



NCOIC Update to Members – March 2016



Leaders Examine Interoperability and Joint Coalition Ops

Governance issues and how they impact achieving interoperability among partners was a focus for the military and business executives who met for a panel discussion on February 9 in Virginia. The NCOIC quarterly Board of Directors and Advisory Council meeting was capped with a special session, moderated by NCOIC CEO Harry D. Raduege, Jr., Lt. General, USAF (Ret), on interoperability and achieving mission success in a joint or coalition operation. Key take-away messages included:

- Interoperability, the single most important asset for coalition operations, saves lives and is a force multiplier — however, it is an increasingly difficult challenge to implement. It often needs a driving force to initiate the effort, provide funding and see that mission objectives are met.
- Governance documents — that detail the agree-upon participants, goals, policies, requirements and standards to be used — must be established before interoperability can be achieved among partners.
- There is an increasing number of partners coming to the table with different interests, capabilities, budgets, priorities, generations of legacy systems, etc.
- Competition among vendors, the need for market share and the desire to sustain a local/regional workforce can work against global interoperability. When customers demand and buy products and services that are interoperable, they can reshape the marketplace and make it more conducive to achieving interoperability.
- The path to interoperability does not have to be complex and costly. NCOIC has laid the groundwork and has a proven approach to help organizations achieve greater interoperability. The consortium can assess the situation and needs, develop an action plan/roadmap, prepare governance and acquisition strategies that reinforce the interoperability plan, test capabilities of different vendor offerings in advance, and evaluate the overall effort.

Thanks to panelists: Gen. (Ret) Harald Kujat, NCOIC Advisory Council Chairman and former Chief of Staff, German Armed Forces and Chairman, NATO Military Committee; Gen. (Ret) Paul Kern, Senior Counselor at The Cohen Group and former Commanding General, Army Material Command; Lt. Gen. (Ret) Bob Shea, President and Chief Executive Officer, AFCEA International and former Director C4 Systems, The Joint Staff; and RAdm. Mustafa Ugurlu, Turkish Navy and Assistant Chief of Staff, Command, Control, Deployability and Sustainability, NATO Allied Command Transformation.

Commerce CIO Steve Cooper Joins Advisory Council

Steven I. Cooper, Chief Information Officer of the U.S. Department of Commerce, has joined the NCOIC Advisory Council. He leads DOC information technology strategy and operations, oversees its enterprise IT security risk program, and serves as an adviser on mission and business IT systems and services for the department's 12 agencies, including the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Prior to joining Commerce, he served at the Federal Aviation Administration,

Department of Homeland Security and the White House Office of Homeland Security. Cooper also has more than 20 years of private-sector experience and has served as a board member and officer of several nonprofits and humanitarian organizations, working to more effectively help people and emergency responders prepare for and respond to natural disasters.

“Steve Cooper is a preeminent CIO and technology leader in America. The depth and breadth of his experience with technologies for homeland security, emergency response and preparedness make him an outstanding addition to our advisory council,” said NCOIC CEO Harry Raduege. “We are fortunate to have his insights on the challenges and barriers to implementing enterprise-wide information technology strategies and managing cyber risk.”

Advisory Council Greenlights IVI Methodology

The Interoperability Verification Initiative (IVI) team has been investigating the methodology to measure interoperability of vendor products and services in a System-of-System (SoS) environment, with the intent of determining key measures of interoperability for specified operational environments. This methodology was presented to the NCOIC Advisory Council on February 9. The AC members agreed that understanding the specifics of interoperability for vendor solutions before SoS integration would be very valuable in reducing cost, schedule and risk to governments in a coalition environment. The IVI team continues to identify necessary guidance to certify interoperability of vendor products and services for a potential pilot program in the future.

Secure Interoperability Focus of Presentations

The NCOIC Cybersecurity IPT made two presentations to Boeing last month on its secure interoperability governance process, its development of a vulnerability assessment process and procedure, and its plan to customize the Rapid Response Incubator as a cyber testbed available for use in the assessing programs for such U.S. government agencies as the Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security. Boeing’s CIO office received the first briefing on February 12, followed by 50+ Boeing engineers/managers at a cybersecurity technical interchange meeting on February 22. Contact Andrew Born (cybersecurity-chair@ncoic.org) for more information.

Welcome to New NCOIC Member: Compusult

Compusult Limited, headquartered in Mount Pearl, Newfoundland, provides computer software, hardware and consulting services to an international client base. Formed in 1985, the company markets a suite of standards-based applications offering solutions for geospatial data discovery, access and delivery as well as assistive technology products, services and training. Compusult has offices in Canada and a U.S. subsidiary in Reston, VA that provides systems integration, installation and training support to U.S. military and civilian customers. Compusult’s NCOIC representatives are President Barry O’Rourke and VP Paul Mitten. For more information, go to www.compusult.net.

Discussion of Resiliency on NCOIC Members’ Website

The NCOIC Technical Council met in February to discuss resiliency and its relationship to interoperability and security, and explore forming a technical team to address the topic. There is common ground between the principles of interoperability and resiliency, and the domains of interest (e.g. disaster response and infrastructure resiliency) are areas NCOIC is currently working or has investigated in the past. A recording of the meeting is available on the NCOIC members’ website, and more discussion is planned. Contact Mark Bowler (tech-council-chair@ncoic.org) for more information.