

2nd Annual NDIA-DVC Aerospace Conference

Advancing the Future Battlespace: Unmanned Aerial Systems and Counter-UAV Technologies
University of Delaware - Clayton Hall - 100 David Hollowell Dr, Newark, DE 19716
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 – Roby Lentz – President NDIA DVC | 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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Defense Industry Panel: Advancing UAS and Counter-UAS Capabilities 9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

- Charles Dabundo – NDIA DVC Board of Directors (Moderator)
 - Carl Forsling – Airbus US Space & Defense Senior Director of Business Development and Strategy
 - John Piasecki – CEO, Piasecki Aircraft Corp
 - Jim McLaughlin – Director of Technology and Innovation Leonardo Helicopters
 - Patricia Stevens – Boeing Phantom Works Vertical Lift Chief Engineer
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UAS Systems & Requirements Panel

Operational Needs, Drone Dominance & Future Force Integration – 10:15 AM – 11:00 AM

Panel Participants:

- John Piasecki - Piasecki Aircraft 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
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Networking Break – 11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

- Targeted discussions with industry and government stakeholders
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Aligning Defense Priorities, Industrial Capacity & International Trade | 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Featured Speakers Segment:

Department of Commerce on the UAS Market | 11:30 AM – 11:45 AM

- Andy Farquharson – Dept of Commerce ITA - Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Manufacturing.

State Department on Defense Trade Updates | 11:45 AM – 12:00 PM

- Kenneth Hittel – Lead for Strategic Policy and Analysis, Office of Defense Trade Control Policy Controls

NATO Transformation, Allied Interoperability & the Future Battlespace | 12:00 PM – 12:30 PM

- General Aurelio Colagrande - Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Transformation
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Speakers Luncheon - Keynote Address | 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Keynote Speaker | 1:30 PM – 2:00 PM

A View from Capitol Hill - NDIA Vital Signs and SBIR/STTR Reauthorization

- Brig Gen (ret) Guy Walsh – NDIA Executive Vice President & COO
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C-UAS Systems Requirements & Operational Panel

Defeating Emerging Threats Across Military, Homeland & Civil Domains – 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Panel Participants:

- Jim McLaughlin – Leonardo Helicopters (Moderator)
 - LTC Paul Lushenko – Joint Interagency Task Force 401 Chief Strategist
 - Lt Col, USAF, KYLE T. WAITE - Deputy Commander, 436th Mission Support Group
 - Special Agent Matt Gordon - FBI Baltimore's C-UAS Coordinator
 - Sergeant Brett Creasey - UAS Operations Commander for the Delaware State Police
 - Shelby Hritz- Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems (RMS) Dir. Advanced Concepts
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Regional UAS / C-UAS Working Group Panel

Building an Autonomous System Ecosystem Working Group – 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Introductory presentation by Jim McLaughlin – Leonardo Helicopters US Corporation

Participants: Amanda Page – DVIRC (Facilitator)

- John Piasecki – CEO, Piasecki Aircraft 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
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Closing Session

4:00 PM – 4:15 PM

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