

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual NDIA-DVC Aerospace Conference**  
**Advancing the Future Battlespace: Unmanned Aerial Systems and Counter-UAV Technologies**  
**Day 1 | 9 June 2026**

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**Opening Session – 2:30 PM – 5:00 PM | Academia Technology Expo**

**Registration & Technology Showcase**

- **Participant check-in and badge pickup**
  - **Technology exhibits / Presentations / Evaluation**
  - **Early engagement with industry, government, and academic leaders**
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**Networking Session - 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM**

**Evening – Networking Reception & Keynote (WL Gore Capability Center, 1901 Barksdale Rd, Newark, DE)**

- **High-impact keynote address (TBA)**
- **Curated networking with senior leaders, innovators, and decision-makers**
- **Informal discussions to foster collaboration and partnership opportunities**

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**Advancing the Future Battlespace: Unmanned Aerial Systems and Counter-UAV Technologies**  
**Day 2 | 10 June 2026**

**Operational Strategy, Defense Requirements & Industrial Collaboration**

**Arrival, Registration & Continental Breakfast - 7:30 AM – 8:30 AM**

- Morning networking
  - Government-industry engagement sessions
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**Opening Session - 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM**

- Presentation of Colors & National Anthem
  - Welcome Remarks from NDIA Delaware Valley Chapter
  - Conference Overview and Strategic Framing
  - The evolving role of UAS and Counter-UAS in modern defense operations
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**Aligning Defense Priorities, Industrial Capacity & International Trade - 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM**

**Featured Speakers:**

- Brig Gen (ret) Guy Walsh – Moderator | EVP & COO NDIA
  - Andy Farquharson – Department of Commerce Office of Policy and Strategic Planning (OPSP).
  - Kenneth Hittel – State Department Trade Defense Control Policy
  - Maria Carolina Demario – Office of the Assistant Secretary of War Industrial Base Policy **(Invited)**

**Discussion Themes:**

- Strengthening the Defense Industrial Base for scalable UAS production & supply chain resilience
  - Acquisition reform and rapid capability transition
  - International trade, exportability, export controls and allied interoperability
  - Public-private partnerships accelerating defense innovation
  - Aligning policy, procurement, and operational demand signals
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**Networking Break - 10:00 AM – 10:15 AM**

- Targeted discussions with industry and government stakeholders
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## **UAS Systems & Requirements Panel**

**Operational Needs, Drone Dominance & Future Force Integration - 10:15 AM – 11:30 AM**

### **Panel Participants:**

- John Piasecki - Piasecki Aerospace Corp - Moderator
- COL Danielle R. Medaglia - Project Manager for the Army's Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS)
- COL Gregory J. Merkl - Drone Dominance Director to the CSA
- Daniel DiMartino - DEVCOM Armaments Center Thrust Area Manager for Lethal UAS
- Carl Forsling – Airbus US Space & Defense Senior Director of Business Development and Strategy

### **Discussion Themes:**

- Joint-service operational requirements for tactical and autonomous systems
  - Drone dominance and contested battlespace operations
  - Attributable systems and scalable manufacturing
  - AI-enabled autonomy and mission integration
  - Transitioning emerging technologies into deployable capability
  - Army modernization priorities and future force design
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## **Networking Lunch & Engagement - 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM**

- Facilitated industry-government networking
  - University and research engagement opportunities
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## **International Keynote Address**

**NATO Transformation, Allied Interoperability & the Future Battlespace - 12:30 PM – 1:00 PM**

### **International Keynote Speaker:**

- General Aurelio Colagrande - Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Transformation

### **Keynote Focus:**

- NATO modernization priorities for autonomous systems
  - Allied interoperability in UAS and Counter-UAS operations
  - Lessons learned from contemporary operational environments
  - Coalition technology integration and force transformation
  - Emerging international capability requirements
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## **C-UAS Systems Requirements & Operational Panel**

**Defeating Emerging Threats Across Military, Homeland & Civil Domains - 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM**

### **Panel Participants:**

- Jim McLaughlin – Leonardo Helicopters (Moderator)
- Daniel DiMartino - DEVCOM Armaments Center Thrust Area Manager for Lethal UAS
- Christopher Abt - Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems (RMS) Dir. Advanced Concepts
- Sergeant Brett Creasey - UAS Operations Commander for the Delaware State Police
- Additional USAF, FBI, DHS, DoD, and operational Counter-UAS representatives (Invited)

### **Discussion Themes:**

- Evolving drone threat environments and operational lessons learned
  - Layered Counter-UAS architectures and kill chains
  - Detection, tracking, EW, kinetic, and directed-energy solutions
  - Airspace management and homeland defense integration
  - Protection of critical infrastructure and military installations
  - Bridging capability gaps between operational demand and acquisition timelines
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## **Afternoon Networking Break - 2:00 PM – 2:15 PM**

- Facilitated industry-government networking
  - B2B and government-industry introductions
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## **Regional UAS / C-UAS Working Group Panel**

**Building an Autonomous System Ecosystem Working Group - 2:15 PM – 3:30 PM**

**Introductory presentation by Jim McLaughlin – Leonardo Helicopters US Corporation**

### **Participants: Jim McLaughlin (Facilitator)**

- John Piasecki – CEO, Piasecki Aerospace Corp
- Kaydon Stanzione – CEO Logistiwerx
- Ben Williams – COO Exyn Technologies
- Matt White – Director of Engineering American Additive Manufacturing
- Jim McLaughlin – Director of Technology and Innovation Leonardo Helicopters
- Dr. Brandon Terranova – Professor Community College of Philadelphia
- Dr. Vanessa Chan – UPENN Vice-Dean Penn Engineering

### **Discussion Themes:**

- Technologies for Autonomous Systems from Concept to Ops to Sustainment

- Workforce development and talent pipelines
  - University-industry-defense collaboration models
  - Test ranges, experimentation environments, and commercialization pathways
  - Regional manufacturing and supply-chain resilience
  - Creating sustainable public-private partnerships
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## **Closing Session**

### **3:30 PM – 4:00 PM**

- Conference summary and strategic takeaways
- Key action items and collaboration opportunities
- Future NDIA Delaware Valley initiatives and working groups
- Closing remarks and adjournment