



NCOIC Update to Members – June 2017

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Interoperability Verification Focus of Senior Leader Discussion

On May 9, NCOIC directors, advisors and members gathered in Virginia and others participated online for “Implementing Interoperability: Turning the Possible into a Reality.” One highlight of the leadership event was a panel discussion on the three key actions needed to make cross-domain interoperability a reality: 1. it must be a recognized requirement; 2. it must count in proposal evaluations; and 3. there must be validation or verification built into the acquisition process, using an approach that works with industry.

Dr. Tom Cellucci, Chairman and CEO of Cellucci Associates, spoke about public-private partnerships and how industry can work with government customers to write good requirements. Rick Baily, Vice President of Boeing Test & Evaluation, stressed that the way requirements are written will determine industry’s response so it’s best to articulate objectives rather than specifications. NCOIC’s Ken Cureton gave an overview of the consortium’s Interoperability Verification Process and how it will help ensure NATO gets the interoperability it needs as it acquires technology for its Federated Mission Networking.

The meeting also spotlighted NCOIC’s ongoing partnership with NATO and the current discussions involving interoperability verification. Giving updates on their agencies were Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Koen Gijbers, General Manager of the NATO Communications and Information Agency, and Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Lofgren, Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability Development of NATO Allied Command Transformation.

NCOIC Director Rick Baily Retires, Chris Ahsmann Named to Board

After more than a decade serving on the NCOIC Board of Directors, Rick Baily, Vice President of Boeing Test & Evaluation, is stepping down. Baily, who is retiring from Boeing on June 15, plans to remain involved with NCOIC as needed to provide thoughts and insights. Chris Ahsmann, Vice President of Mission Systems at Boeing Defense, Space & Security, is taking Baily’s place on the board and will carry on the tradition of support from Boeing, one of the founding companies of NCOIC.

“Through the years, Rick Baily has made many contributions to the strategic direction of NCOIC and the development of our interoperability concepts, technical resources and influence among executives in industry and government. At Boeing, he’s led a team of thousands of engineers and understands the pivotal role that corporate culture plays in adopting new technologies and creating lasting interoperability. We wish Rick well in his retirement,” said Harry Raduege, NCOIC CEO. “Chris Ahsmann will be a great addition to our leadership team. He has a global perspective as well as diverse experience in engineering, mission assurance and program management – we look forward to having his insight and expertise.”

AFCEA’s Erich Staudacher Added to International Advisory Council

Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Erich Staudacher, General Manager of AFCEA Europe, has joined the NCOIC Advisory Council. In his role at the non-profit AFCEA, he works with the military, academia,

government and industry to help advance global security. Staudacher retired from the German Armed Forces in 2016 after a 42-year career. He served in combat missions based in Italy and Uzbekistan, commanded the Technical Group at Lechfeld Air Base and served as deputy commander of the German Armed Forces Support Command. In addition to his command assignments, Staudacher served in a variety of senior leadership positions for the German Armed Forces, the German Airforce and the Foreign Service of the Federal Republic of Germany.

“From his many and distinguished combat roles, Erich Staudacher understands the importance of getting the right products and services into the warfighter’s hands and NCOIC’s focus in reducing time to market, cost and risk,” said Harry Raduege, NCOIC CEO. “He also brings an important global perspective and experience in joint operations, which will help the NCOIC as we move forward with interoperability verification.”

Tech Teams in Spotlight at Interoperability Event

Several NCOIC technical activities were briefed at the May 9 Interoperability Discussion. Dr. Craig Lee, Senior Scientist at The Aerospace Corporation, presented approaches to federated collaboration management and explained why they are essential to cross-domain collaborative information exchange. He also detailed the NCOIC approach to federated virtual organizations, including governance and trust management, which are critical to a successful, lifecycle-managed information exchange environment. His KeyVOMS (Keystone-based Virtual Organization Management System) is an essential element of the current NCOIC Rapid Response Incubator (RRI) implementation.

Didem Gurdur, Doctoral Student at the KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Sweden, described her research into cyber-physical systems, specifically how to improve the understanding of interoperability within cyber-physical systems. She presented an approach for visualizing interoperability that has not been considered before, which could be an excellent adjunct to NCOIC interoperability quantification tools such as SCOPE and NCAT.

Also Scott Goessling, Vice President of Cloud Services and Solutions at Burststorm, showed how knowledge of interoperability attributes of various cloud and non-cloud services can be used within a graphical tool to aid the rapid selection and implementation of federated information systems for any number of collaboration domains, including disaster management and command and control systems.

Other work being done by NCOIC technical teams, including cross-domain interoperability governance, healthcare interoperability and blockchain technology applications, will be the subject of future updates.

Welcome to New NCOIC Member

Burststorm, Inc. has joined NCOIC. Based in San Mateo, Calif., Burststorm works to accelerate the adoption of cloud services. Its cloud technology platform enables enterprises, service providers and systems integrators to model, design, benchmark and optimize cloud infrastructure. Scott Goessling, Vice President of Cloud Services and Solutions, is the NCOIC representative. For more information, go to www.burststorm.com.

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