



**NE
NS**

**NORTHEAST NATIONAL
SECURITY CONFERENCE**

PRESENTED BY:

BAE SYSTEMS

June 3, 2026

Nashua, NH



**NH TECH
ALLIANCE**

NENS Committee

Thank you to the NENS Conference Committee members who helped to make this event possible:



Committee Chair
Tom Fournier
Founder & Principal
OrgNxt LLC



Committee Co-Chair
Scott Merrick
Founder & Principal
Darby Field Advisors



Lee Silvestre
Senior Principal
Venture Frontiers



Jenna Girompini,
Director of Operations
Association of Old
Crows, Patriots Roost
Chapter



Jefferson D. Mitchell,
Maj, USSF
Chapter Founder &
President
SFA New England



Jessica Nelson,
Principal
New North Ventures



Allyson Cavaretta
CEO Founder
Lexington Capital LLC



NH TECH
ALLIANCE

NENS Committee

Committee Chair

Tom Fournier, Founder & Principal, OrgNxt LLC

Tom Fournier, LTC, U.S. Army (Retired) was a career Armor Cavalry Officer with service in the initial Invasion, Surge, and Reconciliation phases of Iraq and Afghanistan, closing out his career serving on the Joint Staff, J7, retiring as a fully Joint qualified plans and assessment trainer for major U.S. and Allied commands. Since leaving Service, he has continued to serve, advising national security initiatives in Ukraine, FFRDCs, and numerous innovation and workforce development projects, boards, advisory committees, and mentorship programs. Why ...Through every phase of the GWOT, he and his troopers were the fortunate recipients of numerous rapid fielding innovations that undoubtedly saved lives. It has become the purpose of OrgNxt LLC to ensure future Generations enjoy the same advantages.

Committee Co-Chair

Scott Merrick, Founder & Principal Darby Field Advisors

Prior to co-founding Darby Field Advisors, Scott spent nearly two decades working at the intersection of public policy, politics and business development. Most recently, Scott helped lead the successful New Hampshire Biden for President campaign where he served as Senior Advisor. In this role, Scott was instrumental in framing the campaign's core messaging and outreach to grassroots and grassroots organizations. Previously, as New Hampshire State Director for Senator Amy Klobuchar's primary presidential campaign, Scott led the campaign to a strong third place finish, catapulting Senator Klobuchar into the national spotlight. Scott was then promoted to Traveling Chief of Staff for the remainder of Senator Klobuchar's campaign. Scott served for more than seven years in U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen's office as Deputy State Director and a senior advisor on business-related issues. Scott interfaced directly with New Hampshire's businesses, education institutions, nonprofits, and trade partners to help craft and implement key federal policies and grant programs. As Vice President of Business Development for Athenium Analytics, a technology company based in Dover, NH, Scott helped achieve historic growth in the company's insurance practice. In 2004, Scott was elected at the age of 19 to the New Hampshire House of Representatives, where he served for five years on the education, environment and agriculture, and election law committees. During his time in the State House, Scott championed economic recovery legislation targeted at rural populations. He was also named to the Democratic Caucus leadership team as an Assistant Majority Floor Leader. Scott grew up in Lancaster, New Hampshire and attended Tufts University where he received a BA in Political Science.

Lee Silvestre, Principal – Venture Frontiers, Senior Associate – Spirit Advisory

Lee has decades of experience supporting Defense and commercial markets through technology development and transition, programmatic execution, and strategy formation, focused on multiple-use, multi-mission applications. In early 2026 she launched Venture Frontiers helping ventures to develop, evolve, and thrive in the blue tech world evolving from early stage to sustained, robust businesses. She partners with early stage and dual use companies that are looking to evolve their business in the blue tech space and explore opportunities across maritime commercial and defense applications. This recent role has allowed a heightened focus and priority to the evolving companies, business entities, and investment opportunities in the North Atlantic region. In a collaborative global industry partnership, Lee has joined Spirit Advisory as a senior associate supporting the same mission objectives. In prior roles as the NavalX North Atlantic Tech Hub Director, Co-Founder and Manager of the Undersea Technology Innovation Consortium, and various technology leadership roles in Raytheon Integrated Defense Systems, Lee has worked with entrepreneurs, small businesses and academia, blue tech industry members, high tech investors, as well as nontraditional defense companies and large system integrators to identify, accelerate, and expose unique and dual-use technology solutions that contribute to Naval missions and pressing needs of national security and the blue tech/ocean sector. With degrees in Applied Mathematics and Operations Research, Lee is leveraging her innovation and business transformation experience within the high-tech community to transition technologies and solutions into meaningful applications that address critical mission needs.



NENS Committee

Jenna Girompini, Director of Operations Association of Old Crows, Patriots Roost Chapter

Ms. Girompini is currently a government contract advisor and the Director of Operations for the Association of Old Crows-Patriots Roost Chapter. She began her career as the Chief Administrative Officer at a company focused on homeland security. While there, she assisted in creating and organizing biological counter-terrorism training and awareness seminars, with the Metropolitan Police UK and the United Nations. Continuing the government and administration focused path, she consulted in Capital Delivery at the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Agency, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, for legal firms, and currently serves as Chief of Research and Government Contracting for multiple companies. Notable projects include assisting on reworking the IRS's Strategic Engagement Plan within the Human Capital Office, working on multiple change management plans for LinkedIn, creating a Project Management Certification Program with UMASS Boston for the MBTA and MassDOT, creating training programs for HHS, working with the Association of Old Crows, and working with a prime consultant team on business process improvement for a Tier 1 airport using Lean Six Sigma on aviation security, processes, and software projects.

Jefferson D. Mitchell, Maj, USSF, Chapter Founder & President, SFA New England

Jefferson D. Mitchell is a Major in the U.S. Space Force and the Space Force Association Northeast Region Deputy Vice President. Throughout his career, Jefferson has led high-impact, large-scale initiatives across the Air, Space, and Intelligence sectors. As Chief of the Ground Based Radar Hardware Modernization Branch at Space Systems Command, he directed a team of over 70 personnel and managed a \$950 million portfolio. Previously, as Chief of the Innovation Division at Space Delta 13, he spearheaded the acquisition of a \$10 million enterprise learning platform, and as Branch Chief of Future Partnerships at U.S. Space Command, he successfully expanded critical commercial and international space alliances. A certified Project Management Professional (PMP), Jefferson holds a Master of Business Administration from Liberty University and a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology from Iowa State University. Following his departure from active duty in July 2026, he will begin his Master in Public Administration at the Harvard Kennedy School, where he intends to focus on corporate strategy and the future of national security innovation.

Jessica Nelson, Principal, New North Ventures

As a Principal at New North Ventures, Jessica Nelson plays a key role in investment analysis, portfolio support, company sourcing and investor relations for the firm's early stage defense tech investments. She has been instrumental in shaping the firm's long term investor relations strategy, successfully recruiting investors and helping develop the structure for New North Ventures. Jessica brings a strong entrepreneurial mindset to venture investing, first demonstrated when she owned and operated her own ice cream boat business on a New Hampshire lake. She sources high-impact investment opportunities by leveraging experience gained as Director of Operations for the Rines Angel Fund. Prior to joining New North Ventures, Jessica worked at Orbit Group, a family office where she supported a portfolio of angel investments and conducted due diligence on real estate acquisitions. Jessica is a proud graduate of University of New Hampshire's Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics. During her time at UNH, she was recognized as a finalist in the prestigious Paul J. Holloway Entrepreneurial Competition, reflecting her passion for innovation, entrepreneurship, and building impactful companies.

Allyson Cavaretta, CEO Founder, Lexington Capital LLC

Allyson M. Cavaretta, J.D., is a performance-driven strategist specializing in scaling business operations within highly regulated industries. With 25+ years of leadership experience—ranging from the U.S. Senate and the DOJ to scaling private sector revenue—Allyson helps organizations navigate growth-stage challenges through data-driven decision-making and operational excellence. She is the Founder of Lexington Capital and an Adjunct Professor of Business Law, known for her ability to translate complex regulatory frameworks into actionable business strategies that drive client success and long-term retention.



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 3, 2026

Dear Friends,

I join you in spirit at the 2026 Northeast National Security Conference. This event is a wonderful opportunity to have conversations and make connections that will strengthen the foundation of two critical economic sectors in the Northeast. Thank you to BAE Systems, the NH Tech Alliance and all other conference organizers for putting together an engaging agenda of speakers and presentations. Thank you also to all panel participants for sharing your expertise and insights. And – above all – thank you to conference attendees for showing the initiative to improve your enterprises and brighten the future of our region.

Your presence here today shows you understand how important it is to develop a national security and defense ecosystem capable of harnessing new technologies, overcoming emerging challenges and meeting the demands of critical sectors that are constantly evolving. National security and defense are two fields with potential for significant and sustained growth in New Hampshire and beyond. We must continue to encourage innovation and create meaningful partnerships that produce a resilient economy and dynamic workforce. If we emphasize and invest in these ideas today, we can grow and modernize these sectors so they fully embrace the jobs of tomorrow.

My best wishes to you all as you continue to work to improve the Northeast's economy, infrastructure and future. As your United States Senator, I look forward to working with you in these endeavors and more.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeanne Shaheen". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

General Session

8:00 AM Registration Opens

- Registration sponsored by [UNH College of Professional Studies](#)

8:30 AM Opening Remarks

- [Julie Demers](#), Executive Director, NH Tech Alliance
- [Tom Fournier](#), Chair, Northeast National Security Conference Committee
- [Leonard Lublin](#), Deputy General Manager, BAE Systems' FAST Labs™

9:15 AM Coffee Break

Morning coffee break sponsored by [Pulsar Security](#)

9:30 AM - 12:45 PM Breakout Sessions

12:45 PM Lunch

2:00 PM Tech Showcase

- [BLUEiQ](#)
- [Integer Technologies](#)
- [Municipal Alpha LLC](#)
- [PRO Therapeutics \(PRO-T\)](#)
- [Spire Training Group](#)

3:00 PM Presentations by Defense Service Organizations

- [Defense Innovation Community – Aneel Alvares](#), Defense Tech Advisory, Principal
- [DARPAConnect – Karen Krause-Bencal](#), DARPAConnect
- [DEVCOM – Jeffrey Pacuska](#), Program Manager- OUSD R&E ManTech, US Army DEVCOM Soldier Center
- [The Lantern – Christopher Carrero](#), ORTA and Technical Director
- Q&A Moderator: [Tom Fournier](#), Founder & Principal, [OrgNxt LLC](#)

4:15 PM Investing in National Security

- Moderator: [Jeremy Hitchcock](#), Co-Founder/Managing Partner, New North Ventures
- [John Dvor](#), Managing Director, Agon Ventures
- [Jon Chait](#), Managing Partner, IQT (In-Q-Tel)
- [Jack Barry](#), Co-Founder/ Managing Partner, Blackbird

5:00 PM Cocktail Reception



Electronic Systems sector and FAST Labs™

FAST Labs™ is the R&D arm of Electronic Systems sector

Electronic Systems produces commercial and defense electronics for flight and engine control, electronic warfare, surveillance, communications, geospatial intelligence, and power and energy management.

FAST Labs™ R&D portfolio addresses the ever-escalating challenges and threats faced by our clients. Between in-depth research and a passion for new ideas, our group invents, innovates, adapts, and produces over-the-horizon technologies that continually give the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), U.S. intelligence agencies, and our warfighters a decisive edge over all potential adversaries.

Leonard Lublin, Deputy General Manager, BAE Systems' FAST Labs

Leonard is the deputy general manager of FAST Labs™ where they advance science, develop technology, and deliver microelectronic products to solve the toughest challenges for our defense and commercial customers. He is responsible for supporting the operation of the \$360m/yr world-class research, development, and production organization defining the next generation of technology across the \$6.2b/yr Electronics Systems' defense and commercial portfolios business. His role includes leading strategy and business rhythm elements, managing day to day operational aspects of the business, and interfacing with key internal and external customers. Prior to this position, Leonard served in product line director roles for Advanced Electronic Warfare Solutions (AEWS) within the Electronic Combat Systems business unit and Fusion, Battle Management and Computing (FBC) within FAST Labs. In these roles Leonard had profit and loss responsibility for portfolios of programs developing, manufacturing, fielding, and sustaining integrated electronic warfare solutions and autonomy enabling mission dominance in the most stressing environments. Dr. Lublin has been with BAE Systems for 30 years serving in a diversity of leadership roles spanning the development of new-to-the-world products that are current market leaders to the profit and loss management of diverse, complex technology portfolios. Dr. Lublin holds a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Buffalo and a doctorate's degree in Control and Estimation from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Track 1: Ocean

9:30 AM **Welcome**

- **Lee Silvestre**, Senior Principal, Venture Frontiers

9:35 AM **Keynote**

- **Gloria Berlanga**, Associate Vice President, Rhode Island Commerce

9:55 AM **Generating a Robust National Security Supply Chain and Material Network for Today and the Future**

- Moderator: **Gloria Berlanga**, Associate Vice President, Rhode Island Commerce
- **Deepak Sathyanarayan**, Founder & CEO, Goodnaut Works
- **Whitney Tallarico**, Emerging Technology Readiness Fellow, Silicon Valley Defense Group

10:40 AM **Academia's Role in National Security – Workforce Readiness and Solutions Pipeline**

- Moderator: **Jay Rushforth**, CCOM Program Manager, University of New Hampshire
- **Jennifer Miksis Olds**, Interim Vice President for Research and Innovation, University of New Hampshire
- **Dr. Dylan Temple**, VP of Research, Integer Technologies, LLC
- **Stephen Buchanan**, Founder & CEO, Bandelier Technologies

11:25 AM **Optimizing the Solution Pipeline – Getting Capabilities into the Hands That Need Them**

- Moderator: **Toby Stapleton, PhD**, Director, Blue Venture Forum and Assistant Professor, UMass Dartmouth
- **David Coit**, Co-founder and Managing Director, North Atlantic Capital
- **Dustin Varnell**, Director, Spirit Advisory
- **Geoff Edelson**, Chief Scientist, BAE Systems

12:10 PM **Fireside Chat**

- **James Cross**, Co-Head of Private Investing, Franklin Templeton
- **Lee Silvestre**, Senior Principal, Venture Frontiers



Track 1: Ocean Speaker Bios

Gloria Berlanga, Associate Vice President, Rhode Island Commerce

Col. Gloria Berlanga is a retired U.S. Army Colonel and the former Chief of Staff for the Rhode Island National Guard (RING). Following a trailblazing 34-year military career, she transitioned to civilian leadership and serves as the Associate Vice President of Business Development for the Defense Sector at the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation.

Deepak Sathyanarayan, Founder & CEO, Goodnaut Works

Deepak Sathyanarayan is the Founder and CEO of GOODNAUT WORKS, a Massachusetts company building autonomous material processing infrastructure for forward production of critical materiel and therapeutics in logistically isolated environments. The technology was space-validated aboard Blue Origin's New Shepard in 2025 under a NASA Space Act Agreement and is being adapted for space, undersea, and austere defense operations. Before GOODNAUT WORKS, Deepak co-founded Valor Robotics and delivered naval underwater autonomy and mine countermeasures systems to the Navy, and supported development of warfighter health systems for USSOCOM and DARPA. Deepak is also engaged in workforce development across New England, through accelerator partnerships, university programs, and mentorships.

Whitney Tallarico, Emerging Technology Readiness Fellow, Silicon Valley Defense Group

Whitney has built public-private partnerships and led innovation programs for the Navy, universities, and private industry for the last decade. At the Office of Naval Research, she invested in emerging technology while building the Navy's innovation arm, NavalX. In this role, under the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisitions, she launched and led the Navy's international network of innovation hubs (Tech Bridges). After leaving the Navy, Whitney launched her consulting firm, GRIT LLC, to continue building emerging tech partnerships and overcome process and technical challenges for startups, universities, and non-profits across the country, as well the Defense Innovation Accelerator for NATO Allies (DIANA). She currently maintains a few, select clients while also working as a Lead Capture Manager at L3Harris. At L3Harris, she works to win key business opportunities for L3Harris and actively looks for startups with capabilities that could be integrated to support the warfighter. Whitney also serves as the Emerging Technology Readiness Fellow for the Silicon Valley Defense Group. There she engages with military, private capital providers, private companies and congressional stakeholders to uncover the barriers to emerging technology development and adoption for national security purposes and drafts policy recommendations to address them.

Jay Rushforth, CCOM Program Manager, University of New Hampshire

Jay Rushforth serves as Project Manager for the Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping/Joint Hydrographic Center at the University of New Hampshire, where he leads complex technical and research initiatives supporting ocean mapping, hydrographic sciences, and advanced engineering programs. With more than 20 years of experience spanning engineering, product development, operations, and business strategy, he brings a multidisciplinary approach to managing large-scale scientific and technology-driven programs. Most recently, Rushforth managed a \$30 million NASA-funded space science program at UNH focused on the development of the IMAP-Lo flight instrument, designed to measure low-energy interstellar neutral atoms traveling through the local interstellar medium.

Track 1: Ocean Speaker Bios

Jennifer Miksis Olds, Interim Vice President for Research and Innovation, University of New Hampshire

Jennifer Miksis-Olds, interim vice president for research and innovation, is a marine acoustician recognized for her extensive contributions to underwater acoustic research. The founding director of the Center for Acoustics Research and Education at UNH, her research employs acoustic methodologies to answer biological questions in the marine environment. Prior to joining the University of New Hampshire, she served in a variety of leadership and research positions at The Pennsylvania State University, including the founding director of the Center for Marine Science and Technology. In recognition of her contributions to the field of ocean acoustics, she was awarded the Presidential Early Career Award in Science and Engineering in 2013. She earned her doctorate in oceanography from the University of Rhode Island, has authored or co-authored more than 60 peer-reviewed publications, and is the recipient of more than \$30 million in grants and contracts.

Dr. Dylan Temple, VP of Research, Integer Technologies, LLC

Dr. Dylan Temple serves as Vice President of Research at Integer Technologies, where he leads the development of advanced research and technology programs supporting defense and national security missions. In this role, he works closely with government agencies, universities, and industry partners to accelerate the transition of emerging technologies from research environments into operational capabilities for military and commercial customers. With more than two decades of experience in maritime engineering, naval architecture, autonomy, and defense technology development, Dr. Temple has built a career focused on solving complex operational challenges in contested and dynamic environments. Prior to joining Integer Technologies, he held engineering and technical leadership positions with Booz Allen Hamilton and the Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division, where he supported advanced naval and maritime systems programs.

Stephen Buchanan, Founder & CEO, Bandelier Technologies

Stephen Buchanan is a Green Beret, Harvard MBA, and the Founder and CEO of Bandelier Technologies, a quantum sensing company based in New Mexico that works in formal partnership with Los Alamos National Laboratory through the NM LEEP Program. Before founding Bandelier and earning his MBA at Harvard Business School, Stephen spent nearly a decade on active duty in the U.S. Army, the majority of which was served as a Green Beret in U.S. Army Special Forces, including combat deployments to Iraq and Syria. Stephen recently relocated to Santa Fe, New Mexico with his wife and two daughters. The family shares a passion for the outdoors and active adventure.

Toby Stapleton, PhD, Director, Blue Venture Forum and Assistant Professor, UMass Dartmouth

An internationally recognized expert in blue technology, marine innovation, and ocean entrepreneurship, Dr. Tobias (Toby) serves as the Director of the Blue Venture Forum. In this role, he delivers programming, matchmaking, and mentorship to startups, investors, and policymakers. With deep expertise spanning ocean technology commercialization, maritime sustainability, coastal resilience, aquaculture, offshore energy, and venture development, Toby has worked extensively with founders to launch and scale high-impact blue tech companies while helping investment groups to identify emerging opportunities across the sector. Through leadership in connecting research institutions, industry, and investors, Toby fosters the sustainable economic growth of ocean and coastal industries. Toby is also a professor in the Decision & Information Sciences Department at UMass Dartmouth's Charlton College of Business.

Track 1: Ocean Speaker Bios

David Coit, Co-founder and Managing Director, North Atlantic Capital

David Coit is the Co-founder North Atlantic Capital Corporation, a venture capital firm headquartered in Portland, Maine, in 1986. In 2021, the business was sold to Stifel Financial, a national financial services firm. He currently chairs the Investment Committee for a new fund licensed by the DOW and SBA to invest in innovative companies supporting the military supply chain. Past Chairman of the Board of Governors of the National Association of Small Business Investment Companies (now the Small Business Investor Alliance) and served on the Board of the New England Venture Capital Association. He is a former U.S. Naval Officer.

Dustin Varnell, Director, Spirit Advisory

Dustin Varnell is Director at Spirit Advisory, where he supports strategic initiatives across the offshore energy, maritime, subsea, and blue economy sectors. With more than 20 years of experience in offshore energy and marine operations, he brings deep expertise in vessel operations, project execution, offshore construction, and energy transition strategy, helping organizations navigate the evolving landscape of offshore wind, maritime innovation, and subsea technology development. A master mariner and experienced dynamic positioning (DP) operator, Varnell spent more than 15 years working offshore on large-scale international projects across Asia, Brazil, and the Gulf of Mexico. His operational background includes vessel construction, shipyard oversight, offshore logistics, and marine project leadership, with experience supporting both traditional offshore energy and emerging renewable energy industries.

Geoff Edelson, Chief Scientist, BAE Systems

Geoff is a Chief Scientist in the BAE Systems FAST Labs TM S&T Business Area with subject matter expertise in innovative undersea technology and systems. His 35+ years of research and development experience includes the initiation of a Blue Tech focused small business partnership strategy, oversight of the programmatic and technical integration of Riptide Autonomous Solutions into BAE Systems, and the combined capture and technical leadership of multiple DARPA and ONR projects. Geoff's significant contributions to the Navy include co-chairing the Algorithm IPT for the Digital ACOMMS development effort and designing the physical array configuration for the TR-362 HFWB Sonar.

James Cross, Co-Head of Private Investing, Franklin Templeton

James Cross is Co-Head of Private Investing for Franklin Equity Group and Managing Director of Franklin Venture Partners, the firm's specialized investment team that invests in private opportunities, focusing on mid- and late-stage companies it believes are poised for transformative impacts across multiple industries. Mr. Cross joined Franklin Templeton in 1998, focusing on quantitative research, risk analysis and performance attribution, before assuming industry coverage in 2000. He then led Franklin Equity Group's industrial sector team and held research responsibilities for the aerospace and defense industries. He previously served as a portfolio manager of Franklin Technology Fund. Prior to joining Franklin Templeton, he worked as an economic planner for the State of Texas. Mr. Cross earned a B.B.A. with a major in economics from Baylor University and is a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Charterholder. He is the founder of the Silicon Valley Defense Group, a non-profit focused on National Security and Innovation. Mr. Cross is also a Senior Research Fellow at the University of California at San Diego's Institute of Global Conflict and Cooperation.

Track 2: Space

9:30 AM Welcome

- **Jefferson D. Mitchell**, Maj, USSF; Chapter Founder & President, SFA New England

9:35 AM Keynote

- **Col Stevie Medeiros**, System Delta 84 Commander, USSF

10:15 AM New England Space Leaders Panel

- Moderator: **Col Peter Norton**, USSF (ret.), VP Executive Partnership Outreach, U.S. Space Force Association NE/Boston Chapter
- **Lt Col Bryan G. Becker**, Commander, 6th Space Warning Squadron, Cape Cod Space Force Station, Massachusetts
- **Lt Col Rebecca D. Manning**, USSF, Commander of the Space Training and Readiness Command Delta 13, Detachment 1, Lexington, Massachusetts
- **Maj Travis Pond**, USSF, Systems Delta 85 – Deputy Branch Chief – FMS, Space Systems Command (SSC)

11:05 AM Space Industry Panel

- Moderator: **Francesca Scire-Scappuzzo, PhD**, Boston Chair, IEEE AESS (Aerospace and Electronic Systems Society)
- **Jon Beam**, Co-Founder, President, and Chief Strategy Officer, Rogue Space Systems
- **Sascha Deri**, CEO, bluShift Aerospace
- **Joshua Haines**, Chief Engineer, Raytheon
- **Randy Makee**, Executive Director, New Hampshire Aerospace and Defense Consortium (NHADC)

11:55 AM Northeast Space Economic Coalition (NESEC) Panel

- Moderator: **Trevor Hehn**, Attorney, Hehn Law
- **Jeffrey Lapak**, Director, InterOperability Lab at University of New Hampshire
- **Dr. Sumanth Kaushik**, Deputy Chief Technology Officer, MIT Lincoln Laboratory
- **Brian Strickland**, MD, Emergency Physician, Massachusetts General Hospital; Space Medicine Fellow, MGH SPEAR program (Division of Space, Ecological, Arctic, and Resource-limited Medicine)
- **John Karp**, Executive Director, Maine Space Corp



Track 2: Space Speaker Bios

Col Stevie Medeiros, System Delta 84 Commander, USSF

Col. Stevie Medeiros is Commander of System Delta 84 (SYD 84), Space Systems Command, Los Angeles Air Force Base, Calif. In this role, Col. Medeiros is responsible for delivering space-based battlespace awareness and end-to-end sensor-to-shooter capabilities for the warfighter through rapid development and integration of Missile Warning, Missile Tracking, and Missile Defense with interagency, industry, and allied partners.

Col Peter Norton, USSF (ret.), VP Executive Partnership Outreach, U.S. Space Force Association NE/Boston Chapter

Colonel Peter Norton, USSF (Ret.), serves as Vice President of Executive Partnership Outreach for the U.S. Space Force Association New England–Boston Chapter, where he helps strengthen collaboration among government, industry, academia, and the growing commercial space sector across New England. In this role, he supports strategic engagement initiatives that advance awareness of national security space priorities and foster partnerships that contribute to innovation, workforce development, and regional space leadership. A retired U.S. Space Force Colonel, Peter Norton brings decades of leadership experience in defense, aerospace, and national security operations. Throughout his military career, he held senior leadership and operational roles supporting space and defense missions critical to U.S. and allied interests. Today, he remains an active advocate for strengthening America's space enterprise through education, collaboration, and public-private engagement.

Lt Col Bryan G. Becker, Commander, 6th Space Warning Squadron, Cape Cod Space Force Station, Massachusetts

Lt Col Bryan G. Becker is the Commander, 6th Space Warning Squadron, Cape Cod Space Force Station, Massachusetts, responsible for detecting sea-launched and intercontinental ballistic missiles and reporting to the nation's command and control centers for integrated tactical warning and attack assessment of missile attacks against the North American continent. 6 SWS also tracks satellites to provide space domain awareness to U.S. Space Command and other mission partners across the world. He is also responsible for the maintenance, support, defense and sustainment of Cape Cod Space Force Station.

Lt Col Rebecca D. Manning, USSF, Commander of the Space Training and Readiness Command Delta 13, Detachment 1, Lexington, Massachusetts

Lt Col Rebecca Manning is the Commander of the Space Training and Readiness Command Delta 13, Detachment 1 located at Lexington, Massachusetts. Her duties include commanding a GSU to deliver experiential learning education opportunities to bolster Guardian combat credibility through a connection to emerging technologies.

Maj Travis Pond, USSF, Systems Delta 85 – Deputy Branch Chief – FMS, Space Systems Command (SSC)

Major Travis Pond, USSF, serves as Deputy Branch Chief for Foreign Military Sales (FMS) within Systems Delta 85 at Space Systems Command. In this role, he supports the development and delivery of advanced space capabilities that strengthen partnerships between the United States and allied nations, helping expand international collaboration in space operations, missile warning, battle management, and space domain awareness. Systems Delta 85 is part of SSC's Battle Management, Command, Control, Communications, and Space Intelligence portfolio, focused on rapidly fielding integrated capabilities for the joint warfighter.

Francesca Scire-Scappuzzo, PhD, Boston Chair, IEEE AESS (Aerospace and Electronic Systems Society)

Dr. Francesca Scire-Scappuzzo is an Innovation Strategist with extensive international experience in rapid technology development from idea to adoption across Aerospace, Defense, National Security and Telecommunications.

Track 2: Space Speaker Bios

Jon Beam, Co-Founder, President, and Chief Strategy Officer, Rogue Space Systems

Jon Beam is Co-Founder, President, and Chief Strategy Officer of Rogue Space Systems Corporation, an in-space infrastructure and logistics company building autonomous orbital robots for payload hosting, inspection, in-space compute, and orbital logistics. At Rogue, Jon helps shape the company's long-term strategy as it moves from flight-proven demonstration missions toward scalable orbital services that can support commercial, civil, and national security customers.

Sascha Deri, CEO, bluShift Aerospace

Sascha Deri is the founder and CEO of bluShift Aerospace, a Maine-based aerospace company pioneering sustainable rocket propulsion and small satellite launch technologies. Founded in 2014, bluShift Aerospace is developing modular hybrid rocket engines powered by bio-derived, non-toxic fuels designed for suborbital research missions, orbital launches, and defense applications. Under Deri's leadership, the company made history in 2021 with the world's first commercial rocket launch powered by bio-derived fuel, positioning bluShift at the forefront of environmentally responsible space innovation.

Joshua Haines, Chief Engineer, Raytheon

Mr Haines has 20 years of experience as a system-of-systems (SoS) architect and engineer focused on novel approaches for assembling and analyzing system of system solutions based on big-data and advanced analytics. He is a technical leader of modeling & simulation for high-fidelity representations of missile defense radars, space radar mission modeling, and end-to-end mission analysis at Raytheon, coupled with data management & advanced analytics for highly effective and resilient SoS kill chains. He has developed multiple applications of Object Based Processing/Activity Based Intelligence solutions for Situational Awareness and Command/Control. He is currently focused on Ops/Mission analysis and system of system architecting to develop Raytheon-wide architectures and capabilities for Space Domain Awareness (SDA). Prior to joining Raytheon in 2016, Mr Haines served as the Leader of 65-person Cyber Systems and Operations Research Group at MIT Lincoln Laboratory. There he led an operational transition program to deploy and integrate advanced analytics to assist COCOM operators in the J2, J3, & J6 to broadly monitor their areas of responsibility. He also assisted in architecture development implementation of Data Integrity for C2 resilience. He also led test and evaluation of several net-centric & cyber AI/ML research programs, and network resilience for foundational DARPA programs.

Randy Makee, Executive Director, New Hampshire Aerospace and Defense Consortium (NHADC)

Randy Makee is the Executive Director of the New Hampshire Aerospace & Defense Consortium, where he leads initiatives that strengthen New Hampshire's aerospace, defense, maritime, and advanced manufacturing sectors through strategic partnerships, workforce development, and industry collaboration. Prior to becoming Executive Director, Randy served as Chairman of the Board for NHADC and has been a longstanding advocate for growing the region's manufacturing and innovation economy. In addition to his leadership at NHADC, Randy has extensive experience in manufacturing operations and business leadership, including serving as COO of Comstock Industries. His background spans aerospace, defense, industrial manufacturing, and supply chain development, with a focus on operational excellence and business growth. Randy also serves as an adjunct professor at the University of New Hampshire, where he teaches operations management, ethics, and business strategy.

Trevor Hehn, Attorney, Hehn Law

Trevor Hehn is the founder and principal attorney of Hehn Law, a Maine-based law practice focused on emerging technologies, aerospace, defense, and business law. His practice advises startups, entrepreneurs, and established companies on corporate governance, contracts, export compliance, regulatory strategy, fundraising, and space-industry legal matters. Hehn Law serves clients across the United States, with a particular focus on innovative and high-growth sectors shaping the future economy. Before founding Hehn Law, Trevor served on active duty in the United States Army as both an infantryman and Judge Advocate General (JAG) officer, bringing firsthand operational and legal experience to his work with clients in national security and advanced technology industries. He entered the commercial space sector in 2020 and has since become an advocate for the growing "NewSpace" economy, supporting companies working across space systems, dual-use technologies, AI, and advanced manufacturing.



Track 2: Space Speaker Bios

Jeffrey Lapak, Director, InterOperability Lab at University of New Hampshire

Jeff Lapak has been the Director of the University of New Hampshire InterOperability Laboratory (UNH-IOL) since 2018 where he leads the globally recognized 3rd party test lab for certification of data communication technologies. Jeff is responsible for facilitating the lab's development in certification test programs, creating strategic partnerships and leading the lab's strategic direction across its many technology areas. Jeff also is the Executive Director of the UNH Venture Studio and for Director of Operations for the UNH Collaborative Core Wet Lab, formerly the UNH COVID lab. Jeff holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and a Masters of Business Administration from the University of New Hampshire.

Dr. Sumanth Kaushik, Deputy Chief Technology Officer, MIT Lincoln Laboratory

Dr. Sumanth Kaushik serves as Deputy Chief Technology Officer at MIT Lincoln Laboratory, where he works closely with laboratory leadership to guide long-term technology strategy and advance research and development initiatives across a broad range of national security mission areas. In this role, he helps coordinate innovation investments and emerging technology programs that support the evolving needs of the Department of Defense and the broader national security community. Prior to becoming Deputy CTO, Dr. Kaushik led the Advanced Capabilities and Technologies Group at Lincoln Laboratory, overseeing the development of technologies related to space surveillance, space resiliency, space control, and advanced electro-optical systems. His technical leadership contributed to breakthroughs in distributed optical telescope arrays and high-resolution imaging of deep-space objects using ground-based optical interferometry. Earlier in his career, he led research in laser remote sensing and coherent laser radar systems, helping develop some of the world's most sensitive long-range laser Doppler measurement technologies.

Brian Strickland, MD, Emergency Physician, Massachusetts General Hospital; Space Medicine Fellow, MGH SPEAR program (Division of Space, Ecological, Arctic, and Resource-limited Medicine)

Brian Strickland is an emergency medicine physician at Massachusetts General Hospital and a Space Medicine Fellow with the MGH SPEAR program (Division of Space, Ecological, Arctic, and Resource-limited Medicine). He completed his residency training in Emergency Medicine at the University of Chicago, followed by a Wilderness Medicine Fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital focused on expeditionary care, high-altitude physiology, and medical operations in austere environments. He has practiced emergency medicine in geographically isolated and extreme settings including the Northern Mariana Islands, the Aleutian Islands, rural Alaska, and the Khumbu Valley of Nepal. His academic interests include high altitude physiology and research, spaceflight medical systems development, and instruction in prolonged casualty care with US military and partner forces. Outside of medicine, he enjoys skiing, diving, and mountain biking.

John Karp, Executive Director, Maine Space Corp

John is a Mechanical Engineer by training, having transitioned into management in 1992 and has broad experience in many aspects of business. As a serial entrepreneur, John has served many functions including positioning for funding, new product feasibility analysis, investment due diligence, strategic planning, program management, marketing and sales programs as well as M&A. With several startups and a major turnaround to his (and his team's!) credit, ranging from a truck accessory business in his garage to a major technology spinout from Harvard Medical School, John has learned many lessons in how NOT to do things! (to quote Berkshire Hathaway's Vice Chair Charlie Munger "We have experienced extensive ignorance removal"!)

John has served both Maine Manufacturing Extension Program and the Maine Technology Institute for 20+ years, working as a link between the two. In his MTI duties as an Executive in Residence, he also serves on multiple company Boards of Directors and as Executive Director of the Maine Space Corporation. Maine Space Corporation is a non-profit group working to help Maine get a larger bite of the Space Industry business opportunity. We have 85+ companies supplying the Space Industry, we had Maine made parts all over the Artemis 2 Mission, and almost no one knows it! MSC is changing that.

Track 3: Regional Collaboration

9:30 AM **Welcome**

- **Jenna Girompini**, Director of Operations, Association of Old Crows, Patriots Roost Chapter

9:35 AM **Regional Associations and Alliances**

- Moderator: **Tom Fournier**, Founder & Principal, [OrgNxt LLC](#)
- **Julie Demers**, Executive Director, New Hampshire Tech Alliance
- **Randy Makee**, Executive Director, New Hampshire Aerospace and Defense Consortium (NHADC)
- **Chris Torina**, Director of Entrepreneurship + Director of the National Security Innovation Hub, Northeastern University's Roux Institute
- **Jennifer MacDonald, MD**, Chief Operating Officer, Advanced Regenerative Manufacturing Institute (ARMI) | BioFabUSA

10:30 AM **Academic Research in Support of National Security**

- Moderator: **Jenna Girompini**, Director of Operations, Association of Old Crows, Patriots Roost Chapter
- **Aaron Ramsey**, Senior Director of Corporate Relations, College of Engineering, Purdue
- **Adam Gross**, Vice Chancellor – Ivy+ Career Link, Ivy Tech Community College
- **Anne Maglia, PhD**, Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development (LINC Program), UMASS Lowell
- **Steven E. Bryant**, Executive Director, Gayle and Bill Cook Center for Entrepreneurship, Ivy Tech Community College-Bloomington; Regional Director, South Central Small Business Development Center

11:30 AM **Regional Workforce Development Q&A Panel**

- Moderator: **Jenna Girompini**, Director of Operations, Association of Old Crows, Patriots Roost Chapter
- **Amy Gryzbowski Ph.D.**, Vice President Workforce Development and Community Relations, New England Institute of Technology
- **Robert Mohr**, Federal Sales Director, [Patton](#)
- **Mike Fischer**, President, York County Community College, Maine
- **Lance Fiondella**, Prof. Electrical and Computer Engineering, Cybersecurity Center Director, UMASS Dartmouth



Track 3: Regional Collaboration Speaker Bios

Julie Demers, Executive Director, New Hampshire Tech Alliance

Julie Demers is the Executive Director of the NH Tech Alliance, a role she has held since 2019, where she leads efforts to strengthen and expand New Hampshire's technology and innovation ecosystem. Under her leadership, NHTA has grown in membership, expanded its programs, and solidified its position as a premier resource for the state's tech sector. Julie drives strategic initiatives that connect startups, scale-ups, and established tech companies with the capital, talent, and industry relationships they need to thrive. She is a committed champion of collaboration across industry, academia, and government, advancing workforce development, innovation, and economic growth throughout New Hampshire.

Chris Torina, Director of Entrepreneurship + Director of the National Security Innovation Hub, Northeastern University's Roux Institute

Chris Torina is the Director of Entrepreneurship and Director of the National Security Innovation Hub at the Roux Institute, where he is dedicated to advancing and strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem here in Maine. With over 25 years of diverse experience, Torina has held leadership roles across various industries, including as founder and CEO of DeepStacks, one of the world's leading gaming entertainment brands. After its acquisition by the World Poker Tour, Torina transitioned into the role of Executive Director, where he spearheaded significant domestic and international initiatives. Prior to his role at the Roux Institute, Torina was the Chief Operating Officer of Blue Fusion Capital, a real estate investment firm. He also spent over a decade in law enforcement, working as an undercover narcotics task force agent and SWAT team operator before transitioning to entrepreneurship and executive leadership.

Jennifer MacDonald, MD, Chief Operating Officer, Advanced Regenerative Manufacturing Institute (ARMI) | BioFabUSA

Jennifer MacDonald, MD, is the Chief Operating Officer at the Advanced Regenerative Manufacturing Institute, leveraging her background as a practicing Family Medicine physician and extensive experience in healthcare leadership to drive innovation in regenerative medicine. Formerly serving as Chief Consultant to the Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health, she led the successful implementation of the VHA MISSION Act, showcasing her commitment to advancing patient care within the Veterans Health Administration. As a U.S. Army Veteran with 11 years of service, including deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Dr. MacDonald's dedication to patient, family, and provider empowerment is unwavering. Her career spans roles as a practicing physician, White House Fellow, and advisor to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, underscoring her commitment to excellence in healthcare. Completing her medical training at the University of Minnesota Medical School and her Family Medicine residency at UCLA, Dr. MacDonald continues to drive healthcare innovation and improve patient outcomes in her pursuit of excellence in regenerative medicine.

Aaron Ramsey, Senior Director of Corporate Relations, College of Engineering, Purdue

Aaron Ramsey is the Senior Director of Corporate Relations (formerly Director of Industry Relations) in the Edwardson School of Industrial Engineering at Purdue University. He is responsible for fostering partnerships between the university and industry, managing senior capstone projects, and coordinating the industrial engineering advisory council. Prior to his role in Corporate Relations, Ramsey worked with the Purdue Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP).

Adam Gross, Vice Chancellor – Ivy+ Career Link, Ivy Tech Community College

Adam Gross is the Vice Chancellor for Ivy Tech Community College in Bloomington, Indiana where he leads workforce development initiatives across an eight-county region in Southern Indiana. With 17 years of service at Ivy Tech, Adam has held various roles across campus and now leads a team focused on strengthening the regional talent pipeline. His efforts include supporting career coaching, upskilling the current workforce, and fostering connections between local industries, Ivy Tech students, alumni, and the broader workforce. Adam is committed to helping businesses access skilled talent to meet their evolving needs. He earned his undergraduate degree from Trine University in Angola, Indiana, and holds an MBA from Western Governors University.



Track 3: Regional Collaboration Speaker Bios

Anne Maglia, PhD, Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development (LINC Program), UMASS Lowell

Anne Maglia is the Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation, and Economic Development at UMass Lowell, where she leads the university's research enterprise, innovation ecosystem, strategic partnerships, and economic development initiatives. A certified Project Management Professional (PMP) with a PhD in Biosciences, Maglia previously served at the National Science Foundation, overseeing large-scale national research infrastructure and innovation programs, including major multidisciplinary centers and complex scientific initiatives. Under her leadership, UMass Lowell recently achieved Carnegie R1 status, reflecting the university's rapid growth in research excellence. Maglia also plays a key leadership role in the Lowell Innovation Network Corridor (LINC), a transformative initiative focused on advancing innovation, workforce development, defense technologies, and industry collaboration across the region.

Steven E. Bryant, Executive Director, Gayle and Bill Cook Center for Entrepreneurship, Ivy Tech Community College-Bloomington; Regional Director, South Central Small Business Development Center

Steve Bryant serves as the Executive Director of the Gayle and Bill Cook Center for Entrepreneurship at Ivy Tech Community College in Bloomington where he is developing and implementing a strategic plan for an entrepreneurial studies program to assist students and individuals looking to start entrepreneurial ventures. Steve has held a wide array of positions within the government, not-for-profit, life sciences industry and higher education, but most recently as Business Development & Marketing Manager for BioConvergence, a small, growing life sciences company in Bloomington, Indiana. Steve has served as Director of the Bloomington Life Sciences Partnership, Vice President of the Indiana Health Industry Forum, a key contributor to the development of the Indiana 21st Century Fund and an aide for US Senators Richard G. Lugar and Dan Coats. His diverse background and responsibilities has included roles in program development, operations, communications, marketing, business development, and government/public relations. Over the past 20 years, Steve has been an integral part of the growth of Indiana's life sciences industry and is well known across the life sciences community in the State of Indiana. Steve has a Bachelors of Science in Political Science from Indiana University is married and lives in Bloomington, Indiana

Amy Gryzbowski Ph.D., Vice President Workforce Development and Community Relations, New England Institute of Technology

Amy Grzybowski is the Vice President of Community Relations at New England Institute of Technology. She previously served as the assistant commissioner of workforce and the executive director of the R.I. Higher Education & Industry Centers in that role she also served as the workforce development policy director for RIOPC. She was responsible for the operation of three workforce training centers. Westerly Education Center and the Woonsocket Education Center have awarded credit- and certificate-bearing postsecondary education and workforce development credentials to thousands of students. The third center, the RI Nursing Education Center, is a state-of-the-art nursing facility that houses both the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College nursing programs. Amy earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in administration of justice from Salve Regina University and her Ph.D. in education from the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College joint program. She is also an adjunct faculty member for both the Community College of Rhode Island and Roger Williams University.

Robert Mohr, Federal Sales Director, Patton

Robert (Bob) Mohr Joined Team-Patton in September of 2025 as Federal Sales Director. Bob has had a long career in Government technology sales, having spent over 17 years at GTE Government Systems in various roles from Configuration Manager, Program Manager to Account Manager after which he worked at General Dynamics for over 16 years. Bob is a seasoned Telecom Executive focused on Sales, Marketing, Capture Management, and Business Development activities. Bob most recently worked for Tyto Athene (Black Box Federal) and Exacom Inc. Bob assumed ownership of the Government Pillar in the US and Canada running Patton's Government Solutions Group.



Track 3: Regional Collaboration Speaker Bios

Mike Fischer, President, York County Community College, Maine

Dr. Michael Fischer has served as President of York County Community College (YCCC) in Wells, Maine, since early 2020. A first-generation college graduate, he is dedicated to student-centered education, workforce mobility, and expanding college access. Under his leadership, YCCC has experienced significant growth, expanded workforce development programs, and forged key partnerships, such as the major educational agreement with the new York County Regional Training Center.

Lance Fiondella, Prof. Electrical and Computer Engineering, Cybersecurity Center Director, UMASS Dartmouth

Lance Fiondella joined the Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth as an assistant professor in 2013. Since fall 2025, he is a professor and serves as the Founding Director of the UMass Dartmouth Cybersecurity Center, an NSA/DHS designated Center of Academic Excellence (CAE) in Cyber Research. He conducts research in the areas of software reliability and resilient systems engineering and has published over 190 peer-reviewed journal articles and conference papers on these topics. His research has been funded by the Department of Homeland Security, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, U.S. Military Academy, Army Research Laboratory, Naval Air Systems Command, Naval Sea Systems Command, Department of the Air Force, and National Science Foundation, including a CAREER Award and CyberCorps Scholarship for Service (SFS).

Tech Showcase

BLUEiQ

BLUEiQ is a woman-owned ocean intelligence technology company developing AI-powered acoustic sensing systems that transform undersea sound into actionable intelligence for defense, maritime security, offshore energy, and environmental monitoring applications. Headquartered in Boston with operations across New England and the Gulf Coast, the company's flagship OpenEar™ platform combines edge AI, low-power acoustic sensors, and real-time processing to detect, classify, and monitor underwater activity across subsea, surface, and coastal environments. BLUEiQ's technology supports persistent maritime domain awareness, biodiversity monitoring, and underwater threat detection, helping government, commercial, and research organizations gain scalable, real-time insight into the world beneath the ocean surface.

Website: <https://www.blueiq.us/>

Contact: info@blueiq.us

Integer Technologies

Integer is a defense technology company that develops next generation software for autonomous systems, including strategic soundscapes for ocean awareness. In partnership with UNH, the primary goal of this research is to develop tools to measure and exploit the acoustic background noise in a given ocean region based on a temporal and spatial understanding of that soundscape. Integer is founded on the premise of building collaborative partnerships with top-tier research universities to accelerate the pace of turning new ideas and innovation into real technology for the U.S. Predict. Preempt. Prevail

Website: <https://www.integer-tech.com/>

Contact: crystal.bowman@integer-tech.com

Municipal Alpha LLC

Municipal Alpha is a sub-federal OSINT platform that ingests public records from more than 2,800 U.S. municipalities daily and classifies them into key national security signal categories, including counter-influence activity (such as foreign-aligned bidders in local procurement that may not be visible at the federal level), critical infrastructure ownership and lease changes (spanning assets like water systems, fiber networks, towers, and substations), and defense industrial base movement (including facility expansions, workforce programs, zoning changes, and tax abatements that often precede federal contracting activity). It is designed to address visibility gaps in the "dark" sub-federal layer of government—where roughly 30,000 cities, towns, counties, water districts, and port authorities collectively manage most U.S. critical infrastructure and spend about a trillion dollars annually, yet primarily generate insights buried in planning minutes and accounting records that are rarely analyzed at scale. The system provides near-real-time situational awareness for emerging dual-use and national security-relevant signals, delivering early detection—often weeks before federal data sources—at a low-cost operator model and is currently embedded in national security innovation environments such as NSIH.

Website: <https://municipalalpha.com/>

Contact: matt@municipalalpha.com

Tech Showcase

PRO Therapeutics (PRO-T)

PRO Therapeutics is an early-stage regenerative medicine company focused on the development and commercialization of regenerative soft-tissue grafts that restore tendon, ligament, and muscle function, supporting rapid, durable recovery in high-demand environments. PRO-T addresses a critical national-security gap by restoring functional performance after severe soft-tissue injuries, enabling faster return-to-duty and reducing long-term disability for service members.

Website: <https://pro-thera.com/>

Contact: hmeiselman@pro-thera.com

Spire Training Group

Spire is a decision science company creating dual-use cognitive training software for the defense industry and beyond to leaders in any high-stakes profession. There are 15 active contracts in the Department of War for Mission Command systems, but none that address the human decision making performance component of mission command. As a 20-year Army combat arms officer, Nathan understands the need for human capacity to keep pace with new decision support technologies. Spire exists to ensure that servicemembers training for the 21st Century battlefield have the cognitive dominance to fight and win our nation's wars.

Website: <https://spiretg.com/>

Contact: nfry@spiretg.com



NH TECH
ALLIANCE

Defense Service Organizations

Defense Innovation Community – Aneel Alvares, Defense Tech Advisory, Principal

Retired Military Deputy Director at AFWERX & Director of Defense Engagement at DIU.

AFWERX: As the innovation arm of the Department of the Air Force, AFWERX cultivates and transitions impactful emerging technologies to deter and win wars, leveraging \$1.4B in Small Business Innovation Research awards annually.

DIU: DIU strengthens national security by accelerating the adoption of commercial technology throughout the military and bolstering our allied and national security innovation bases. DIU partners with organizations across the Department of War to rapidly prototype and field dual-use capabilities that solve operational challenges at speed and scale.

DARPAConnect – Karen Krause-Bencal, DARPAConnect

DARPA (the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) is the U.S. Department of Defense's premier R&D agency, relentlessly pursuing groundbreaking innovations in artificial intelligence, biotechnology, advanced manufacturing, cybersecurity, and more. Renowned for turning bold ideas into field-ready capabilities, DARPA continues to push the boundaries of possibility. The DARPAConnect program serves as the front door to the agency, with resources, opportunities and pathways to teach innovators "How to DARPA."

DEVCOM – Jeffrey Pacuska, Program Manager- OUSD R&E ManTech, US Army DEVCOM Soldier Center

The U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command, known as DEVCOM, is a team of world-class scientists, engineers, analysts, technicians and support staff who are fully focused on empowering America's Soldiers today and in the future. We leverage cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence, quantum effects, autonomy, robotics, advanced energetics, and synthetic biology to give Soldiers the ability to see, sense, decide and act faster than their adversaries.

The Lantern – Christopher Carrero, ORTA and Technical Director

Christopher Carrero is the Technical Director of the Lantern collaboration and innovation facility located on Hanscom Air Force Base. In this role he leads a cross-functional team to deliver a robust physical and business environment focused on enabling rapid experimentation through complexity abstraction and proactive posturing. Additionally, Mr. Carrero serves as Hanscom's Office of Research and Technology Applications director and is responsible for executing Department of the Air Force Technology Executive Officer delegated authorities to enter into technology transfer and transition agreements on behalf of Hanscom Program Executive Officers (PEOs) and Portfolio Acquisition Executives (PAEs).

The Lantern facility supports research, development, testing, evaluation efforts of DoW programs, facilitates collaboration within the New England innovation ecosystem, and executes non-FAR based agreements with industry, academia and other government entities.

Investing in National Security

Jeremy Hitchcock, Co-Founder/Managing Partner, New North Ventures

Jeremy is General Partner and Co-Founder of New North Ventures. Before investing fulltime, Jeremy founded critical internet infrastructure company Dyn (acquired by Oracle), cybersecurity company Minim (NASDAQ:MINM), and Director at Business Executives for National Security. He has deep expertise in Internet, cyber security following the landmark Mirai attack and Wikileaks fallout (former customer).

John Dvor, Managing Director, Agon Ventures

John Dvor is a global corporate development executive, specializing in commercializing innovative technologies as an investor and operator with inorganic and organic strategies. He serves as Managing Director of Agon Ventures, a family owned holding company, invested in health technology, life sciences, medtech, motorsports, real estate and other alternative assets. As an investor, he co-founded the Tufts Health Ventures Corporate Venture Capital Fund, raising and investing \$200M+ in VC, PE, LP strategies, M&A deals, and structured multiple JV deals with leading hospitals, insurance companies and medical technology platforms. He served as GP at Miraki Innovation, a \$100M+ medical technology venture fund spin-out from Harvard Mass General Hospital, and expanded the firm into Montreal, QC and Dubai, UAE. Key investments include Iora Health (acquired \$2B by Amazon), SSI Innovations (\$3B IPO), Kaiser Permanente Ventures (LP), Shamaym (Israel). He serves as Venture Partner at C10 Labs, a VC fund spin-out from the MIT Media Lab. As an entrepreneur and executive, he has held senior corporate development roles at several multi-billion AUM family offices on M&A roll-up consolidations, including Helge Capital, Millhouse Capital (UK), Aga Khan Foundation (Pakistan), and public companies such as iRobot Corporation, Pluri Biotech (Israel) and ReMed Life Sciences (Japan). Mr. Dvor graduated with his Bachelor's Degree from Harvard University. His career started in the US Marine Corps at The White House as US Secret Service Attaché, serving during the Clinton and Bush Administrations, traveling on 30+ Advance Travel Missions, and was awarded Presidential Service Badge #17996. He serves on several advisory boards for Veteran and DOD healthcare research and development to benefit military veterans.

Jon Chait, Managing Partner, IQT (In-Q-Tel)

Jon Chait currently serves as Managing Partner for IQT (InQTel), having joined in 2022. IQT is a strategic investor that fosters growth of cutting-edge technology ventures in U.S. national interest and innovative capabilities for a broad range of U.S. government (USG) agencies, including the National Security Community. For over 26 years, IQT has been one of the most prolific strategic VC investors in dual-use ventures at all stages of development. Learn more at www.iqt.org. Chait collaborates on strategic leadership at IQT, managing resources across the US investment team. He has over 35 years of leadership experience as a venture capitalist and entrepreneur, gaining perspective through generations of technology waves and economic cycles. His focus is on deep-tech investing within IQT's practice areas of advanced systems (autonomy/AI, drones/robotics (land, air, maritime), defense tech, spacetech, power and energy, critical minerals harvesting and processing, innovative materials and additive manufacturing, BCI/BMI, and AR/VR), intelligent connectivity (wireless 5G/6G/mmWave, non-terrestrial networking, photonics, IoT, and AI-enabled advanced sensors), nextgen compute (trusted infrastructure, new materials, AI-specialized IC's, and quantum computing), and other AI enablement technologies (predictive and gen-AI, ML, data analytics). IQT additionally invests in cybersecurity and biotechnology. Chait is a frequent speaker in areas of innovation, venture capital investing, and entrepreneurial thinking. He is currently managing relationships with and serving as board observer for IQT portfolio investments in multiple technology sectors.

Jack Barry, Co-Founder/Managing Partner, Blackbird

Jack Barry is the Managing Partner of Blackbird, an early-stage venture firm investing in strategic technology and national security. Before founding Blackbird, Jack served as a pilot with the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment. He holds an MBA from MIT Sloan and an MPA from Harvard Kennedy School. Jack also serves as President of the Special Operations Association of America (SOAA), the policy and advocacy organization representing the special operations community on Capitol Hill. He is based in Newburyport, MA

Notes



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