Defense Strategies Institute professional educational forum:

5th Annual SOF Symposium

“Synchronizing a Fully Integrated Special Operations Network”

October 11-12, 2016: Mary M. Gates Learning Center, Alexandria, VA
The United States currently face the most complex and dynamic security environment since World War II. The emerging international system hosts a wide variety of threats from state and non-state actors that include but are not limited to: Russia, China, Iran, and Sunni Jihadism. As these threats converge, it will become increasingly important for military leaders and policymakers to develop the strategies and operating procedures necessary to strengthen America’s ability to understand, operate within, and control the current and future strategic and operational continuum.

DSI’s 2016 SOF Symposium will provide a forum that will enable leaders in the SOF community, regional combatant commands, USAID, the Department of State, the Intelligence Community, partner nations, industry, academia and other critical partners the ability to discuss the operational needs and strategic implementation of Special Operations Forces in support of military objectives and national interests.

This Symposium will emphasize the critical role of SOF as an instrument of US strategic power. SOF must be adequately resourced and trained to provide effective action against conventional and unconventional threats. In order to become more effective, SOF must build trust with allies and partner nations to ensure stability and fortification of US interests. SOF’s multi-faceted mission set will be discussed with an emphasis on training, readiness, materiel and partnership requirements needed to stabilize regions before, during and after crises occur. Discussions will also feature dialog on SOF challenges and limitations when operating within the “Grey Zone” of conflict, as well as the importance of SOF/Conventional Force integration.

DSI’s team specializes in the extensive research and development of our Summits’ content and focus areas, and we strive to assemble the most respected minds involved in SOF policy and operations. Our non-partisan approach allows us to reach across all services and organizations to bring together a truly holistic group of decision makers and solution providers.

DSI’s Symposium directly supports Special Operations Forces and partnering community priorities by providing a conduit for officials to efficiently reach audiences outside of their respective offices that directly impact their department’s mission success, at no charge to the government, and in an efficient expenditure of time.

DSI’s Symposium will provide a forum to address and improve internal and external initiatives, meet with and hear from partner organizations, disseminate vital capability requirements to industry, increase visibility within the larger community, and generally support their mission.

* The Symposium is open and complimentary to all members of the SOF Community, the DoD and Federal employees and is considered an educational and training forum.

(Industry and academia members are charged a fee of attendance)

This Summit is CLOSED TO PRESS / Non-attribution
### General Target Audience:
- Capability developers
- Operations leads
- Procurement officers
- Program managers
- Business development leads
- Operational planners and researchers
- Weapons systems operators and support staff
- Contracted security support
- Training
- Modeling and simulation

### Topics to be discussed include:
- The evolution of special operations in an increasingly dynamic and changing threat environment
- Improving civil-military partnership efforts to overcome operational challenges in contested environments
- Near-term perspectives on emerging procedures, equipment and technology in support of SOF operations
- Developing, coordinating, and overseeing the implementation of global policies and recommendations concerning national security and regional stability
- Challenges to providing greater access to regions in conflict to establish greater connective tissue in a complex and volatile international system
- Bolstering US influence over the terrorist/counterterrorist informational battlefield
- Strengthening partnership capacity to provide greater ISR, precision strike, and IO capabilities in support of SOF operations
- Bolstering SOF’s ability to operate unobtrusively with a small footprint in contested environments
- Perceiving the emerging challenges, threats and opportunities for adversarial campaigns in Grey Zone conflicts
- Enhancing the ability to see, assess, and understand the physical, cognitive, and moral frames within the strategic operating environment
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<th>Time</th>
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<td>8:00 – 8:45</td>
<td><strong>Registration and Light Breakfast Reception Open</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45 – 9:00</td>
<td><strong>Moderator Opening Remarks:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Brigadier General Richard C. “Rich” Gross, USA (Retired)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Partner at the Law Firm of FH+H PLLC</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Former Legal Counsel to Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 – 9:40</td>
<td><strong>Improving the US Military’s Capability and Expanding its Capacity for Irregular Warfare</strong></td>
<td><strong>Christopher Maier</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Special Operations and Combating Terrorism</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ASD, Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict (Confirmed)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9:40 – 10:20</td>
<td><strong>Providing a Robust and Scalable Special Operations Force to Overcome Many of the Nation’s Most Critical Challenges</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lt Gen Thomas Trask, USAF</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Vice Commander</strong></td>
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<td><strong>US Special Operations Command (Confirmed)</strong></td>
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<td>10:20 – 10:50</td>
<td><strong>Networking Break</strong></td>
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<td>10:50 – 11:30</td>
<td><strong>Regaining America’s Strategic Initiative in Grey Zone Conflict</strong></td>
<td><strong>Nathan Freier</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Senior Fellow, International Security Program</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Strategic Studies Institute (Confirmed)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 – 12:10</td>
<td><strong>U.S. Approach to Counter Foreign Terrorist Fighters</strong></td>
<td><strong>Damon Stevens</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Middle East Group Chief</strong></td>
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<td><strong>NCTC (Confirmed)</strong></td>
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<td>12:10 – 1:00</td>
<td><strong>Networking Lunch</strong></td>
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<td>Time</td>
<td>Session Title</td>
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| 1:00 – 1:40| Near-Term Security Assistance, Strategic Policy and Political-Military Directives to Re-establish Stability and Advance US Interests across the Globe | - Leveraging foreign military sales, education and training to advance US national security objectives  
- Enhancing effective information flow and coordination to bolster strategic direction and operational capabilities  
- Current perspectives on future operating environments for the US Air Force and partnering organizations |
|            | **Brig Gen Billy D. Thompson, USAF**                                            | Director, Regional Affairs  
Office of the Deputy Under Secretary Air Force, International Affairs, HQ USAF (Confirmed) |

| 1:40 – 2:55| Strategic Policy Proposals Needed to Re-establish Stability and Security throughout the Middle East | This panel will focus on the strategic guidance, operational capabilities and multilateral partnerships needed to expand US influence in the Middle East and provide SOF with the ability to successfully neutralize state and non-state actors seeking to undermine stability within the region. This informal panel discussion will provide speakers with the opportunities to provide their own perspectives on some of the challenges and opportunities the US faces when attempting to re-establish security and stability throughout the Middle East. |
|            | **Moderator:**  
Kimberly Dozier  
Author/Daily Beast contributing writer (Confirmed) |                                                                                                                                 |
|            | **Panelists:**  
Ambassador James F. Jeffrey  
Philip Solondz Distinguished Fellow  
The Washington Institute (Confirmed) |                                                                                                                                 |
|            | LTG Charles Cleveland, USA (Ret)  
Former Commanding General  
US Army Special Operations Command (Confirmed) |                                                                                                                                 |
|            | Dr. Kimberly Kagan  
President  
Institute for the Study of War (Confirmed) |                                                                                                                                 |
|            | Ilan Goldenberg  
Senior Fellow/Director Middle East Security Program  
Center for a New American Security (Confirmed) |                                                                                                                                 |

| 2:55 – 3:20| Networking Break | |

| 3:20 – 4:00| USDI Efforts to Improving Intelligence Collaboration and Building Foreign Partner Intelligence | - Enabling intelligence-driven precision operations through partner engagement  
- Proliferation of commercially available technology and efforts to maintain a decisive advantage in complex environments  
- Near-term policy objectives and initiatives to further improve collaboration between intelligence partners |
|            | **Garry Reid**  
Director, Defense Intelligence (Intelligence and Security)  
Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence (Confirmed) |
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| 4:00 – 4:40 | **Enhancing Tactical and Strategic Level Expertise in Revolutions, Resistance, and Insurgency (RRI) Outcomes Occurring in Grey Zone Conflicts** | - Historical case studies of RRI  
- Defining actor relativity and the interconnectivity of lethality and diplomacy  
- Understanding the tactical and strategic challenges to operating in the Grey Zone  
- Developing clear and concise policy objectives to assess, plan, and execute a thorough UW or Counter-UW campaign  
- Perspectives on future state adversaries seeking to operate between war and peace |
|          | **David Maxwell**  
Associate Director, Center for Security Studies  
Georgetown University (Confirmed) |                                                                                                         |
| 4:40 – 5:20 | **Strengthening the Interoperability of NATO Special Operations Forces** | - Challenges to conducting training and operations amidst a significant shortfall in member states, SOF-specific air assets and ISR capabilities  
- Near-term efforts to further integrate command, control, communications, computers and intelligence (C4I) capabilities in a multinational, cooperative environment  
- Securing innovative technology to provide greater agility and effectiveness to NATO partners |
|          | **Jordan Slopey**  
Director, Commander's Action Group (CAG)  
NATO Special Operations Headquarters (NSHQ) (Confirmed) |                                                                                                         |
| 8:15 – 8:45 | **Registration and Light Breakfast Reception Open** |                                                                                                         |
| 8:45 – 9:00 | **Moderator Opening Remarks:**  
Brigadier General Richard C. “Rich” Gross, USA (Retired)  
Partner at the Law Firm of FH+H PLLC  
Former Legal Counsel to Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff |                                                                                                         |
| 9:00 – 9:40 | **Bolstering US control of the Terrorist/Counterterrorist Information Battlefield** | -Identifying gaps in US Government messaging and counter-messaging capabilities directed toward foreign audiences  
- Finding credible international partners and providing them with the expertise to accomplish mission objectives  
- Near-term perspectives on strategic partner engagement and the increasing volatility of the international system |
|          | **The Honorable Michael Lumpkin**  
Special Envoy and Coordinator, Global Engagement Center  
US Department of State (Confirmed) |                                                                                                         |
| 9:40 – 10:20 | **Operations in the Grey Zone** | - Enhancing the ability to see, assess, and understand the risks of state and non-state actors operating in Grey Zone conflicts  
- Improving the speed and ease at which soldiers synthesize information of tactical operations relevance  
- The importance of SOF/conventional force integration and interoperability  
- Grey Zone Challenges and US Army Special Operations solutions |
|          | **BG Patrick Roberson, USA**  
Assistant Commanding General – Operations  
US Army 1st Special Forces Command (Airborne) (Confirmed) |                                                                                                         |
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| 10:50 – 11:30       | **Challenges to Building Enduring Security Partnerships to Advance U.S. National Security Objectives**  
                      - Leveraging special operations training, arms sales and security assistance programs to bolster regional stability and counter-terrorism efforts throughout the Middle East  
                      - Strengthening international peacekeeping capacity through the Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI)  
                      - Challenges to advancing US interests in a complex and volatile international system  
                      **Karen Williams**  
                      Senior Advisor, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs  
                      Department of State (Confirmed) |
| 11:30 – 12:10       | **SOCOM’s Efforts to Discover, Enable, and Transition Technologies to Provide an Asymmetric Advantage for Special Operations Forces in the Operational Environment**  
                      - Strategic overview of current S&T programs  
                      - Updates on PEO Technology Insertion Roadmaps  
                      - Leveraging Cooperative Research And Development Agreements (CRADAs) to advance Science and Technology that meets USSOCOM mission requirements  
                      - Advancing industry engagement to promote better, cheaper, and faster capability development  
                      - Overview of future SOF S&T needs and areas of interest  
                      **Lisa Sanders (Incoming)**  
                      Director, Science and Technology  
                      SOF AT&L, US Special Operations Command (Confirmed) |
| 12:10 – 12:50       | **USAID Civil-Military Efforts and Why they are Important**  
                      - Perspectives on the role that international development plays in complex environments  
                      - Current USAID and SOF collaboration and potential future efforts to counter the drivers of VEOs  
                      - Additional capabilities and/or authorities needed to enhance civ-mil (USAID-ARSOF) collaboration  
                      **John Acree**  
                      Director, Office of Civilian-Military Cooperation  
                      USAID (Confirmed) |
| 12:50 – 1:30        | Networking Lunch                                                     |
| 1:30 – 2:10         | **Integrating Concepts and Capabilities Relevant to Irregular Warfare into DoD Activities**  
                      - Improving the DoD’s ability to anticipate adversarial military campaigns and increasing the DoD’s proficiency in conducting irregular warfare  
                      - Tying Russian hybrid or irregular warfare capabilities to geopolitical strategic policy objectives and national considerations  
                      - Challenges to strengthening America’s capacity to conduct irregular warfare  
                      **Dr. Andrea Dew**  
                      Co-Director, Center for Irregular Warfare and Armed Groups  
                      Naval War College (Confirmed) |
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<th>2:10 – 2:50</th>
<th><strong>Future Strategic Initiatives to Optimize AFSOC’s Role in the Joint Environment</strong></th>
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<td>- Strategic guidance for 21st century SOF engagements and the role of AFSOC</td>
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<td>- Challenges that exist for future theater engagements and building partnership aviation capacity</td>
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<td>- Addressing the future complexity of irregular warfare in an increasingly volatile international system</td>
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<td>- Providing speed, lethality, and global perspective to AFSOC operational core missions and capabilities of specialized air power</td>
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**Lt Col Caleb Nimmo, USAF**  
Director, AFSOC Cochran Group  
AFSOC (Confirmed)

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<th>3:10 – 3:50</th>
<th><strong>Understanding the Evolution of Al-Shabaab and the History of US and Multilateral Peace-Keeping Efforts in Africa</strong></th>
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<td>- Lessons learned from the roots of terrorism and instability within the developing world</td>
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<td>- Successes and failures of AMISOM’s efforts to regain stability, conduct counterinsurgency operations and provide humanitarian assistance to the Somalia people</td>
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<td>- Challenges and opportunities for shared, multilateral partnership efforts to combat VEO influence in failed and/or weak state actors</td>
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<td>- Future strategies to counter instability and violent extremism in the horn of Africa</td>
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**Dr. Paul D. Williams**  
Associate Professor, International Affairs  
Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University (Confirmed)

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<th>3:50 – 4:30</th>
<th><strong>Current Updates On Military Imaging and Surveillance Technology (MIST)</strong></th>
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<td>- Providing high resolution 3-D images to locate and identify a target at much longer ranges</td>
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<td>- Creating Soldier portable and UAV platform integration for Warfighters in the operational environment</td>
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<td>- Providing increased target identification confidence to reduce fratricide and/or collateral damage</td>
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<td>- Improvements to enhance Crosswind Sensor System for Snipers (C-WINS) and Dynamic Image Gunsight Optics (DInGO)</td>
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**Dr. Richard M. Heinrichs**  
Program Manager, Strategic Technology Office  
DARPA (Confirmed)

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<th>4:30</th>
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*Speaker sessions & topics are subject to edits*