Interoperability Verification is 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:

- it must be a recognized requirement;
- it must count in proposal evaluations; and
- 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 Gijsbers, 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.

In addition, 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 inform-

Presenters at the May 9 Interoperability Discussion included (L to R) Dr. Craig Lee, Lt. Gen. Jeff Lofgren and Dr. Tom Cellucci.

ation 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 Burstorm, 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.

The interoperability demonstration and discussion were part of the regular NCOIC Board of Directors

and Advisory Council meeting. It was announced that, after more than a decade serving on the board, Rick Baily will be stepping down. Baily, who is retiring from Boeing on June 15, plans to remain involved with NCOIC to provide his 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.

NCOIC Chief Executive Officer Harry Raduege (right) thanks Boeing's Rick Baily for his decade of service to the consortium and its vision for cross-domain interoperability.

"Through the years, Rick 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 chief executive officer.

"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," said Raduege.

To view photos from the senior leader discussion, go to the NCOIC Facebook page.

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