



DEFENSE

15-18 APRIL 2025 | LAUREL, MD | Secret/NOFORN

DEVELOPING AND DELIVERING DECISIVE CAPABILITY AT SPEED AND SCALE

EVENT RECAP
aiaa.org/defense

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THANK YOU FROM AIAA

The 2025 AIAA DEFENSE Forum was a great success. This year's event brought together more than **400 individuals** to explore the critical role of the science and technology community in providing innovative and operationally relevant capabilities to dominate the battlespace.

Over three and a half days, attendees heard keynote talks and panel sessions focused on the need for rapid adaptation of cutting-edge technology solutions for operators. The insights in the **136 technical briefings** delivered on AIAA's enduring promise to present deep technical content to our community. Presenters examined in-depth current research and technologies being used to solve national security challenges and advance defense innovation.

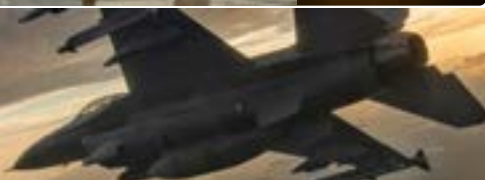
We hope you enjoy this multidimensional summary of the value of the AIAA DEFENSE Forum. The numbers are impressive and the attendee quotes clearly illustrate the impact of the forum experience.

Many thanks go to the members of the Executive Steering Committee and the Technical Program Committee for their leadership. These hardworking AIAA volunteers are the force behind curating the thought-provoking high-level sessions and technical content provided at the forum.

We are immensely grateful to this year's sponsors. Your generous contributions enabled the insightful knowledge transfer, impressive technology advancement, and countless valuable exchanges during the forum.

To our attendees, your participation helped ensure the critical dialogue furthers the crucial national security technologies and solutions needed today.

Thank you all for bringing our forum theme to life: **"Developing and Delivering Decisive Capability at Speed and Scale."**



WHAT ATTENDEES ARE SAYING

“[The most valuable experience I had was] networking with colleagues across the industry and learning about collaboration opportunities.”

“The discussions on government–private sector cooperation were very valuable. It was enlightening to understand the unique challenges each faces.”

“The event was very well organized and run. The facilities were good. Panel discussions were highly informative, and panelists were open and engaging.”

“For me, the technical sessions were the most valuable, as they allowed for deeper, more meaningful conversations with individuals offering different perspectives.”

“It was a great first experience, and I’m already looking forward to attending again next year.”

“There was strong participation from senior government and military representatives.”

“The Thursday morning hypersonics threat brief was the standout plenary of the forum. A few of the ground testing technical talks were also extremely valuable.”

“[The forum] offered invaluable insight into industry trends and issued a clear call to action by highlighting the key issues that need to be addressed and discussed.”

*These quotes are from the 2025 AIAA DEFENSE Forum post-event survey and are anonymous.

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

TOTAL ATTENDEES

 **473**

30

**AIAA CORPORATE MEMBERS
REPRESENTED**



133

ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED

Check out the [full list of organizations](#) that participated

INDUSTRY REPRESENTATION

6%

Academia



32%

FFRDCs



18%

Government



42%

Industry



2%

Other



30 GOVERNMENT AGENCIES REPRESENTED

Aerospace Testing Alliance (ATA)	Naval Postgraduate School
Air Force Academy	Navy Conventional Prompt Strike
Air Force Institute of Technology	Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Air Force Research Laboratory	Office of Chief of Naval Operations, Air Warfare Division
Air Forces Central	Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Prototyping and Experimentation
Arnold Engineering Development Complex	Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Research and Engineering
Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition	OSD Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation
DARPA	Sandia National Laboratories
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Mission Integration	Space Development Agency
Joint Staff J7	U.S. Air Force
Kansas City National Security Campus	U.S. Army
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	U.S. Indo-Pacific Command
Los Alamos National Laboratories	U.S. Navy
NASA Langley Research Center	U.S. Space Command
Naval Information Warfare Center Pacific	U.S. Space Force

ORGANIZATIONS WITH THE HIGHEST REPRESENTATION

Johns Hopkins University
Applied Physics Laboratory

Lockheed Martin

MIT Lincoln Laboratory

Northrop Grumman

RTX

U.S. Air Force

U.S. Department of Defense

U.S. Department of Energy

TECHNICAL PROGRAM



136

TECHNICAL BRIEFINGS

16

TECHNICAL DISCIPLINES

Advanced Prototypes
Air and Missile Defense
Autonomy, Collaborative
Engagement, Machine
Intelligence, and Robotic and
Uncrewed Systems
Digital Engineering
Directed Energy Weapons
Guidance, Navigation,
Control, and Estimation

High-Maneuverability
and Hypersonic
Systems and Technologies
Space Access
and Space Systems
Strategic Missile Systems
Survivability
System and Decision Analysis
for National Security

System Performance
Modeling and Simulation
Tactical Missiles
Test and Evaluation
Weapon System
Operational Performance
Weapon Systems History
and Lessons Learned

KEYNOTE PROGRAM TOPICS

Combatant Commands
Hypersonic Threat Briefing
Hypersonics Update
Industrial Base and Capacity
Lessons Learned from Recent Conflicts
Long-Range Kill Webs
Transformative Role of Unmanned Systems
U.S. Navy Air Warfare

SPEAKERS



SARAH BEAUDIN

Chief Engineer and Engineering Director, E-2D Advanced Hawkeye Block II Program, Northrop Grumman Aeronautics Systems



BRETT BOYLSTON

Foreign Technology Group Manager, Beyond New Horizons, LLC; Arnold Engineering Development Complex



GILLIAN BUSSEY

Deputy Chief Science Officer
U.S. Space Force



BRYAN CLARK

Senior Fellow and Director, Center for Defense Concepts and Technology, Hudson Institute



MAJ. GEN. LUKE CROPEY, USAF

Program Executive Officer for Command, Control, Communications, and Battle Management (DAF PEO C3BM), Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition



DAVE DENHARD

Chief Scientist and Technical Advisor,
U.S. Space Command



DAVID DEVON

Portfolio Manager and Lead for Unmanned and Air Systems, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Prototyping and Experimentation



REAR ADM. MICHAEL "BUZZ" DONNELLY, USN

Director, Air Warfare Division, N98, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations



JORDAN FEIDLER

General Manager, Pentagon and Multi-Domain Division, The Aerospace Corporation

SPEAKERS



MARTIN LINDSEY

Science and Technology Division Chief (J85),
U.S. Indo-Pacific Command



LT. COL. CHARLES LEDEATTE, USAF

Director, AFCENT Battle Lab, Chief Technology
and Data Officer, Ninth Air Force
(Air Forces Central)



CHRISTINE MICHIEZI

Senior Associate (Non-resident),
Defense-Industrial Initiatives Group, CSIS



CAPT QUINTON PACKARD, USN

Military Fellow, Defense and Security
Department, CSIS



ALISON PEREZ

Senior Investment Manager,
Lockheed Martin Ventures



MICHAEL RAMBO

Technology Strategy Senior Manager,
Spirit AeroSystems



ELMER L. ROMAN

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for
Mission Integration, Office of the
Secretary of Defense



TOM SARAMA

Chief Engineer, Raytheon



MAJ. PHILLIP SMITH, USMC

Program Manager, Tactical
Technology Office, DARPA

SPEAKERS



MAJ. GEN. JAMES SMITH, USSF

Vice Director for Joint Force Development, Joint Staff



MEGGAN SCHOENBERG

Principal Director for Integrated Network System of Systems (INSS), Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Critical Technologies, OUSD R&E



NEIL THURGOOD

Senior Vice President, Anduril Industries



JAMES W. WEBER

Principal Director for Hypersonics, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering



LT. COL. MICHAEL "WOODY" WOODHOUSE, USA

Deputy Cell Director for Warfighter Integration, Space Development Agency



ERIC WOLLERMAN

President, Honeywell Federal Manufacturing & Technologies (FM&T), LLC

WHAT TO EXPECT NEXT YEAR

New technical topic in 2026: Signatures and Sensing

Classified threat briefs

High-level and in-depth discussions on layered missile defense architecture



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

AIAA would like to thank the following sponsors and AIAA Corporate Partners for their support of the 2025 AIAA DEFENSE Forum.

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We extend our sincere appreciation to our facilities partner and Corporate Member, Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory.

COMMAND ATTENTION AT AIAA DEFENSE FORUM

Position your organization on the front lines of innovation with sponsorships designed to maximize visibility and mission impact.

Strategic Engagement Options:

- › **"Secure the High Ground" – High-Level Networking Reception**
Our most targeted, high-value engagement. Secure face time with top leaders and decision makers in a focused, high-caliber setting.
- › **"Transmit Your Intel" – Direct Email Mission Briefing**
Deploy a targeted message straight to attendees' inboxes, showcasing your organization's capabilities and solutions.
- › **"Lead the Charge" – Ceremonial Cake-Cutting Sponsorship**
A storied tradition that draws a crowd. Take the honor of saber-cutting the cake and selecting the flavor—a moment attendees won't forget.

Contact our team today to discuss other options
and secure your place at 2026 AIAA DEFENSE Forum.

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17–19 MARCH 2026 | LAUREL, MD

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SAVE THE DATE

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