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Introduction

These are the proceedings of the 13th conference on Defense Transformation and Net-centric Systems. The papers presented at the conference strongly reflected the inexorable trend toward net-centric systems and service oriented architectures. The conference included the following special sessions:

1. Self-organizing collaborative unmanned ISR robotic teams, held jointly with the Unmanned Systems Technology conference. 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
2. International Technology Alliance. This is a collaborative program between the U.S. Army Research Laboratory and the UK Defence Science and Technology Laboratory.

Invited speakers at the conference included Leo Rose (AFRL), Keith Arthur (U.S. Army AATD), Peter Griffin (General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems), Dr. Brian Leininger (DARPA), Dr. Michael Bryant (AFRL) and Dr. Tim Gibson (DARPA).

Looking ahead, we expect net-centric systems to be increasingly deployed in the field as C4ISR systems undergo their own "revolution." We expect to focus in the future 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. My sincere thanks go to the distinguished invited speakers, authors, attendees, and my associates on the program committee for another successful conference.

Raja Suresh