



2020 **VIRTUAL SO/LIC**

Special Operations Forces and Great Power Competition

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NDIA

WHO WE ARE

The National Defense Industrial Association is the trusted leader in defense and national security associations. As a 501(c)(3) corporate and individual membership association, NDIA engages thoughtful and innovative leaders to exchange ideas, information, and capabilities that lead to the development of the best policies, practices, products, and technologies to ensure the safety and security of our nation. NDIA's membership embodies the full spectrum of corporate, government, academic, and individual stakeholders who form a vigorous, responsive, and collaborative community in support of defense and national security. For more than 100 years, NDIA and its predecessor organizations have been at the heart of the mission by dedicating their time, expertise, and energy to ensuring our warfighters have the best training, equipment, and support. For more information, visit NDIA.org



SPECIAL OPERATIONS/ LOW-INTENSITY CONFLICT (SO/LIC) DIVISION

WHO WE ARE

The Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict Division helps industry, government, and the public understand the critical role of special operations (SO) and low-intensity conflict (LIC) forces in our national security strategy and within our military structure. The Division is composed of subject matter experts from the defense industry who, aided by government liaison participants, work to resolve difficult issues facing SO/LIC forces. The functional purview of the Division follows the roles and missions of the assistant secretary of defense for SO/LIC and the commander of U.S. Special Operations Command.

LEADERSHIP AND COMMITTEES

Dana Hudson

Division Chair

John Taft

Division Vice Chair

Claire Feagley

Executive Officer

Sam Morthland

Awards Chair

Mark Owens

Symposium Chair

EVENT INFORMATION

SURVEY AND PARTICIPANT LIST

You will receive via email a survey and list of participants (name and organization) after the event. Please complete the survey to make our virtual events even more successful in the future.

EVENT CONTACTS

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Exhibits & Sponsorships
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SPEAKER GIFTS

In lieu of speaker gifts, a donation is being made to the Fisher House Foundation.

HARASSMENT STATEMENT

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AGENDA

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

10:00 – 10:05 am EDT

OPENING REMARKS

MG James Boozer, USA (Ret)

Executive Vice President, National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA)

Dana Hudson

Chair, Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict (SO/LIC) Division, NDIA
Chief Executive Officer, c6 Strategies LLC

Mark Owens

Symposium Chair, SO/LIC Division, NDIA
President, O2 Defense, Inc.

10:05 – 10:20 am EDT

OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Ezra Cohen

Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict
Prerecorded

10:20 – 10:35 am EDT

NETWORKING CHAT LOBBY

Sponsored by 

10:35 – 11:15 am EDT

FIRESIDE CHAT: ACQUISITION AGILITY TOOLS

Honorable Alan Estevez

National Security and Logistics Executive, Deloitte
Moderator

Honorable Kevin Fahey


Assistant Secretary of Defense for Acquisition

Jim Smith

Acquisition Executive, U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), AT&L

11:15 – 11:30 am EDT

NETWORKING CHAT LOBBY

Sponsored by 
SHIELD AI

11:30 am – 12:10 pm EDT

GREAT POWER COMPETITION THREAT OVERVIEW PANEL

COL Jamie Hayes, USA

U.S. Army Chair, National War College
Moderator

Gayle Tzemach Lemmon

Partner and Chief Marketing Officer, Shield AI
Adjunct Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations

Honorable Marcel Lettre

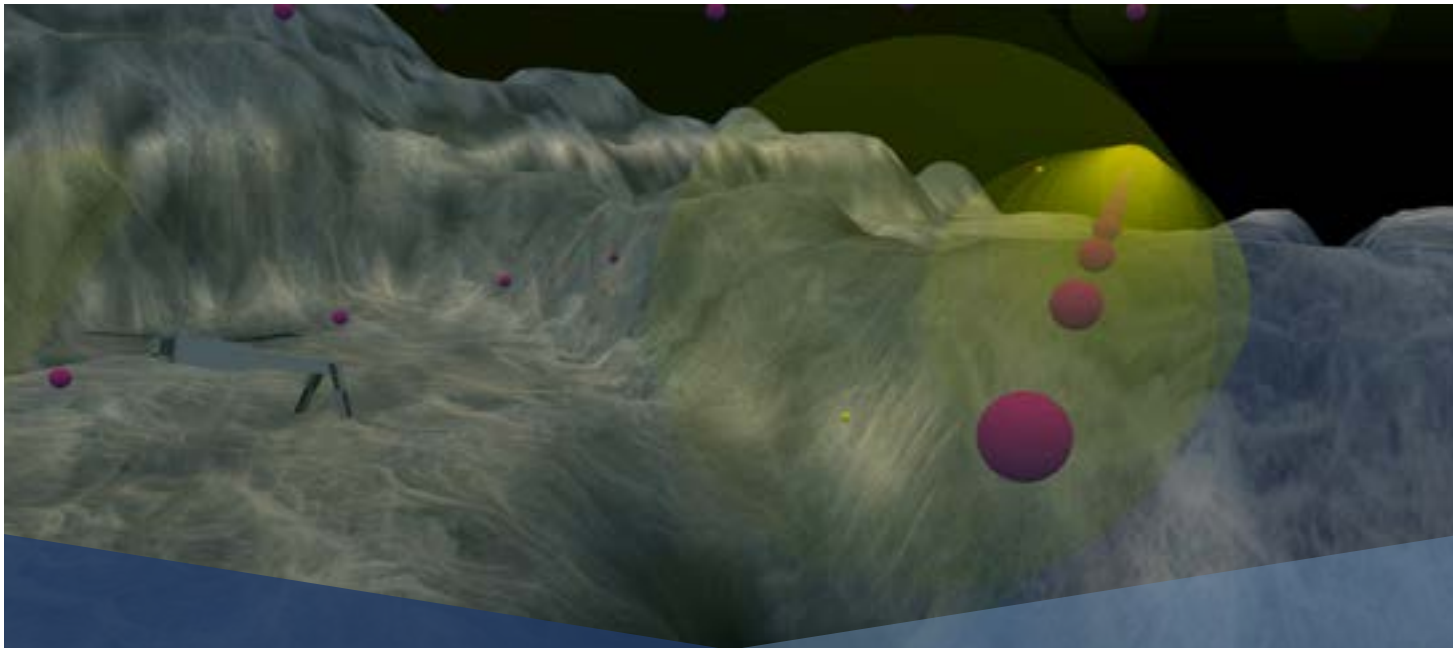
Former Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence

Honorable Christopher Miller

Director, National Counterterrorism Center

12:10 – 12:20 pm EDT

BREAK



SHIELD AI IS A SOFTWARE COMPANY THAT DEVELOPS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND AUTONOMY FOR DOD IN HIGHLY CONTESTED ENVIRONMENTS.

HIVEMIND

- Combat-tested artificially intelligent software
- Portable autonomy across air, land, and sea
- Intelligent multi-robot teams that read and react
- Built for GPS and Comms Denied Environments
- High-level reasoning even within extreme network and computation constraints.

NOVA 2 – BUILT FOR THE FUTURE

- Powered by Shield AI's Hivemind Air
- Dynamic read and react behaviors
- No pilot, no GPS, no RF-links
- Person identification and localization
- Outdoor, multi-story indoor, subterranean
- Swarming capable



SHIELD AI

12:20 – 1:00 pm EDT

OPERATIONAL DIVERSITY

Andrea Goldstein

Senior Policy Advisor, Women Veterans Task Force, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives
Moderator

Kristen Hajduk

Director of Operations, National Security Innovation Network

CMSgt Gregory Smith, USAF

Senior Enlisted Leader, USSOCOM

LTG Kenneth Tovo, USA (Ret)

Former U.S. Army Special Operations Commander

Rep Michael Waltz

U.S. House of Representatives (R-FL)
Prerecorded

1:00 – 1:15 pm EDT

NETWORKING CHAT LOBBY

Sponsored by **Deloitte.**

1:15 – 1:30 pm EDT

EXCLUSIVE UPDATE FROM OPERATION WARP SPEED

LTG Paul Ostrowski, USA (Ret)

Operation Warp Speed Director of Supply, Production, and Distribution
Prerecorded

1:30 – 1:35 pm EDT

BREAK

1:35 – 1:55 pm EDT

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Superior Achievement Awards

Sam Morthland

Awards Chair, SO/LIC Division, NDIA
Chief Financial Officer, Sera-Brynn, LLC
Presenter

R. Lynn Rylander & DeProspero Lifetime Achievement Awards

Honorable James "Hondo" Geurts

Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development & Acquisition, U.S. Navy
Rylander Awardee
Prerecorded

Ramón Colón-López

Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
DeProspero Awardee
Prerecorded

1:55 – 2:05 pm EDT

BREAK

2:05 – 2:50 pm EDT

AI ON THE EDGE: DECISION ADVANTAGE**COL John Cochran, USA**

Former Director, Close Combat Lethality Task Force, Office of the Secretary of Defense
Moderator

COL Joel Babbitt, USA

SOF Warrior Program Executive Officer, USSOCOM

Dr. David Bray

Director, GeoTech Center, Atlantic Council

RADM Brian Losey, USN (Ret)

General Partner, Shield AI

2:50 – 3:05 pm EDT

NETWORKING CHAT LOBBYSponsored by  **DISPEL**

3:05 – 3:50 pm EDT

SECURING SOF'S SUPPLY CHAIN AGAINST NEAR PEER ADVERSARIES**Andrew Borene**

Managing Director, Cybereason
Moderator

Katie Arrington

Chief Information Security Officer for the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition & Sustainment,
 U.S. Department of Defense

Honorable Alan Estevez

National Security and Logistics Executive, Deloitte

Lisa Graf

Chief Sustainment Engineer, Ground Combat Systems Program Executive Office

Chris Inglis

Former Deputy Director, National Security Agency

3:50 – 4:05 pm EDT

NETWORKING CHAT LOBBYSponsored by  **CAE**

4:05 – 4:50 pm EDT

INFORMATION OPERATIONS IN THE ERA OF GREAT POWER COMPETITION**Elizabeth Wehr**

Strategy and Policy Director, Cyber Solutions, Parsons
Moderator

Honorable Michael Lumpkin

Former Special Envoy and Coordinator, Global Engagements Center

Karen Monaghan

Former Department Chief for Russia, Central Intelligence Agency

LTG Michael Nagata, USA (Ret)

Corporate Strategic Advisor, CACI

4:50 – 5:00 pm EDT

BREAK

5:00 – 5:15 pm EDT

NATION-STATES, NETWORKS, AND INCREASINGLY NUANCED CONFLICTS: WHERE DO WE SUCCESSFULLY GO FROM HERE?

Dr. David Bray

Director, GeoTech Center, Atlantic Council

Dana Hudson

Chair, SO/LIC Division, NDIA

Chief Executive Officer, c6 Strategies LLC

Kelly Hughes

Senior Program Analyst, Secretariat for Special Operations (SSO)

5:15 – 5:25 pm EDT

DIPLOMACY INFORMED POLICY

Honorable R. Clarke Cooper

Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs

Prerecorded

5:25 – 5:35 pm EDT

CLOSING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Joseph Francescon

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Combatting Terrorism

Prerecorded

5:35 – 5:40 pm EDT

CLOSING STATEMENTS

Dana Hudson

Chair, SO/LIC Division, NDIA

Chief Executive Officer, c6 Strategies LLC

5:40 – 6:40 pm EDT

NETWORKING HAPPY HOUR

The logo features the letters "NDIA" in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. Below "NDIA" is a thin white horizontal line, and underneath that line, the word "MEMBERSHIP" is written in a smaller, white, all-caps sans-serif font. The entire logo is centered on a red background.

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE TRUSTED LEADER AMONG DEFENSE AND NATIONAL SECURITY ASSOCIATIONS TODAY

NDIA is a non-partisan 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that educates its constituencies on all aspects of national security in support of the warfighter to ensure the safety and security of our nation. Alongside our 1,610 corporate and 65,000 individual members, we drive a strategic and collaborative dialogue in national security, identifying key issues and leveraging our collective knowledge and experience to address them.

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- Collaborate on projects and documents of all kinds
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KEYNOTE SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



EZRA COHEN

Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict

Mr. Ezra Cohen is currently the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict. In this role, he is responsible for all policy formulation and oversight for Department of Defense counterterrorism, special operations, counternarcotics, detainee affairs, peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance, and stability operations. Separately, Mr. Cohen provides oversight of all organize, train, and equip activities for United States Special Operations Command, and ensures alignment of a \$14 billion budget with the National Security and National Defense strategies.

Mr. Cohen previously served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Counternarcotics and Global Threats. In this capacity, he led the Department of

Defense's global counternarcotics and threat finance policies and operations, among other global issues, overseeing a budget of over \$1 billion.

Before becoming Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Counternarcotics, Mr. Cohen served in several roles within the United States Government, including within the Department of Defense and National Security Council. At the National Security Council, Mr. Cohen served as the Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Intelligence Programs. In this role, Mr. Cohen was principally responsible for the implementation of the President's National Security objectives through the vast array of intelligence community capabilities. Additionally, Mr. Cohen was the United States Government's strategic-level policy coordinator for all intelligence programs and sensitive activities, including covert action, human intelligence, counterintelligence,

electronic surveillance, information operations, special reconnaissance, and intelligence sharing.

During his previous service in the Department of Defense, Mr. Cohen completed a number of overseas assignments in Latin America and South Asia.

In the private sector, Mr. Cohen was the Senior Director for Strategic Initiatives at Oracle Corporation, where he advised the Chief Executive Officer on national security issues. Additionally, Mr. Cohen was responsible for an international effort to deploy Oracle's high-security cloud computing technology to allied governments, primarily within NATO.

Mr. Cohen holds a Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science from the University of Pennsylvania.



JOSEPH FRANCESCON

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Combatting Terrorism

Mr. Joseph Francescon serves as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (DASD) for Special Operations and Combatting Terrorism (SOCT). DASD Francescon is responsible for overseeing the employment of special operations forces in counterterrorism, Military Information Support Operations (MISO), Information Operations, unconventional warfare, irregular warfare, direct action, special reconnaissance, foreign internal defense, counter proliferation, sensitive special operations, and personnel recovery/

hostage issues as specified by the Secretary of Defense. Mr. Francescon was sworn in on 24 August 2020.

From June 2018 through July 2020, Mr. Francescon served as a Director for Counterterrorism and the Acting Senior Director for the Counterterrorism and Transnational Threats Directorate at the National Security Council (NSC). In these roles, Mr. Francescon was responsible for coordination and implementation of strategic-level policy making and support to senior NSC and White House leadership on all manners of counterterrorism, hostage recovery, counternarcotics, and transnational organized crime issues.

Mr. Francescon began his career in government as a Department of Defense civilian within the National Security Agency in 2008. Throughout his time in government, Mr. Francescon has served in a variety of roles focused primarily in support of interagency counterterrorism efforts, including overseas postings in East and West Africa and the Middle East.

Mr. Francescon was raised in Columbus, Ohio. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies from Miami University and possesses a Master of Science degree in Cybersecurity.

R. LYNN RYLANDER AWARD

The R. Lynn Rylander Award, our highest honor, is presented annually to an individual who has made distinctive contributions in the areas of Special Operations, Low-Intensity Conflict, or Irregular Warfare. Achievements may be singular or cumulative. However, in the spirit of R. Lynn Rylander's service, the policy, guidance, leadership, or mission contributions must have been of the highest impact—highly

significant and lasting—to the SO/LIC community and must show support of the goals and objectives of NDIA and the SO/LIC Division.

The award is named for R. Lynn Rylander, a Department of Defense civilian who was a founding member of the organization that is now the SO/LIC Division of NDIA. Rylander was an early advocate and activist for the revitalization of Special

Operations Forces and the organizational and legislative changes required to sustain them. Each year, the name of the Rylander Award recipient is added to the award trophy, which is in the form of a chess figure that advances, attacks, and defends indirectly. These characteristics are critical to the men and women involved in the conduct of Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict.

R. LYNN RYLANDER AWARD WINNER



HON JAMES "HONDO" GEURTS

Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development & Acquisition

On December 5, 2017, Mr. James F. Geurts was sworn in as Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development & Acquisition (ASN (RD&A)), following his confirmation by the Senate in November 2017. As the Navy's acquisition executive, Mr. Geurts has oversight of an annual budget in excess of \$100 billion and is responsible for equipping and supporting the finest Sailors and Marines in the world with the best platforms, systems and technology as they operate around the globe in defense of the Nation.

Mr. Geurts previously served as the Acquisition Executive, U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), at MacDill Air Force Base (AFB), Florida, where he was responsible for all special operations forces acquisition, technology and logistics. In this position, his innovative leadership

and technological ingenuity provided rapid and affordable acquisition that positively impacted the USSOCOM acquisition work force and the special operations forces capability on the battlefield. These contributions were recognized by both private and public institutions during his tenure to include earning the Presidential Rank Award, USSOCOM Medal, William Perry Award, and Federal Times Vanguard Award for Executive of the Year.

Prior to Senior Executive Service, Mr. Geurts began his career as an Air Force officer where he served as an acquisition program manager with engineering and program management leadership positions in numerous weapon systems, including intercontinental ballistic missiles, surveillance platforms, tactical fighter aircraft, advanced avionics systems, stealth cruise missiles, training systems, and manned and unmanned special operations aircraft.

He has over 30 years of extensive joint acquisition experience and served in all levels of acquisition leadership positions, including Acquisition Executive, Program Executive Officer, and Program Manager of Major Defense Acquisition Programs.

Mr. Geurts is a distinguished 1987 ROTC graduate from Lehigh University where he received a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. He holds a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson AFB, and in National Security Resourcing from Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University, Washington, DC. Mr. Geurts also attended executive leadership and international studies programs at Harvard Kennedy School and George Washington Elliott School.

DEPROSPERO LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The DeProspero Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes sustained, distinguished service and is presented annually to an individual who has made distinctive lifetime contributions with significant impact in the

areas of Special Operations, Low-Intensity Conflict, or Irregular Warfare.

The award is named for Colonel Albert A. DeProspero, a retired Army Special Forces

Colonel who was a founding member of the SO/LIC Division of NDIA, a former Chairman of the SO/LIC Executive Board, and a lifelong supporter of and advocate for the SO/LIC community.

DEPROSPERO LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER



RAMÓN COLÓN-LÓPEZ

Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

SEAC AC Ramón “CZ” Colón-López is the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of

the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the most senior enlisted service member, by position, in the United States Armed Forces, and the principal military advisor to the Chairman on all matters involving joint and combined

total force integration, utilization, health of the force, and joint development for enlisted personnel.

SEAC Colón-López enlisted in the United States Air Force in December 1990. He has held assignments in U.S. Air Forces Europe, Air Combat Command, Air Force Special Operations Command, Air Education and Training Command, Pacific Air Forces, Joint

Special Operations Command, and Air Forces Central Command. He has deployed numerous times in support of operations Southern Watch, Northern Watch, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, New Dawn, Resolute Support, Inherent Resolve, and to several other classified locations. Prior to assuming his current position, he served as the Command Senior Enlisted Leader for United States Africa Command.



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The NDIA Policy Team monitors, advocates for, and educates government stakeholders on policy matters of importance to the defense industrial base. Help ensure the continued existence of a viable, competitive national technology and industrial base by keeping up with the latest reforms, rules, and regulations.

[Read more at NDIA.org/PolicyBlog](https://www.ndia.org/PolicyBlog)

SUPERIOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The Superior Achievement Awards recognize individuals who have made significant and lasting contributions in the areas of Special Operations, Low-

Intensity Conflict, or Irregular Warfare within the award period. These awards are open to all functional categories and career fields across the special

operations forces community. In recognizing the few, we acknowledge and salute the achievements, service, and sacrifice of the many.

SUPERIOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS



SGM NICHOLAS CERRA, USA (RET)



LT MATTHEW KROUPA, USN



HELEN MILLER



MSGT TODD MORGAN, USMC



PO2 TYLER MORRISON, USCG



MSGT JACOB SUTTON, USAF

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