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Introduction

These are the proceedings of the fifteenth Defense Transformation and Net-centric Systems conference. The papers presented at the conference strongly reflected the inexorable trend towards net-centric systems and service oriented architectures. The conference included the following special sessions:

- **Self-organizing, Collaborative, and Unmanned ISR Robots, held jointly with the Unmanned Systems Technology conference 7692**
  Collaborative autonomous systems portend the increasing use of autonomic sensor and shooter platforms to perform the D3 (Dirty, Dull, and Dangerous) missions in an era of declining force structures.

- **Communication Networks and Dynamic Spectrum Access**
  This is an important topic which was initially pioneered by DARPA and highlighted as a key need by the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board in a 2008 summer study.

- **Sensor Networks and Communications, held jointly with the Ground/Air Multi-sensor Interoperability, Integration, and Networking for Persistent ISR conference 7694**

The conference also included a presentation by invited speaker Mr. Jim Springer of the U.S. Army on the UAS Control Segment (UCS) initiative, which detailed intentions to bring about an Open Architecture Ground Segment for UAS, and igniting a drive away from stove-piped proprietary systems.

Looking ahead, we expect Net-centric systems to be increasingly deployed in the field as C4ISR systems undergo their own “revolution”. In the future, we expect to focus on the networking of sensors and shooters from space to the mud, as well as distributed collaborative teams of robotic platforms.

It is gratifying to see the high level of audience interest in this conference. Particularly gratifying is the fact that this conference has resulted in the “spin-off” of two new conferences at SPIE. My sincere thanks to the distinguished invited speakers, authors, attendees, and my associates on the program committee for another successful conference.

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