

Critical Infrastructure Highlight

*By Dick Cole
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The Department of Defense leadership is committed to safeguarding the nation's resources key to the successful accomplishment of its mission. It does this through the Defense Critical Infrastructure Program — a framework to enhance the risk management decision-making capability at all levels to ensure the Defense Critical Infrastructure is available when required.

September 1–3, 2009, the Defense Contract Management Agency's Industrial Analysis Center sponsored a conference in Orlando, Fla., for 193 attendees from DCMA, the Department of Homeland Security, DoD and private industry to become more familiar with DCIP and how best to manage DCAs.

"The Industrial Analysis Center hosted this conference to provide the DCMA enterprise with awareness and training on industrial base and homeland

defense issues," said Mary Grace Dondiego, IAC director. "Our keynote speakers addressed strategic issues impacting the department and the agency's IB mission."

The conference featured a diverse group of speakers. Among the speakers addressing the attendees were: Michael McDaniel, deputy assistant secretary of defense for strategy and force planning within the office of homeland defense and America's security affairs; Dawn Vehmeier,



An industry panel comprised of, left to right, William Tate, Northrop Grumman eastern region security manager, Mark Lucas, Lockheed Martin Corporation director of security services, and Raymond Musser, General Dynamics Corporation director of global security operations, spoke to attendees about preparedness during the Defense Contract Management Agency's Industrial Analysis Center Conference in Orlando, Fla. (Photos by Dick Cole, DCMA Public Affairs)

hted at September Conference



Michael McDaniel, deputy assistant secretary of defense for strategy and force planning in the office of homeland defense and America's security affairs, addresses the attendees at the Defense Critical Infrastructure Program conference.



Dawn Vehmeier, acting deputy under secretary of defense for industrial policy, spoke to attendees about the need to preserve vigorous competition and innovation in manufacturing while maintaining the industrial base supporting the Department of Defense.

acting deputy under secretary of defense for industrial policy; James Snyder, Department of Homeland Security deputy assistant secretary for infrastructure protection; Army Maj. Gen. Vincent Boles, Army assistant deputy chief of staff for logistics; the directors of security for Northrop Grumman

Corporation, General Dynamics and Lockheed Martin Corporation; and various DoD and DCMA subject-matter experts.

What was the single most important presentation at this year's conference? "I'm really hard-pressed to identify a single most important presentation within

this conference," said Dondiego. "It is more important that we formulated our agenda around a holistic partnership and how each of us plays a vital role in support of the president's national preparedness framework. It was extremely important to us that the enterprise could understand how the senior-level parts of our government rely on our agency to identify the readiness posture of the defense industrial base."

The theme for the conference was preparedness. "First and foremost, the agency [DCMA] has a homeland defense mission responsibility, not a homeland security one. This distinction

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A Defense Contract Management Agency product division panel answered questions from the attendees about enterprise preparedness during DCMA's Industrial Analysis Center Conference in Orlando, Fla. On the dais were, left to right, Brian Reilly, director of the operations directorate of DCMA's Space and Missiles Systems Division; Marie Greening, director of the Aeronautical Systems Division; Joe Sweeney, acting director of the Naval Sea Systems Division; and Mitchell Howell, director of the Ground Systems and Munitions Division.

is critical in understanding how our government operates," Dondiego remarked.

"The Department of Homeland Security is responsible for securing the homeland — economics, loss of lives, protection and the like. DoD, however, is focused on a combatant commander's ability to execute his or her mission and ensure the readiness of our warfighters."

Dennis McKnight, the IAC's deputy for homeland defense,

thought the conference also offered important time for the attendees to socialize during breaks, lunches or breakout sessions and brainstorm solutions to problems or share "lessons learned."

"I think the single greatest benefit for the enterprise was gaining a better understanding of our '24/7' responsibilities in preparation of our response to an all hazards event and how we utilize the existing 'bellringer'

system to report these events," McKnight said. The bellringer process provides senior leaders within DoD and DCMA with readiness posture and impact analyses on defense facilities so they may make informed decisions to provide needed support and mitigate risks according to McKnight.

"The IAC learned a great deal," Dondiego said. "Our greatest take-away from the conference was to better communicate, share information and engage with experts across the enterprise. This was great feedback, and we are working toward meeting their expectations through performance management and our agency alignment efforts." **C**

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