Feb. 9 Panel to Spotlight Interoperability and Coalition Operations
The NCOIC quarterly Board of Directors and Advisory Council meeting will feature a special panel presentation on interoperability and achieving mission success in a joint or coalition operation. Speakers will discuss how a range of factors, including applicable laws, regulations, organizational culture, objectives, budgets, resources, and technology impact the creation and sustainability of a trusted and reliable operational environment. The panelists are:

- 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
- RAdm. Mustafa Ugurlu, Turkish Navy and Assistant Chief of Staff, Command, Control, Deployability and Sustainability, NATO Allied Command Transformation

The panel, which will be moderated by NCOIC CEO Harry D. Raduege, Jr., Lt. General, USAF (Ret), is set for 3:30-5 p.m. on February 9 at the Deloitte headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. Space permitting, NCOIC members in the area are welcome to attend; make a reservation by emailing events@ncoic.org.

Welcome to New NCOIC Member
Prithviraj (Raj) Mukherji, Ph.D., has joined NCOIC and been named to head the Healthcare Integrated Project Team. Over the past 30 years, he has worked in information management and technology at the Office of Assistant Secretary for Defense / Health Affairs of the United States Department of Defense, the US Army's Northern Regional Medical Command Government Accountability Agency and the Department of Energy's Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory. He has also served on the faculty at George Mason University and the New Jersey Institute of Technology. Dr. Mukherji is the founder of Data Concepts (USA), an IT management firm that worked with the DoD's Military Health Systems IM/IT division. He currently leads Mukherji Consulting, an IT management company that focuses on software quality through risk management and lifecycle cost estimates. His interests include systems architecture for clinical environments, risk mitigation methods and cyber security for medical devices.

Healthcare Team Ramps Up
The NCOIC Healthcare IPT is looking for members with experience in healthcare operations. Team members can expect to leverage several key best practices in the governance and management of interoperability and cybersecurity. This will form a significant portion of the effort to better understand over-arching best practices for developing cost-effective solutions for the healthcare industry. Members will have ample scope to practice risk management, systems engineering and architecture,
model development and simulations of systems using a variety of management models and tools. Methodologies associated with best practices will span the spectrum of system development frameworks, such as lean, agile and traditional lifecycle methods, and various management models, such as the capability maturity integration and Kanban.

Team leader Dr. Raj Mukherji reports that the HC IPT is actively pursuing collaboration with the NATO Communication and Information Agency and that several healthcare system interoperability and Voice of Industry projects are potentially in the offing. He writes, “A key factor in these efforts is interoperability and cybersecurity of critical infrastructures such as healthcare delivery. This is one of the high-priority topic areas for the U.S. government as seen in the U.S. Presidential Policy Directive 21: Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience (PPD-21) of February 12, 2013. Executive Order (EO) 13636: Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity also acknowledges the increased role of cybersecurity in securing physical assets, such as medical treatment facilities owned by the federal government. Growing mandates and consequently reliance on IT solutions as a core infrastructure for delivering care within the healthcare framework has raised concerns of interoperability, dependability and security of medical devices working within the overall care ecosystem.”

If you are interested in participating in the Healthcare IPT or learning more, contact Dr. Mukerji at raj@mukherjiconsulting.com.

Cybersecurity IPT Requests Input from Members
The Cybersecurity Team has released two documents to NCOIC members for review and comment. They are the “Secure Interoperability Governance Process” document and the readout report from the October Cybersecurity Workshop on secure interoperability and governance. For more information, contact Andy Born at andrew.v.born@boeing.com.

New Business Ideas Sought
NCOIC continues to look for opportunities to help organizations achieve higher levels of interoperability. Currently, the highest priority initiatives the consortium is working with key customers include Interoperability Verification with NATO and Partner Capabilities with the U.S. European Command. These same approaches could be used in a range of other markets such as healthcare and first responders. NCOIC is a non-profit organization with a small staff, so we welcome advice and information from our members with respect to specific opportunities that NCOIC might pursue. If you have any specific recommendations, please contact either Pat Ryan at pat.ryan@ncoic.org or Ed Barger at Ed.Barger@ncoic.org.

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