



9-11 February 2026 | Reston, Virginia



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Day 1 – Monday, 9 February

Theme: Gray Zone Convergence: Cognitive Security at the Intersection of Influence, Innovation, and Shared Interests

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- 0730-0830: Registration & Coffee
- 0830-0845: Welcome and Introduction
Austin Branch, IPA
- 0845-0900: Special Welcome:
Sen Roger Wicker, Chairman, Senate Armed Services (Invited)
- 0900-0920: **Scene Setter: "Seizing the Cognitive Advantage"**
Dave Pitts, IPA, Former CIA Executive
- 0920-1020: **Keynote Interview: Information in the Age of Great Power Competition**
Moderated by **Suzanne Kelly**, CEO and Publisher, The Cipher Brief
Admiral (R) James Alexander "Sandy" Winnefeld Jr., Former Vice Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff
Senior Private Sector Leader (Invited)
- 1020-1045: **Break**
- 1045-1145: **Panel: Evolution of Global Conflict and Competition: Navigating the Gray Zone**
Moderator: **Brad Christian**, COO & Executive Editor, Open Source Report, The Cipher Brief
Panelists:
Dave Pitts, former CIA Executive, Co-Founder of The Cipher Brief Gray Zone Group
Sarah Cunningham: NATO Allied Command Transformation's lead for Cognitive Warfare
Jay Janzen, Strategic Communications Director, NATO
John Hultquist, Chief Analyst, Google Threat Intelligence Group
- 1145-1300: **Working Lunch & Networking**
Industry Demos are Open

Date: 22Jan2026

- 1300-1415: **Operationalizing Information: US Army**
- 1300-1320: **A Commander's Perspective**
Speaker: **LTG Lawrence G. Ferguson** (USA)
Commanding General, United States Army Special Operations
- 1320-1405 **A Service Perspective**
Speakers: **MG Jake Kwon**, DAMO-SOI
MG Jason Slider, Commander, JFK Special Warfare Center & School
- 1405-1435: **Operationalizing Information—The Service Perspective: US Navy**
Speaker: **RDML Michael Freidberg**, Vice Commander, Naval Information Forces
- 1435-1450: **Introduction: National Center for Narrative Intelligence**
Speaker: **Dan Brooks**, Director
- 1450-1530: **Break**
- 1530-1630: **Panel: Frontiers of Technology**
Moderator: **Dr. Victoria Romero** (DARPA Information & Innovation Office),
Panelists:
Bill Wall, CEO, Accrete AI
Dr Jonathan Pfautz, Peraton Labs
Luca Luceri, University of Southern California Information Sciences Institute
Rebecca Fair, SVP of Information Advantage, TwoSix Technologies
- 1630-1645 **NATO: Building Capability in the Cognitive Warfare Space**
Sarah Cunningham: NATO Allied Command Transformation's lead for Cognitive Warfare
- 1645-1715: **Daily Wrap Up: Chip Bircher**, Executive Director, Information Professionals Association and
MG(R) Patrick Roberson (T)
- 1715-1900: Networking Reception
Speaker: **LTG (Ret.) Stephen G. Fogarty**

Day 2 – Tuesday, 10 February

- 0730-0830: Registration & Coffee
- 0830-0900: **Opening Remarks**
Speaker: **Brian Murphy**, President, Information Professionals Association
Order of Hermes Award for Excellence
- 0900-0915 ASW/SOLIC **Derek Anderson** (Virtual) **(Invited)**
- 0915-0930 **GEN Dagvin R.M. Anderson**, Commander USAFRICOM (Virtual) **(Invited)**
- 0930-1045: **U.S. National Security Council and Partners**
- 0930-0945 **Sebastian Gorka**, Deputy Assistant to the President & Senior Director for Counterterrorism
- 0945-1045 **Shawn Chenoweth**, NSC Director of Cognitive Advantage

Dr Johnathan Malaya, Philippines Deputy National Security Advisor (virtual)

Brian Gibel, DOS, Office of Public Diplomacy/Public Affairs Policy, Planning & Resources

1045-1115: **Break**

1115-1215: **Panel: Role of the Private Sector (Leader, Problem Solver, Innovator, Trusted Partner)**

Moderator: **LTG(R) Michael Nagata**, CACI

Panelists:

Tim Minard, CEO, Board Chairman, Entrepreneur

MG(R) Charlie Cleveland, Senior Counselor, Palantir

Joe Miller, Deputy Commander (Support), US Special Operations Command

Joe Stradinger, Entrepreneur and CEO, Edge Theory

1215-1330: **Lunch Break & Networking**

Industry Demos are Open

1330-1500: **Tech Demos, Breakouts, and Networking**

1330-1500 **Industry Demos** (Industry display conf area)

1330-1500 **Industry “Shark Tank” Technology Exchange(s)**—slots scheduled separately
ASW SO/LIC Capability, Development & Innovation Office
SAF Capability Development & Management Office
DARPA
JS J39
ARCYBER/2nd TIAD
USMC

1330-1430 **Breakout—Forging the Future of Cognitive Warfare Readiness**

Moderator: **Rich Butler**, Director, Strategic Multilayer Assessment, J39

Panelists:

Scott Nelson, Acting Principal Director, DoW Cyber Academic

Dr. Asya Cooley, Oklahoma State University

CDR Mike Posey, US Army War College

Dave Acosta, Naval Post Graduate School

1400-1500 **Breakout—Border Security and Cognitive Warfare: Opportunities and Risks**

Moderator: **JD Maddox**, Irregular Warfare Center

Panelists:

Dr. Guadalupe Correa-Cabrera, George Mason University

Dr. Jonathan Schroden, Center for Naval Analysis

1500-1600: **Outside the Echo Chamber—Entertainment and Gaming Industry**

Moderator: **Jeff Miller**, Chief Marketing Officer, Intrepid Worldwide

Panelists:

David Ayer, Film Maker, Director, Producer

Brent Romagnolo, Volkno AI

Dave Leener, Entertainment Industry Executive

Dan Elenbaas, Gaming Industry Executive

1600-1640: **Closing Keynote: Why This Matters**

Dr. Michael Vickers, Former ASD SOLIC and USD(I&S)

Date: 22Jan2026

1640-1715: **Way Forward**
Speaker: **Austin Branch, IPA**

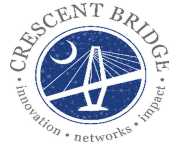
1715-1915: **Day II Reception**
Speaker: MG(R) Patrick Roberson (T)

Day 3 – Wednesday, 11 February

0830-0900: Registration & Coffee

0900-1200 **Industry “Shark Tank” Technology Exchange(s)**—slots scheduled separately
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