



Panel III: Information Sharing and Interoperability (Best Practices and Future Models in a Network Centric Environment)

Good afternoon. As Dr. McQueary mentioned in his remarks, I'm Vivian Turnbull, the Defense Intelligence Agency Deputy Chief Information Officer. As VADM Cotton and RADM McCarthy shared, inter-organizational and international cooperation are indeed critical to successful and mission-focused global operations. At DIA, the CIO, Mr. Grant Schneider, and I place a special emphasis on the role of information technology as a mission-enabling function of international cooperation.

Many of us gathered here today can remember back to a time when the challenges we faced were marked by constancy, predictability and clearly marked milestones for progress toward the goals we set. In today's multi-polar world, however, the challenges we now face fluctuate on a near real-time basis, requiring closely coordinated responses to a series of increasingly shared global issues.

Our collective success depends upon our ability to work across national, political and geographic boundaries to form a coalition of like-minded partners committed to address common challenges. Information technology has helped to make our world a smaller and more accessible place to live and work and has eased the flow of ideas and commerce across the globe. This changing world, however, has also seen the rise of a new enemy, one who does not respect international treaties or conventional rules of engagement – the threat to global security is greater today than ever before. Those who wish us harm no longer come through the city's front gates. Governments, financial institutions and multinational corporations all face the threat of electronic warfare that can cause harm and disrupt operations with little to no warning.

As we continue to prosecute the global war on terror and address the new challenges of asymmetric warfare and cyber-terror, reliable, actionable, real-time information remains a critical mission enabler. We form a united coalition of non-traditional partners who rely on information technology to reach our common goals. The technology that we use and share routes the critical data that we need to inform the decisions and policies that help to make our world safer.

Although most of us here today are defense practitioners, the information technology we rely on to do our jobs also helps to enable the humanitarian side of our mission as well. As we saw in humanitarian efforts over just the past few years, communities of interest are able to leverage the Internet to identify areas of critical need, organize supplies and assistance, and deploy relief workers. A host of nations and international aid organizations use readily-available information like Google Earth as a shared source of geospatial information to inform strategy, planning and execution. The increased footprint of commercial satellites and the growing reach of wired and wireless broadband provide communications connectivity in areas previously unavailable. These technology advances are helping external aid reach crisis areas more quickly and with greater positive impact than ever before.

One recent example of technology-enabled collaboration was seen as my own organization – DIA – established a portal on the Internet to help enable international coordination in support of the Humanitarian Assistance / Disaster Recovery efforts in the aftermath of the southeast Asian tsunami. Disaster responders had detailed information on population locations and the state of transportation routes – critical information that gave them enhanced situational awareness to maximize their contribution to the relief effort.

By using robust information management tools like advanced data warehousing and context-sensitive search that are readily available on the Internet, international partners are able to access and implement best practices gained from the previous experience of colleagues half a world away. The ability to establish a global presence at the point of need relies heavily on technology solutions that can start small, think big and scale fast to meet any given need.

The exponential growth of technology helps us to plan our strategies, knowing that the technical solutions to our most complex problems are often addressed by assembling the right minds and giving them the resources they need to do their jobs. The next challenge in the equation, though, is in answering the question of “how to deliver myriad tools and applications without increasing the hardware technology footprint on the end-user’s desk?” Thin client technology saves money and global enterprise services initiatives now give users the same access to their e-mail and local files from anywhere on the globe. Interoperable cross-platform solutions – namely the conduits through which information can flow – must be optimized to ensure that the right data gets into the right hands at the right time.

In order to realize the full value of increasingly advanced IT tools and applications, we must also ensure that the groundwork of applying internationally-recognized standards to data and networks is addressed at the

same time. Our global teams require lean data that can move swiftly through small pipes and constrained communications channels. Personal electronic devices – the Blackberries and iPhones we carry on our hips and in our bags – must be able to receive and process data as soon as it is available. Shared data and technology standards will enhance interoperability and reduce the barriers to successful partnerships of neighboring countries and international coalitions.

Forums like this serve as venues to establish and discuss these agreed-upon standards that will enable critical information sharing. Open dialogue about our collective and shared vision for the future helps to lay out the “lanes in the road” – each partner has a role to play in our collective success. Constructive dialogue among committed colleagues will *always* produce a better result than the work of independent operators, working alone to devise linear solutions for a non-linear world.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share a few thoughts as part of this distinguished panel. I look forward to Mr. Boston’s perspective and to your questions.