.	8-8:30 a.m. Autonomous Systems Operational Context 8:30-9:30 a.m. Collaborative Combat Aircraft Panel	8:-8:30 a.m. Missile Defense Agency Update 8:30-9:30 a.m. Deprtment of War S&T Priorities	8-8:30 a.m. Space Cyber Threat Briefing 8:30-9:30 a.m. Space Development Agency
8:30 a.m.			
9 a.m.			
9:30 a.m.	Networking Coffee Break	Networking Coffee Break	Networking Coffee Break
10 a.m.	GNC-01: Guidance, Navigation and Control I HYTASP-01: High-Maneuverability and Hypersonic Systems and Technologies I SDA-01: System and Decision Analysis for National Security SPMS-01: Modeling of Tumbling Bodies (Invited) SUR-01: Survivability	DE-01: Digital Engineering Case Studies DEW-01: Directed Energy Lasers HYTASP-03: High-Maneuverability and Hypersonic Systems and Technologies III TE-02: Test & Evaluation II	SLS-01: Space and Launch Systems SPMS-04: High-Fidelity Aero Modeling TE-04: Test & Evaluation IV
10:30 a.m.			
11 a.m.			
11:30 a.m.			
12 p.m.	Lunch Available	Lunch Available	Lunch Available
12:30 p.m.			
1 p.m.	AMD-01: Missile Defense and History of Weapon Systems GNC-02: Guidance Navigation and Control II HYTASP-02: High-Maneuverability and Hypersonic Systems and Technologies II SPMS-02: Electromagnetics and Countermeasures Modeling TE-01: Test & Evaluation I	AI-01: Autonomy, Collaborative Engagement, Machine Intelligence, Robotic and Uncrewed Systems I DEW-02: Directed Energy High Powered Microwaves GNC-03: Guidance Navigation and Control III SPMS-03: Mission Modeling and Uncertainty Quantification TE-03: Test & Evaluation III	AI-02: Autonomy, Collaborative Engagement, Machine Intelligence, Robotic and Uncrewed Systems II DE-02: Digital Engineering Modeling & Simulation SS-01: Signatures and Sensing TE-05:Test & Evaluation V WSE-01: Weapon Systems Operational Performance
1:30 p.m.			
2 p.m.			
2:30 p.m.			
3 p.m.			
3:30 p.m.	Networking Coffee Break	Networking Coffee Break	Networking Coffee Break
4 p.m.	Keynote Panel AI on the Battlefield	Comprehensive Layered Defeat Panel	Thoughts on National Security Innovation
4:30 p.m.			
5 p.m.	Evolving Modern Warfare		
5:30 p.m.	Networking Reception		
6 p.m.			

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Attendance at this forum is restricted to U.S. citizens who possess a final SECRET security clearance or higher verified by the Security Office Coordinator.

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A security conference badge is required for admittance to the forum sessions. Each attendee will be required to produce a driver's license, military I.D., or company photo I.D. prior to receiving a forum badge. Badges must be worn at all times during the forum. Badges and a photo ID will be checked prior to entering any restricted areas of the forum.

Security Restrictions

Electronic devices or electronic equipment of any kind—including cell phones, radios, personal fitness devices, PDAs, laptops, tablets, cameras, video/audio recording equipment, and two-way pagers and devices—are NOT allowed in the session rooms.

One-way pagers must be placed on vibrate and hearing aids must be placed in airplane mode during the sessions.

If you must bring your electronics device into the facility, you will need to leave it outside the session rooms. Bags and phone racks will be availalbe on the tables outside the session areas. Please make sure all phones are on vibrate or turned off.

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Note-taking is not permitted in or around the forum sessions. Books, magazines, fliers, brochures, and other paper products will not be allowed in the session rooms.

Luggage, briefcases, and other large cases will not be allowed in the forum area. Please leave these items in your car or hotel as storage is not available at the Kossiakoff Center. Small handbags, purses, and personal possessions will be inspected upon entry into the conference area.

Security spot checks may be made at any time.

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Nondiscriminatory Practices

AIAA accepts registrations irrespective of race, creed, sex, color, physical handicap, and national or ethnic origin.

SESSIONS

**All Keynote sessions will take place in the Auditorium.*

TUESDAY, 17 MARCH

7:30–8 A.M.

Continental Breakfast

8–8:30 A.M.

Autonomous Systems Operational Context

Conor Mahoney, Principal Autonomous Systems Engineer, MITRE

8:30–9:30 A.M.

Collaborative Combat Aircraft Panel

MODERATOR: Laura McGill, Director, Sandia National Laboratories

SPEAKERS:
Mike Atwood, Vice President, Advanced Programs, General Atomics

Bradley "Bones" McCoy, Director, Next Gen Requirements - Integrated Systems, Advanced Development Programs, Lockheed Martin

9:30–10 A.M.

Networking Coffee Break

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10 A.M.–12 P.M.

Technical Sessions

- **GNC-01.** Guidance Navigation and Control I
- **HYTASP-01.** High-Maneuverability and Hypersonic Systems and Technologies I
- **SPMS-01.** Modeling of Tumbling Bodies (Invited)
- **SUR-01.** Survivability
- **SDA-01.** System and Decision Analysis for National Security

12–1 P.M.

Lunch Available

STRATOLAUNCH

1–3:30 P.M.

Technical Sessions

- **SPMS-02.** Electromagnetics & Countermeasures Modeling
- **GNC-02.** Guidance Navigation and Control II
- **HYTASP-02.** High-Maneuverability and Hypersonic Systems and Technologies II
- **AMD-01.** Missile Defense and History of Weapon Systems
- **TE-01.** Test & Evaluation I

3:30–4 P.M.

Networking Coffee Break

4–5 P.M.

AI on the Battlefield Panel

THE UNIVERSITY of MISSISSIPPI

MODERATOR: Lauren Perry, Principal Engineer, Information Systems and Cyber Division, The Aerospace Corporation

PANELISTS:
Adam Bekit, Decision Dominance Branch Supervisor, Air and Missile Defense Sector, Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory

Mike Harasimowicz, Managing Director, AI Innovations, Lockheed Martin

Jared Jonker, Senior Director, Agentic Warfare, Scale AI

Col. Matt Gidley, USAF, Deputy Director, Advanced Command and Control Accelerator (AC2A), Office of the Secretary of War Chief Digital & Artificial Intelligence Office (CDAO)

5–5:30 P.M.

Keynote: Evolving Modern Warfare

Juan de Bedout, Chief Technology Officer, RTX

5:30–7 P.M.

Networking Reception

Relax and enjoy conversation, drinks, and food with attendees and speakers. It's a great way to miss the DC traffic!

WEDNESDAY, 18 MARCH

7:30–8 A.M.

Continental Breakfast

8–8:30 A.M.

Keynote: Missile Defense Agency (MDA) Update

Lt Gen Heath Collins, USAF, Director, Missile Defense Agency

8:30–9:30 A.M.

Keynote: Department of War Science & Technology Priorities

The Honorable Joseph Jewell, Assistant Secretary of War for Science and Technology, Department of War

9:30–10 A.M.

Networking Coffee Break

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SESSIONS

**All Keynote sessions will take place in the Auditorium.*

THURSDAY, 19 MARCH

10 A.M.–12 P.M.

Technical Sessions

DEW-01. Directed Energy Lasers

DE-01. Digital Engineering Case Studies

HYTASP-03. High-Maneuverability and Hypersonic Systems and Technologies III

TE-02. Test & Evaluation II

12–1 P.M.

Lunch Available

1–3:30 P.M.

Technical Sessions

AI-01. Autonomy, Collaborative Engagement, Machine Intelligence, Robotic and Uncrewed Systems I

DEW-02. Directed Energy High Power Microwave

GNC-03. Guidance Navigation and Control III

SPMS-03. Mission Modeling & Uncertainty Quantification

TE-03. Test & Evaluation III

3:30–4 P.M.

Networking Coffee Break

4–5:30 P.M.

Comprehensive Layered Defeat Panel

MODERATOR: Michael White, Former Principal Director, Hypersonics, Department of Defense

PANELISTS:
Matt Fulchino, Executive Director, Mission Analysis, RTX

VADM Jon Hill (USN, Ret.), Vice President & General Manager, Air Dominance & Strike Weapons, Lockheed Martin

VADM Sara Joyner (USN, Ret.), Senior Managing Director, Cerberus Capital Management

Katherine Rink, Head of Air, Missile, and Maritime Defense Technology Division, MIT Lincoln Laboratory

Tony Romero, Director, Integrated Military Systems, Sandia National Laboratories

David Van Wie, Director, Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory

7:30–8 A.M.

Continental Breakfast

8–8:30 A.M.

Space Cyber Threat Briefing

Erin Miller, Director, Space ISAC

8:30–9:30 A.M.

Keynote: Space Development Agency

Gurpartap "GP" Sandhoo, Acting Director, Space Development Agency

9:30–10 A.M.

Networking Coffee Break

10 A.M.–12 P.M.

Technical Sessions

SPMS-04. High-Fidelity Aero Modeling

SLS-01. Space and Launch Systems

TE-04. Test & Evaluation IV

12–1 P.M.

Lunch Available

1–3:30 P.M.

Technical Sessions

AI-02. Autonomy, Collaborative Engagement, Machine Intelligence, Robotic and Uncrewed Systems II

DE-02. Digital Engineering Modeling & Simulation

SS-01. Signatures and Sensing

TE-05. Test & Evaluation V

WSE-01. Weapon System Operational Performance

3:30–4 P.M.

Networking Coffee Break

4–5 P.M.

Keynote: Thoughts on National Security Innovation

Eliahu (Eli) Niewood, Director, Integrated Capabilities Office, Department of the Air Force

2027 AIAA DEFENSE FORUM PRESENTATIONS

Call for presentations opens 12 May 2026 and closes 13 August 2026.

To view the full call for presentations, please visit defense.aiaa.org. Additional topics, and session volunteers, are welcome. Email reganp@aiaa.org.

ADVANCED PROTOTYPES

Innovative engineering solutions are necessary to field advanced systems that provide the DoD with new and improved capabilities in both modern and future mission spaces. Novel approaches to thermal management, structural and aerodynamic design, power and control devices, optics, manufacturing processes, and other related areas can help make conceptual systems a reality. Briefings are solicited for a session highlighting hardware; the engineering, manufacturing, and assembly challenges associated with building and fielding advanced prototypes in areas of interest to the DoD. Briefings about enabling technologies as well as advanced platforms are invited.

AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE

Air and Missile Defense requirements continue to broaden as new threats emerge on land, sea, air, and space. This Forum topic seeks technical briefings on existing, newly deployed, and emerging concepts for missile defense. Effective Air and Missile Defense assimilates a wide range of capabilities across the air and missile defense timeline and system, and, as such, briefings are requested on threat detection and characterization, air and missile defense subsystems such as interceptors or command/control, and integrated air and missile defense systems to defeat multiple threat types. Other innovative topics not included above.

AUTONOMY, COLLABORATIVE ENGAGEMENT, MACHINE INTELLIGENCE, ROBOTIC AND UNCREWED SYSTEMS

Autonomous and uncrewed systems offer new capabilities and game-changing opportunities for the U.S. military. Applications for these systems include C3, ISR, weapons systems platforms, and ground/air safety. Policies and technologies are needed to define operational space and tools and testing are needed to characterize performance limits and competence.

DIGITAL ENGINEERING

Digital Engineering (DE) is enabling the acceleration, integration, and adoption of existing and new digital technologies using authoritative data, models, and systems across functional disciplines and supporting product lifecycle development and management from concept through design, validation, manufacture, sustainment, and disposal. The core digital engineering subtopics below are supporting the development of technical content and digital engineering capabilities in terms of definition, value, technology frameworks, reference models, case studies on implementations, recommendations, training & development, and advocacy. These are in support of driving US national competitiveness, security, and operational readiness. Additional specific complications and hurdles may be encountered when applying these topics to classified programs. Presentations are solicited on all topics, and where applicable, details are encouraged on classified program implementations.

DIRECTED ENERGY WEAPONS

Directed Energy Weapons are emerging for Defense applications. This session will look at DE capabilities that can be implemented in an airborne environment, for both defensive and offensive operations. Presentations are solicited for laser DEW, RF and microwave DEW and any other form of airborne DEWs. In addition to the weapon source technology, other technologies as they relate to airborne DE are important such as: primer power, thermal management, beam control, beam propagation, command and control, sensors, and lethality. Of particular interest are DEW systems, how DEWs fit within a system of systems concept and how DEWs affect operational scenarios.

GUIDANCE, NAVIGATION, CONTROL, AND ESTIMATION

Current and future defense systems rely more than ever on advanced guidance, navigation, control, and estimation to achieve precision, reliability and autonomy in challenging adversarial environments. Unmanned platforms, missiles, spacecraft, and even manned vehicles, ground support systems, and data networks are achieving unprecedented levels of performance and robustness by leveraging breakthroughs in components, machine learning, computer vision, cooperative/distributed algorithms, autonomous navigation, optimal guidance, feedback control, sensor fusion, and other technical areas. Presentations describing such advances in algorithms, software, and hardware are solicited, as are presentations on alternative position, navigation and timing (PNT), novel applications, improvements to existing systems, field test results, and lessons learned.

HIGH-MANEUVERABILITY AND HYPERSONIC SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGIES

Presentations are solicited for asession addressing hypersonic and high-speed flight systems and technologies. This session is intended to include systems that utilize a significant phase of hypersonic flight within the atmosphere including hypersonic ISR vehicles, hypersonic cruise missiles, gun-launched hypervelocity projectiles and hypersonic boost-glide vehicles. There is interest in concepts using sustained air-breathing propulsion, rocket-boosted vehicles with significant unpowered glide capabilities, and innovative hybrid propulsion systems. There is particular interest in key enabling air vehicle technologies as well as end-to-end system concepts that bring revolutionary military capabilities to the warfighter and the enabling technologies necessary for mission success with high-speed systems.

SPACE ACCESS AND SPACE SYSTEMS

Access to and freedom of operation in space are critical to national security. Space systems are in the defense news daily, spanning topics from acquisition to user services to resiliency and survivability. Space systems are the basis for U.S. assured access to space, consisting of launch vehicles, spacecraft, payloads, ground support equipment, launch operations and ranges and test hardware used in ground testing and operations. Space systems also include operations centers to maintain space vehicles or spacecraft on orbit. The size and type of DoD space systems is changing, with the defense community increasingly leveraging commercial capabilities as well as advancements in additive manufacturing, propulsion, sensing, machine vision, autonomy (including AI/ML applications), and communications. Space Systems require rigorous developmental test and evaluation due to the harsh launch, landing and operational space environments, and must function the first time and every time when called upon. Emphasis is on rapid and effective fielding of space assets and compressed space acquisition cycles.

STRATEGIC MISSILE SYSTEMS

Presentations are solicited for sessions for Strategic Missile Systems, focusing on future requirements, development of new technical and operational concepts, modernization and sustainment of existing weapon systems, lowering life cycle costs, and application of innovative engineering and manufacturing processes. Challenges include lowering future cost of ownership, mitigating technology obsolescence and industrial base evolution, providing flexibility, diversity, responsiveness, accuracy, and survivability for long-term effectiveness, and assuring safety, security and reliability. Technical presentations are solicited for engineering, science and technology developments applicable to fire control and launch systems, missiles, and reentry vehicles.

SURVIVABILITY

The Survivability Technical Committee (SURTC) promotes the research and development of new technologies that define the state-of-the-art in survivability. Survivability is the capability of a system to avoid or withstand a hostile environment (man-made or otherwise). Therefore, the survivability discipline forms part of the systems engineering process and is affected by all other engineering disciplines, such as materials (e.g., armor applications), and structures (e.g., resilient structures). The SURTC is looking to the future as game changers emerge and revolutionize the discipline, and, in addition to the topics listed below, is particularly interested in advanced materials and structures for survivability.

SYSTEM AND DECISION ANALYSIS FOR NATIONAL SECURITY

National security decision-makers often turn to system-level decision analyses to help them evaluate the differences in cost, risk, and benefit of alternative future options. These analyses usually include some of the following elements: definition of objectives, criteria, and metrics; brainstorming, definition, and enumeration of alternative systems or approaches; modeling and evaluation of alternatives against criteria; and conversion of multi-criteria analyses into overall alternative evaluations and recommendations. This topic area seeks to bring together professionals from throughout the defense industry to share methods, lessons learned, and insights in system-level decision analysis gained during national security work.

SYSTEM PERFORMANCE MODELING AND SIMULATION

Measurement, analysis, modeling and simulation is critical to understanding the capabilities and limitations of our systems across the battlespace. Briefings are solicited for new and innovative analysis techniques, high fidelity and fast-running models, component and system simulations, algorithms, threat/target modeling techniques, technology development, and design maturity. Systems of interest span kinetic, hypersonic and directed energy weapons across the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Missile Defense Agency.

TACTICAL MISSILES

Presentations are solicited on advances in the research, development, test, and evaluation of Joint, Army, Navy, and Air Force tactical missiles. Papers may address components or systems. Papers are solicited for sessions on tactical surface-to-surface, air-to-air, and air-to-ground missile systems. This topic area is intended to bring together technology developers and customers of all types to share not only new technology developments and results from analysis, simulation, and testing, but also operational lessons learned. Papers may address testing, design, and or analyses of systems, subsystems, components, software, or algorithms.

TEST AND EVALUATION

Testing and evaluation, from phenomenology to operational, provides confirmation of the effectiveness of our weapon systems and anchors our models and simulations. There have been many recent efforts to modernize testing infrastructures and develop low cost, high value techniques. This technical area invites participants in those efforts to highlight their achievements, results and plans by providing presentations highlighting recent test events and development efforts. Of particular interest are papers discussing new test venues, equipment, techniques, novel instrumentation and data collection methods for flight, ground, arena, gun, wind tunnel and anechoic chamber tests. Additionally, data management, utilization and performance criteria development and lessons learned are also of interest.

WEAPON SYSTEMS HISTORY AND LESSONS LEARNED

Presentations are solicited describing the history of discovery, development, evolution, or testing of weapon and missile systems, components, or technologies. Presentations on the histories of facilities or sites are also invited. Likewise, presentations describing "lessons learned" with respect to weapons and missile systems, components, or technologies are also desired. Examples of systems of interest include, but are not limited to, cruise missiles, interceptors (THAAD, Patriot, PAC-3, Iron Dome…), Air-to-Air systems (Sidewinder, AMRAAM…), Surface-to-surface missiles (Dragon, TOW, Javelin…), Strategic systems (C4, D5, Minuteman, Pershing…), Air-to-Surface systems (JASM, ALCM/CALCM…) and Hypersonic Missiles. This topic area is intended to share significant events that may span many years or decades to preserve and transfer valuable knowledge.

WEAPON SYSTEM OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

Assessing operational performance of weapon systems ensures mission success for the warfighter and cost effectiveness for the DoD. This topic area focuses on force level, mission level, and weapon system performance assessment.


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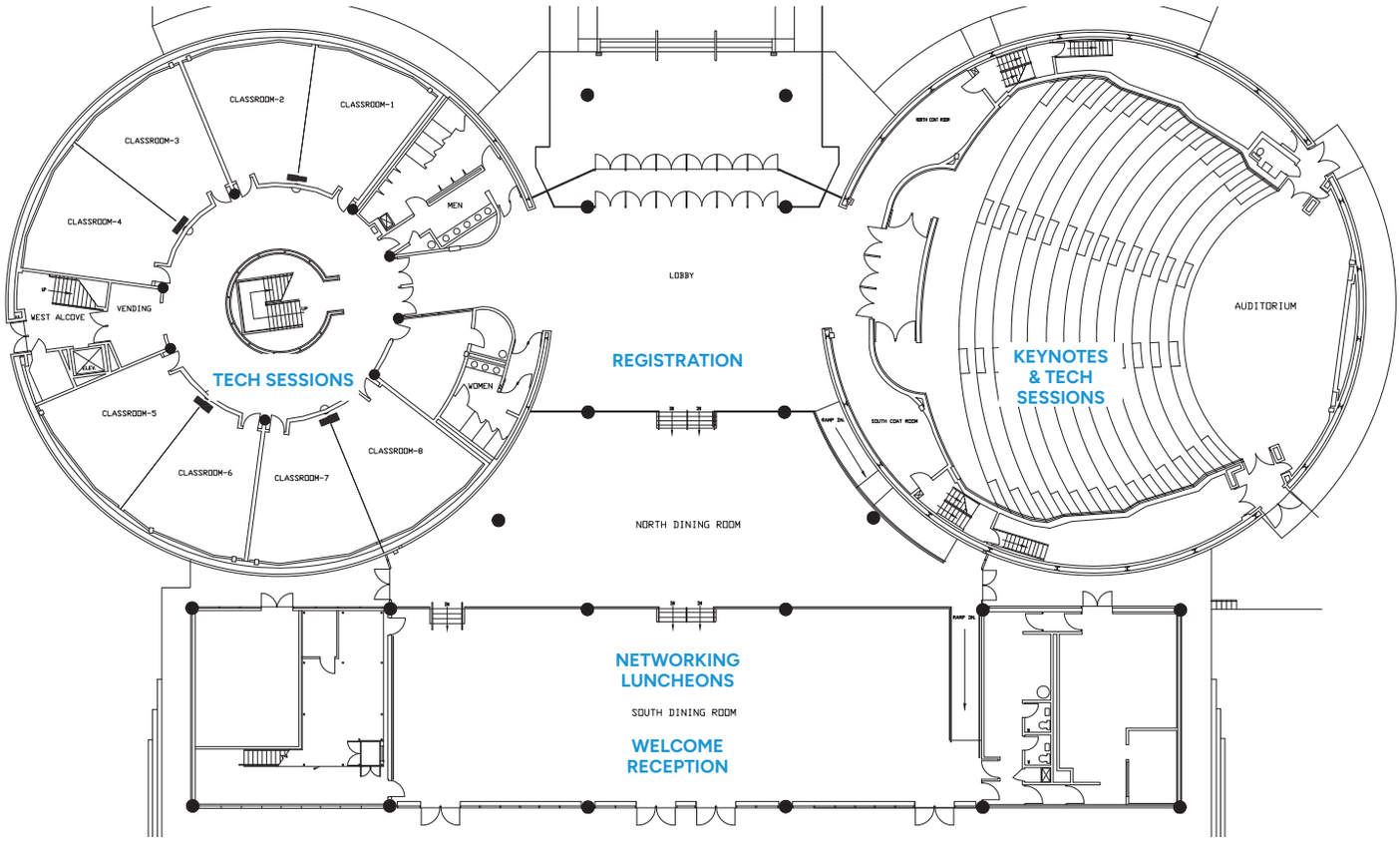

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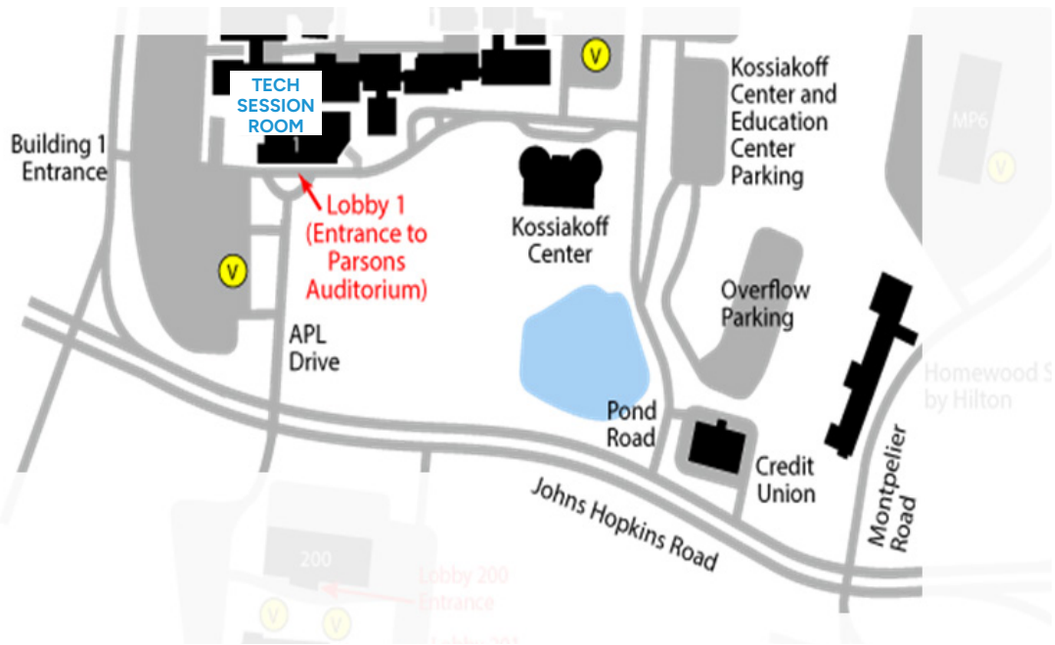

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