

On April 11, AOC Advocacy's SIGINT Industry Partnership Project (IPP) held its first USMC SIGINT Day on Capitol Hill. The event was comprised of two parts, a congressional panel discussion entitled "Winning the EMS: Assessing the Future of USMC SIGINT," and an Industry Solutions Forum (ISF). The panel discussion was hosted by Col Paul Cook (USMC, Ret.), Representative of the Eighth district of California and member of the House Armed Services Committee (HASC). He kicked off the event by recalling that during his time in the Marines, SIGINT was something talked about behind closed doors, not something discussed during basic training. Nowadays, SIGINT is a "game changer" on an increasingly congested and contested battlefield. Panelists included Mr. D. Guy Jordan, Assistant Director for Intelligence, USMC, Col Randolph Pugh, Commanding Officer, USMC Intelligence Schools, and Col Dave Burton, Program Manager, Intelligence Systems, USMC Systems Command. Each approached the discussion from different angles: overall policy for Mr. Jordan, training for Col Pugh, and equipment for Col Burton. This led to a robust discussion on how the Marines need to comprehensively tackle problems in the EMS.

The discussion around USMC SIGINT has become more prominent with the creation of the role of Deputy Commandant for Information (DCI). Col Burton highlighted that the biggest impact brought about by DCI LtGen Lori Reynolds is the development of a singular community of SIGINT and EW along with cyber and other effects. The Marine Corps is trying to "move beyond the old hub and spoke" model, according to Mr. Jordan. This is not only true for organizational purposes, but for capabilities as well. The biggest way industry can help with this is to develop "data correlation at the sensor," according to Jordan. These capabilities, says Burton, need to be able to operate at high frequency ranges, with variable bandwidth, and must jam and communicate simultaneously. Multifunction equipment is the future, and USMC suppliers would be wise to produce it sooner rather than later.

Col Pugh notes though that in order to be able to use this equipment, commanders need to be made aware of the problem. Many of them don't have experience in a denied environment. This is where training plays a huge role. Pugh envisions an EW attack team to disrupt commanders' stable EMS environment in a simulation. This will give them a taste of what our near-peer competitors are capable of and awaken them to the enormity of the problem. This, along with the new capabilities and technology described above, will be vital to making sure the Marines are prepared for the future fight in the EMS.

Immediately following the panel, speakers and attendees were provided the opportunity to attend in the ISF in the Rayburn Foyer. Government and military officials interacted with industry partners who demonstrated and discussed their latest capabilities. Companies were able to speak to their technology solutions for the USMC with key stakeholders in a unique setting.

For more information or to join the SIGINT IPP, please contact Ken Miller, [kmiller@crowds.org](mailto:kmiller@crowds.org).

*Many thanks to Capitol Club member Leslie Gruis for her assistance with this recap!*