

Opening Keynote

TUESDAY, 18 AUGUST | 0845 – 0915 | PLAZA BALLROOM



Dr. Eric Davis

Program Manager, DARPA Strategic Technology Office

Eric Davis, Ph.D., joined DARPA in February 2024 as a program manager in the Strategic Technology Office. His research interests include artificial intelligence, cognitive science, human-machine teaming, and data science.

Prior to DARPA, Davis was the principal scientist of artificial intelligence, machine learning, and human-machine teaming at Galois, where he led programs that focus on the creation

of cognitive architectures to allow next-generation artificially intelligent systems to team with humans in real-world environments.

Prior to Galois, Davis was a professor and director of the Trustworthy Data Engineering Laboratory at Iowa State University and the University of Miami where he was named a Frontiers of Engineering Education faculty member by the National Academy of Engineering.

Industry Keynote

WEDNESDAY, 19 AUGUST | 0840 – 0900 | PLAZA BALLROOM



Rahul C Thakkar

President, BAE Systems OneArc

Rahul is the President of OneArc. He is responsible for the expansion of OneArc's business and product portfolios. He also owns OneArc's overall strategic direction and day-to-day business operations. He is in charge of assessing key domestic and international markets to pursue new opportunities for OneArc's portfolio of products.

An Academy Award® winner and inventor on 60+ patents, Rahul is a seasoned technology leader with experience in cloud computing, defense and intelligence, aerospace, geographic information systems (GIS), and media and entertainment. He most recently served as the director and general manager of Simulation Technologies and Geospatial at AWS, where he led the development of services that made it easier for simulation

engineers, scientists, and technicians to scale their simulations on AWS. Prior to AWS, he served as the Director of Infrastructure Transformation at Boeing, where he led various enterprise infrastructure transformation efforts and built cloud-based capabilities for their unmanned systems. Rahul also had a long history of building foundational technologies for visual effects in feature films such as Antz and Shrek (winner of the 2002 Academy Award® for Best Animated Feature Film). In 2016, he received an Academy Award® for Technical Achievement for "the groundbreaking design of the DreamWorks Media Review System."

Rahul has a Masters in Computer Science from Utah State, and a Bachelors in Computer Engineering from University of Mumbai..

Government Keynote

WEDNESDAY, 19 AUGUST | 1015 – 1030 | PLAZA BALLROOM



Elmer Roman, SES

Deputy Assistant Secretary of War for Acquisition Integration and Interoperability, US Department of War

Mr. Elmer L. Roman currently serves as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of War for Acquisition Integration and Interoperability. In this position, he leads the Department's efforts to accelerate the delivery of integrated joint capabilities. He oversees Department-wide Capability Portfolio Management, executing Integrated Acquisition Portfolio Reviews to align acquisition strategies with critical operational gaps. Additionally, he drives new technology integration, enforces Modular Open Systems Architecture standards, and partners with the Mission Engineering and Integration Activity to bridge the "Valley of Death," ensuring the rapid fielding of interoperable, system-of-systems solutions for the Joint Force.

Previously, Mr. Roman served as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment (EI&E). From July to December 2025, he also performed the duties of Assistant Secretary of the Navy for EI&E. In this role, he advised the Secretary of the Navy on policies for the Department of the Navy's energy, installations, and environmental programs while ensuring compliance with federal and Department of War policies. During this tenure, he oversaw Department-wide policies for Navy and Marine Corps infrastructure, energy resilience, contested logistics, environmental stewardship, and safety programs.

Additionally, he held key leadership roles within the Office of the



Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering. As Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Mission Integration, he co-led the development of the Department's Capability Portfolio Management framework and established the Mission Engineering discipline now used to reform weapons acquisition across the Joint Force. He previously served as Director of the Joint Capabilities Demonstration Program, where he fielded operational capabilities to meet urgent theater requirements.

From 2019 to 2020, he served the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in several confirmed senior executive roles, including Acting Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, and Secretary of Public Safety. His earlier civil service career included technical and leadership assignments at the Joint Warfare Analysis Center, the Naval Surface Warfare Center, and the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (N3/N5). This culminated in a diplomatic post as Director for the Office of Naval Research Global at the U.S. Embassy in Santiago, Chile.

Before his civil service career, Mr. Roman served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1991 to 1997 in reconnaissance and landing support. He later transitioned to the Navy Reserve as an Engineering Duty

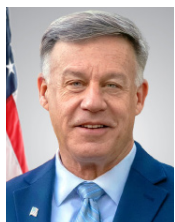
Officer, leading heavy-lift salvage support missions worldwide, including the recovery operations for the destroyers USS John S. McCain (DDG 56) and USS Fitzgerald (DDG 62) after their respective collisions in 2017. Additionally, he served in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Currently, he serves as a Captain in the U.S. Navy Reserve.

His awards include the Department of War Meritorious Civilian Service Medal, U.S. Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Medals (two awards), U.S. Navy Meritorious Service Medals (two awards), and the Chilean Armed Forces Military Star. He is a recipient of the U.S. Navy League's Rear Admiral William S. Parsons Award for Scientific and Technical Progress, the General Carl A. Spaatz Award, the STEM Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Luminary Award, the Department of State Meritorious Honor Award, and a NASA Technical Achievement Commendation.

Mr. Roman holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez, and an M.S. in Systems Engineering from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

NTSA Leadership



VADM Sean S. Buck, USN (Ret.)

President, National Training and Simulation Association

Vice Admiral Sean S. Buck, a native of Indianapolis, Indiana, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1983 and retired from naval service after 40+ years of commissioned service. His active-duty career culminated as the 63rd Superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy, our nation's premier leadership development institution where he gained invaluable and in-depth knowledge and experience running an institution of higher education. Having commanded six times in the military, he has tremendous applied-leadership experience at the highest levels of military and government as well as specialization in strategy and policy development and international affairs. On June 3rd, 2024, VADM Buck embarked on his current position as the President of the National Training and Simulation Association (NTSA), a non-profit affiliate of the National Defense Industry Association (NDIA). In his role, he leads a team of 15 full time staff and over 300 volunteers that represent and advocate for its membership of technology companies involved with cutting edge innovation and research in the modeling and simulation space for training systems. VADM Buck's operational naval service was as a Naval Flight Officer in the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance naval aviation community accumulating over 4000 flight hours and command-level leadership at the Squadron, Air Wing, and three higher-level organizations culminating with command of the US FOURTH Fleet. Ashore, he had over a decade of service in the Pentagon on multiple tours of duty with the Navy Staff as well as the Joint Chiefs of Staff. During these tours he specialized in strategy and policy development, international affairs, as well as personnel

management. Additionally, he leveraged unique opportunities in his career by earning designation as a member of the Navy's Space Cadre while serving at the National Reconnaissance Office and gained tremendous experience within collegiate sports by serving both as a Division I athlete (Tennis) as well as a member of the NCAA's Division I Board of Directors and a member of the Executive Committee of the American Athletic Conference. VADM Buck's academic credentials include: a Master of Arts in Security Policy Studies from The George Washington University; completed studies at the College of Naval Command and Staff, U.S. Naval War College; the Armed Forces Staff College; a year-long fellowship with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Seminar XXI Foreign Politics, International Relations, and the National Interest program; Executive Certificate Programs at both the Harvard Kennedy School and Harvard Graduate School of Education; and a special assignment as a Senior Fellow on the Chief of Naval Operations Strategic Studies Group-an innovation think tank for the Navy, tasked with solving the service's most vexing problem sets. Additionally, he serves on the Advisory Board of Academy Securities and its Geopolitical Intelligence Group, the Advisory Board for Synergist Technology, the Military Advisory Board for First Command Financial Services, as a Trustee to the US Naval Academy's Athletic and Scholarship Program, and as a member of the Leadership Committee for the US National Naval Museum Development Foundation. To date, he has also been engaged as a keynote speaker for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Babson College's E-Tower Young Entrepreneurs Conference.



Debbie Langelier, CEM

Senior Vice President, National Training and Simulation Association

Debbie Langelier, CEM is the Senior Vice President of the National Training and Simulation Association (NTSA), a nonprofit organization based in Arlington, VA. In her role, she oversees the management of all NTSA staff and operations, including membership, marketing, certification, and events. Langelier has been instrumental in initiating and maintaining a high-level security program for both NTSA and I/ITSEC, the organization's flagship event. Her passion for industry, combined with an unwavering focus on client satisfaction, enables her to lead with innovative solutions and unmatched expertise across every project she manages.

Joining NTSA in 2004, Langelier initially served as the Director of Exhibits & Sponsorships before advancing to the role of Assistant Vice President. In her initial role, she was credited with driving a growth rate of more than 30 percent, managing exhibits, sponsorships, and marketing for six key events, including the Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation, and Education Conference (I/ITSEC), the largest training and simulation event in the world. Her strategic approach to marketing has established NTSA with a strong year-round digital presence, positioning the organization for continued success and growth in the future.

Langelier's event career began in 1989 as a General Service Contractor, where she quickly advanced through the ranks,

gaining invaluable hands-on experience and mastering every facet of event organization. Specializing in comprehensive solutions for conferences, trade shows, corporate events, and private functions, she earned a reputation for excellence and a keen attention to detail. Her work laid the foundation for her expertise in the events industry, where she has become a trusted leader and advisor.

As a Certified Exhibit Manager with over 30 years of experience in the industry, Langelier's background in customer service, creative services, and association sales management gives her a deep understanding of the nonprofit sector and the trade show industry. She believes strongly in the power of connecting people and values the role of events in fostering important relationships and collaborations.

As Senior Vice President at NTSA, Langelier continues to advocate for the use of advanced simulation technologies—such as artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and serious gaming—to support training, education, and analysis within national security markets. NTSA, an affiliate of the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA), supports these efforts, representing a membership of over 80,000 individuals and nearly 1,600 corporate members, all while ensuring the defense industrial base remains at the forefront of innovation and technological advancement.

Speakers

THE SIMULATION CENTURY – DIGITAL TWINS AND AI IN SPACE

TUESDAY, 18 AUGUST | 0930 – 1030 | PLAZA BALLROOM



Richard Boyd

CEO, Ultisim | Moderator

Richard is the CEO of UltiSim Inc. He has worked with machine learning since 2009 and was founder and CEO of a machine learning company called Tanjo Inc from 2014 until 2023, when it was acquired by UltiSim. Over the last thirty years Richard has led or helped create some of the most innovative game technology companies in the industry. He has served as a game technology consultant for a wide variety of industries including energy, healthcare, education and motion pictures. At Aerospace giant Lockheed Martin he created and led a group of innovative engineers and designers across all mission areas called Virtual World Labs. Richard joined Lockheed Martin in 2007 with the acquisition of 3Dsolve, a North Carolina based computer game technology firm where he was founder and CEO. Richard served for a decade on the executive management team of Virtus Corporation where he helped create several pioneering computer gaming companies including Red Storm Entertainment, with author Tom Clancy; iRock Entertainment with Ozzy Osbourne; and Timeline Computer Entertainment, with author Michael Crichton. Richard has moderated the Simulation Century Event at MODSIM World for 14 years.



Dr. Christa Peters-Lidard

Deputy Director for Hydrosphere, Biosphere, and Geophysics in the Earth Sciences Division, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Dr. Christa Peters-Lidard is an American hydrologist known for integrating land surface modeling and data assimilation, particularly with remotely sensed precipitation measurements. She holds a B.S. in Geophysics from Virginia Tech and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Civil Engineering and Operations Research from Princeton. After a faculty



stint at Georgia Tech, she spent more than two decades at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, rising from Chief of the Hydrological Sciences Laboratory through Deputy Director roles to Director of the Sciences and Exploration Directorate (2023–2025) where she led the largest collection of Earth and space scientists in the world, spanning four science divisions and 490+ civil servants. She is best known for leading development of NASA's Land Information System (LIS), a high-performance modeling and data assimilation framework that fuses satellite, airborne, and in-situ observations with land models co-winner of NASA's 2005 Software of the Year. She's a Fellow of both the American Meteorological Society and the American Geophysical Union, and was the NASA lead for the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network and originated the Earth Information System concept while Acting NASA Goddard Chief Scientist.



Dr. Jeffrey Arnold

Executive Vice President, Science and Technology, ENTARIAN

Dr. Jeff Arnold is Chief Innovation Officer at Entarian, where he arrived in October 2024 to lead the company's new Innovation Foundry, coming from MITRE Corporation, where he had been Chief Scientist leading geoscience R&D in the Emerging Technologies Innovation Center since 2022. His 25-year federal research career began in computational and experimental atmospheric chemistry at NOAA and USEPA national labs, and he then created and led for over a decade the U.S. Army Engineer national research program that transformed field observations and continental-scale hydro-climatology models into engineering inputs for national water and energy security. His current work centers on machine-learning emulators and other AI components that simplify use of massive Earth science and space weather datasets, identifying the most useful digital analytic approaches for decisions that enhance U.S. public safety and prosperity. He holds a Ph.D. in tropospheric chemistry and physics from UNC Chapel Hill and has co-authored more than 150 peer-reviewed publications.

THE DIGITAL ENGINEERING–SIMULATION FLYWHEEL: TURNING MODELS INTO MISSION ADVANTAGE

TUESDAY, 18 AUGUST | 1415 – 1515 | PLAZA BALLROOM



Dr. Benjamin Bell

General Manager, Advanced Capabilities Engineering, LLC | Moderator

Benjamin Bell is General Manager, Advanced Capabilities Engineering, a subsidiary of Potawatomi Ventures Federal Group, a Tribally-owned corporation with 15 subsidiaries and over 40 Joint Ventures. He leads initiatives to help Government and industry partners create and apply emerging techniques in AI to improve training, assessment, and readiness. He has led multiple companies and launched two startups in the defense sector. His research has focused on AI-enabled performance assessment, and automated content and training creation. Dr. Bell holds a Ph.D. in Artificial Intelligence, Masters degrees in Human Factors and Computer Science, and is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania.



Richard Boyd

CEO, Ultisim

Richard is the CEO of UltiSim Inc. He has worked with machine learning since 2009 and was founder and CEO of a machine learning company called Tanjo Inc from 2014 until 2023, when it was acquired by UltiSim. Over the last thirty years Richard has led or helped create some of the most innovative game technology companies in the industry. He has served as a game technology consultant for a wide variety of industries including energy, healthcare, education and motion pictures. At Aerospace giant Lockheed Martin he created and led a group of innovative engineers and designers across all mission areas called Virtual World Labs. Richard joined Lockheed Martin in 2007 with the acquisition of 3Dsolve, a North Carolina based computer game technology firm where he was founder and CEO. Richard served for a decade on the executive management team of Virtus Corporation where he helped create several pioneering computer gaming companies including Red Storm Entertainment, with author Tom Clancy; iRock Entertainment with Ozzy Osbourne; and Timeline Computer Entertainment, with author Michael Crichton. Richard has moderated the Simulation Century Event at MODSIM World for 14 years.

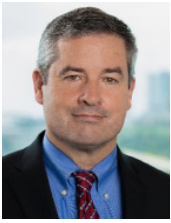


Daniel Hettema

Director of Digital Engineering, Modeling & Simulation, OUSD R&E

Daniel Hettema serves as the Director of Digital Engineering, Modeling & Simulation (DEM&S) within the Office of the Under Secretary of War for Research and Engineering (OUSW(R&E)). In this role, he offers expertise to senior leaders and guides engineering transformation related research, guidance, standards, and policy. From releasing DoDI 5000.97 "Digital Engineering" to investing in Systems Modeling Language V2 to managing the Systems Engineering Research Center, Mr. Hettema's commitment to solving engineering practitioner challenges can be felt

across the Department.



Dale Ormond

Senior Advisor, Kompozition

Dale Ormond served as a junior officer aboard a nuclear submarine and retired as a DoD senior executive with over 35 years of federal service. An acquisition professional with Level III certifications in multiple areas, he served in several senior Army leadership positions including Deputy Asst. Sec. of the Army for the Elimination of Chemical Weapons and Director of the US Army Research, Development and Engineering Command. His last federal position was the Director of S&T at OSD R&E. He retired in 2018, and after working for the MITRE Corporation, he started

his own consulting company in 2025.

ONE-MINUTE SPOTLIGHT

TUESDAY, 18 AUGUST | 1630 – 1700 | PLAZA BALLROOM



Luke DeVore

Managing Partner, Voltron Group

Luke DeVore is the Managing Partner of The Voltron Group, a technology and business development consultancy founded in 2024. Luke began his career as a Marine Corps artillery officer and was first introduced to modeling and simulation while deployed on the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (26 MEU) using Deployable Virtual Training Environment (DVTE) and then as a civilian supporting the DVTE program at the II MEF Simulation Center aboard Camp Lejeune, NC. After his time there, Luke worked as the Senior Vice President of Business Development at

a small business where he became familiar with the various RDT&E funding mechanisms including OTAs, BAAs, SBIRs as well as traditional contracts across the DoD and Federal market.

BRIDGING INNOVATION TO CAPABILITY: OPERATIONALIZING THE DEFENSE INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

WEDNESDAY, 19 AUGUST | 0900 – 1000 | PLAZA BALLROOM



Amber Reep

Director, University of Central Florida Tech Grove

Amber B. Reep is an accomplished executive leader, researcher, and educator with more than 25 years of experience at the intersection of higher education, emerging technology, innovation, operational readiness, and national security. She currently serves as Director of Tech Grove at the University of Central Florida, where she leads strategic initiatives focused on advanced technology integration, applied research, modeling and simulation, and innovation partnerships that support education, defense, and national security missions.

Prior to joining UCF, Ms. Reep served in senior executive leadership roles with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, including Assistant Director at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers (FLETC). In this role, she provided executive oversight for enterprise operations, strategic planning, technology modernization, facilities management, and mission readiness across four national law enforcement training campuses supporting federal and international partner organizations. She led enterprise-wide modernization initiatives integrating artificial intelligence (AI), simulation technologies, unmanned systems, smart infrastructure, geospatial technologies, and advanced digital learning environments to strengthen operational effectiveness, training readiness, and real-time decision-making capabilities.

Throughout her career, Ms. Reep has been recognized for driving innovation and emerging technology initiatives that bridge academia, government, and industry. Her expertise spans artificial intelligence, augmented and virtual reality (AR/VR), simulation and modeling, digital transformation, instructional systems design, online learning ecosystems, learning management systems, and data-informed organizational strategy. She has led multidisciplinary teams responsible for designing and implementing technology-enabled training environments, immersive learning platforms, and applied research programs supporting public safety, defense, transportation, and homeland security missions.

Ms. Reep also held executive leadership positions with the U.S. Department of Transportation, where she directed national training and research programs, managed multimillion-dollar innovation portfolios, and led curriculum modernization initiatives impacting tens of thousands of professionals annually. Her work focused on integrating advanced instructional technologies, game-based learning, digital simulation, and enterprise technology modernization into national workforce development programs supporting transportation safety, infrastructure resilience, and security preparedness.



In addition, Ms. Reep served as Chair of the Transportation Research Board Task Force on Transit Safety and Security for the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, where she led national and international collaboration on critical infrastructure protection, transportation security, emergency preparedness, and applied research supporting national resilience and public safety. She has worked extensively with federal agencies, international governments, academic institutions, and industry leaders to advance innovation strategies and operational best practices in safety, security, and technology integration.

Earlier in her career, Ms. Reep served as Faculty and Principal Investigator at the University of South Florida, where she managed federally funded research programs and interdisciplinary initiatives focused on transportation safety, emergency management, operational innovation, and security technologies. Her work resulted in nationally recognized publications, presentations, and applied research contributions in the areas of simulation training, organizational readiness, and technology-enabled workforce development.

Ms. Reep holds an Executive Leadership Certification from the University of Virginia Darden School of Business and a Master of Science in Technological Systems Management.



Brian Shipley

Director, DON SBIR/STTR Programs

Brian Shipley is the Director for the Department of the Navy (DON) Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) / Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs. In this role he oversees implementation of the programs to stimulate technological innovations, use small business to meet Federal research and development needs, and increase private sector commercialization of Federally funding research.

Mr. Shipley has over 30 years of experience working with DON and DoD programs. He began his career in financial management providing programming and planning for DON shipbuilding and research and development programs and in 2007 joined the DoD Office of Small Business Programs to provide overarching program management support to the DoD SBIR/STTR Programs. In 2013, Mr. Shipley transitioned to the DON SBIR/STTR Programs Office to support policy development, program management and outreach and joined the civilian workforce in July 2020 as the DON SBIR/STTR Commercialization Program Manager. He has been in his current role as Director since August 2024.

Mr. Shipley earned a Bachelor of Science in Marketing and Management from the University of Maryland and a Master of Science in Finance from Johns Hopkins University.



Richard Tarr

Southern Maryland Tech Bridge / TechPort

Bio

WARMATRIX & GEMSTONE BRIEFINGS

WEDNESDAY, 19 AUGUST | 1420 – 1520 | PLAZA BALLROOM



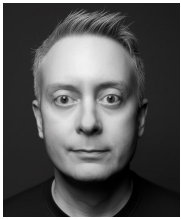
Sean Litton

Strategic Engineering Lead, DAF Modeling and Simulation Execution Office

Mr. Sean Litton currently serves as the strategic engineering lead for the Enterprise Modeling and Simulation Execution Office under the Technology Transition Office of the Air Force Research Lab at Wright Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB). He also serves as the liaison of the DAF Modeling and Simulation Office under SAF/SA.

Mr. Litton has worked in the DoD for over 25 years in the areas of test and evaluation, research and engineering, and modeling and simulation. Mr. Litton has served in the capacity of system engineer, test engineer, program manager, and principal engineer. Mr. Litton holds a BS in applied physics, an MS in mechanical engineering.

Conference Leadership



Vance Souders | Conference Chair

Founder, Plas.md; Senior Manager, Digital Innovation, Thermo Fisher Scientific

Vance Souders has over 23 years of software engineering, design, and leadership experience focused on creating cutting-edge immersive experiences. He has played a critical role or spearheaded the development of over 40 innovative projects, driving value across various verticals, including health care, defense, and education. He has led diverse teams composed of on-site and remote engineers, artists, designers, clinicians, and scientists across multiple time zones.



Dr. Benjamin Bell | Deputy Conference Chair

General Manager, Advanced Capabilities Engineering, LLC

Benjamin Bell is the VP, Advanced Capabilities for the Potawatomi Ventures - Federal Group, a Tribal 8(a) corporation with 14 subsidiaries and 43 Joint Ventures. He leads initiatives to help Government and industry partners create and apply emerging techniques in AI to improve training, assessment, and readiness. He has led multiple companies and launched two startups in the defense sector. His research has focused on AI-enabled performance assessment, and automated content and training creation. Dr. Bell holds a Ph.D. in Artificial Intelligence, Masters degrees in Human Factors and Computer Science, and is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania.



Conner Parsey | Program Chair

Science and Technology Manager, U.S. Army DEVCOM SC STTC

Conner Parsey is a Science and Technology Manager for the U.S. Army DEVCOM at the Simulation and Training Technology Center (STTC) in Orlando. Mr. Parsey manages medical simulation research and development projects aimed to advance simulation technology, increase training effectiveness, improve haptic fidelity, and ultimately impact the warfighter. His research interests include dynamic wounds, human tissue characterization, synthetic tissue surrogates, virtual and augmented reality simulations, 3D printing, bioprinting, and medical haptics. He has a BS in Mechanical Engineering and a MS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Central Florida.



Frank Karluk | Deputy Program Chair

Senior Principal, Subject Matter Expert, Medical Simulation and Training, DLH Holdings Corporation

Frank serves as DLH's Medical Simulation Account Executive focusing on building the DLH portfolio in the simulation and training practices. Frank has over 30 years' experience in the medical field in multiple areas to include advancing patient care on the battlefield, direct patient care in the hospital setting, instruction, and curriculum development. Twenty-one of these years were in service to the United States Army with various assignments that included combat operations in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. During this deployment he served as the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of an Army MEDEVAC detachment that was tasked to directly support the Special Operations Command during high-risk kinetic operations involving active warfare, including lethal force. He and his unit were the first Army MEDEVAC unit to conduct in-flight blood resuscitation and he is credited with being the first flight paramedic to perform an emergency escharotomy in flight under the remote direction of a trauma surgeon. He maintains active licensure and certifications and is currently a faculty member at The George Washington University. Mr. Karluk has been invited to speak at international conferences and has been a spokesperson within the Medical/Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and high yield Explosives (CBRNE) community before the Joint Chiefs, and other high level governmental leadership post 9/11. He holds a master's degree in emergency and disaster management and graduated with high honors. He continues to share his experiences in the development of future medical simulation and training efforts and has been cited in multiple efforts that have expanded the abilities of a multidisciplinary practitioner community that includes medical providers both inside and outside the military. Most recently he managed the over \$190M efforts within the Defense Health Agency, Medical Simulation portfolio, and designed and implemented curriculum within the U.S. Department of State, Special Agent training that was based on recent lessons learned during worldwide deployments into austere locations of conflict.



Track Chair

AUTONOMY



Radhakishan Shetty | Deputy Chair

Principal Software Developer, Janus Research

Principal Software Developer with 20 years of software engineering experience and interests in Augmented Reality, Machine Learning and Educational systems. Currently the Principal Investigator for the NIST PSIAP-2022 Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Framework grant. Technical Lead on the Strikewerx Advanced Training Concepts Challenge B-52 Communications Trainer.



JoAnn Archer

Deputy Director RDT&E, Design Interactive, LLC

JoAnn is the Deputy Director of Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation, and the eXtended Reality (XR) Solutions Portfolio Manager at Design Interactive. With over 17 years of experience in systems engineering and program management within high-tech environments, she brings a strategic and visionary approach to innovation.

JoAnn has successfully led numerous Department of Defense (DoD), government, and commercially funded projects, ensuring the successful development and deployment of cutting-edge XR and AI-driven immersive training, operational, and sustainment solutions. Her work is grounded in applied research and data analytics, driving the creation of adaptive technologies that remain at the forefront of innovation. JoAnn's expertise in systems engineering ensures that immersive training tools, operational job aids, performance measurement systems, and decision-support solutions are meticulously designed, developed, tested, and transitioned to meet the specific needs of users, tasks, and operational contexts.

A notable achievement includes leading a cross-functional team in the development, testing, and evaluation of AUGMED® Mobile—an adaptive and accessible XR-based TCCC training tool available as a mobile application. This solution is currently being transitioned across the DoD and is also available in the commercial sector.

Prior to joining Design Interactive, JoAnn served as a lead engineer at NASA, where she held various roles in operations and requirements development and management across multiple programs.

An engineer by training and an educator at heart, JoAnn is passionate about delivering optimal human performance solutions across the learn–practice–execute continuum, providing a competitive edge for end users.

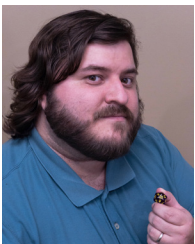
EMERGING CAPABILITIES



Matthew Pittard | Chair

Systems Engineer, BAE Systems, Inc.

As a result of the Modeling and Simulation Congressional Caucus Leadership Summit of 2025, NTSA launched a working group focused on Artificial Intelligence (AI). The modeling, simulation and training community has been integrating AI into the technologies that support national security, infrastructure, healthcare and education. It is critical that the application of AI supports rather than hinders national progress and security. Our Congressional representatives and our Caucus Members continue to seek the most appropriate application of legislation to encourage innovation while also establishing guardrails to protect our nation from the inappropriate use of AI and related technologies. This working group is focused on educating our lawmakers on these technologies, and on proposing the most effective ways that Congress can support the integration and application of these technologies. This group continues to provide white papers and educational opportunities on Capitol Hill to educate Members on proposed areas for legislative action.



Andrew Hollis | Deputy Chair

Special Projects Lead, Emerging Technology Support, LLC

Andrew Hollis has been involved in the evolution of training over the last almost two decades from the ground up. Starting as a graphic artist on an award-winning training supplement for the aging boats in the United States Coast Guard, Andrew is currently the lead developer of an immersive VR sim. During his career, he has worn nearly every hat that can be worn when it comes to training development, as well as being a role player for live training and as an instructor on the podium. He holds an MFA in Game Development and has earned the call sign of 'Wizard' from his US Marine colleagues as the man behind the curtain crafting and operating their immersive sim. He mostly chooses to use Military Grade Dungeon Master as his title after being introduced by a Colonel to a General with said title. He is passionate about harnessing the learning experiences that can be crafted by gamification, and he works to ensure that the fun factor goes where needed. This is Andrew's first time as a committee member for a conference, and he is looking forward to taking the next big step with everyone.



Madison Quinn | Chair

Research Lead, Engineering & Computer Simulations, Inc.

Madison is the Research Lead at Engineering & Computer Simulations, Inc. in Orlando, FL. She has supported all applied research projects in support of military training research for the past five years. Ms. Quinn is responsible for conducting scientific literature reviews, designing usability study survey instruments, administering surveys, conducting interviews, and supporting data collections through quantitative and qualitative analyses. Most recently, Ms. Quinn has supported research on combat medicine training prototypes and assessments and has experience with immersive and innovative technologies used for training, such as Virtual Reality (VR), Augmented Reality (AR), Mixed Reality (MR), haptic gloves, and haptic-based weapons. Ms. Quinn holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a minor in Theatre from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and a Master of Science in Industrial / Organizational Psychology from Bellevue University. Currently, she is pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy in General Psychology with an emphasis on Industrial and Organizational Psychology from Grand Canyon University.



Jodie Mangor | Deputy Chair

Director of Grants and Research, SimX, Inc.

Jodie Mangor is the Director of Grants and Research at SimX, Inc., where she leads scientific grant development for emerging technology initiatives and platform innovation. A seasoned proposal strategist with a background in biomedical sciences and federal funding, she collaborates closely with academic partners and subject matter experts to advance high-impact research in the field of medical simulation. Her prior roles span strategic partnerships and proposal leadership across multiple organizations, contributing to over \$800M in awarded funding.

Special Event Chair



Luke DeVore | Chair

Managing Partner, The Voltron Group

Luke DeVore is the Managing Partner of The Voltron Group, a technology and business development consultancy founded in 2024. Luke began his career as a Marine Corps artillery officer and was first introduced to modeling and simulation while deployed on the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (26 MEU) using Deployable Virtual Training Environment (DVTE) and then as a civilian supporting the DVTE program at the II MEF Simulation Center aboard Camp Lejeune, NC. After his time there, Luke worked as the Senior Vice President of Business Development at a small business where he became familiar with the various RDT&E funding mechanisms including OTAs, BAAs, SBIRs as well as traditional contracts across the DoD and Federal market.

