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Introduction

Several trends in today's world have facilitated renewed interest in Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance. Urban/asymmetric warfare, terrorist threats, border security, natural disasters, and overt criminal activity are causing us to rethink how we maintain safety and security for the inhabitants of our world. As a result, emphasis is being placed on improvements in several key ISR areas: sensor system functionality and capability, effective detection and tracking of many different targets, advanced video/image processing, and effective exploitation/evaluation of critical information products.

New solutions must also be smaller, lighter, less-expensive, use less power, and be quicker to market. These qualities will allow these systems to be hosted on smaller and/or unmanned vehicles and distributed in greater numbers for the users who desperately need them.

The 2010 Airborne ISR conference was the largest since I became conference chair in 2006. As a result, I had the support of three session chairs this year:

- Mr. Dale C. Linne von Berg, U.S. Naval Research Laboratory
- Dr. Beato T. Cheng, Goodrich ISR Systems
- Dr. Darrell L. Young, Raytheon Intelligence and Information Systems

These gentlemen brought a wide range of expertise and experience to the conference and I would like to extend my appreciation to them for all their efforts to make this conference a success.

This is the seventh year for the Airborne ISR Systems and Applications conference. Each year, innovative products and ideas have been presented to solve the daunting ISR challenges we face. This year was no exception. The quality of the papers and presentations was excellent, and I hope you learn as much as I did from the content of our conference.

Daniel J. Henry