



Shadow Warriors Association Tech Summit 2023 19-20 September 2023

Dear Partners of the SWA,

We have a new event this year ICW the 112th Signal BN (SO) (A). We will be hosting a Tech Summit on 19 and 20 September 2023 at The Iron Mike Conference Center at Fort Liberty NC. The summit will address the 5 topics that are key to SOF communicators that are described below. Each morning, the 112th will bring panelists and speakers to address the group on what these requirements are, why they are so important, and what industry can do to help. The afternoons will consist of vendors presenting selected capabilities that address these subjects. We will also have the social on-site Tuesday the 19th at 16:30 which is always a great opportunity to mingle between our military, government, and industry partners.

We are calling for papers from industry that address the five topics. Papers can be Word, Power Point, or slicks as long as they are NO LONGER THAN THREE PAGES. Anything longer than 3 pages will not be reviewed. If you use existing slicks, then recommend you use one of your three pages (this count includes your slicks) to specifically describe how your capability addresses the SOF need on the topic. You can submit papers on more than one topic if you have multiple capabilities. Your capability does not have to address all facets of these topics, it may address an important piece of the solution. These papers will be reviewed for a quick turnaround, recommend in your BLUF you highlight what key capabilities you think you can address. Also, none of these topics are less important than the others, some may have more sub components as examples, but all are important. Submissions should be sent to the SWA.vicepresident@gmail.com account.

Topics for Papers.

- **Tactical Cloud Environments:** How does the Signal Corps and SOF communicators leverage cloud computing and design the tactical networks that will support the use of cloud services into the battlefield. Can these be hardware agnostic, open standards based, cloud native solutions that can utilize edge computing to enable data sharing and informed decision making. Can they be resilient in a contested Electromagnetic Spectrum (EMS) environment?
- **Forward Edge Compute:** How does SOF capitalize on capabilities that enable edge computing solutions and data sharing for Mission Command, sensors, networks, support AI, etc in the tactical contested environment.
- **Mission Command on the Move:** C2 is at risk because the adversary can sense and destroy friendly forces and command posts across all Domains (air, ground, space, cyber). Core Capabilities/concepts for consideration:
 - Self-healing/self-replicating networks
 - Diverse aggregated transport (WAN and LAN)



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- Vehicle/Transport Agnostic
 - LPI/LPD signature (with anti EW capabilities)
 - Low SWaP
 - Leverage transport capabilities outside of RF spectrum (FSO, LDIR, etc)
 - Capable of maintaining connection at 50 MPH (even when civilian terrestrial infrastructure is not available)
 - Capable of leveraging multi-orbit satellite constellations
 - Data rates must have the capacity to facilitate integration of cloud and data-intensive computing platforms
 - Maintain local access to Mission Command services when isolated from the network (degraded COP)
 - Integrated sensor data processing and control for AI/ML/data analytics (FWD edge compute)
- **Future Transport and Transport Diversity (5G, Mesh Radio, Software Defined, tactical local area network of the future):** How does SOF improve transport diversity through using multiple/new capabilities, with auto-sensing and failover principles to provide resilient networks in the contested/congested environments of multidomain operations. Can we establish, protect, defend and maintain a self-healing, transport agnostic, multi-pathway communications architecture, in a congested and denied environment, to provide a flexible and agile network? How can SOF provide data that is Visible, Accessible, Understandable, Linked, Trusted, Interoperable and Secure (VAULTIS) to enable decision dominance? Other considerations: Mobile - Supports on the move, at the halt, & at the quick halt, Joint and coalition operations. Characteristics: Scalable, Autonomous, adaptive, threat detection/self-healing, supports dispersion, modular.
 - **Artificial Intelligence in Support of the Tactical Environment:** Artificial Intelligence is desired across SOF and the Army, but how can it be employed in a manner that effectively improves Mission Command and Decision Dominance in a contested multidomain environment. What capabilities are available and in use that can be rapidly utilized? What support (ex: data scientist/process compute/etc) is required to support AI application on the modern battlefield?

Industry Participation Opportunities

1. Submit papers. Selected papers will be able to present their capabilities on stage (we will have the ability to project slides). Presentations will be either 15 or 30 minutes depending on how many are selected.
2. Unlike the TECH EXPO there are NO BOOTHS and we will not have a golf tournament.



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3. Registration: We will send a follow-on message with registration instructions, but it will be \$250 per person from industry and free to military/government. You do not have to be a presenter to attend. This event will enable great interaction with SOF leaders and technicians where you are welcome to discuss topics other than the five listed. Do not flood the swa.vicepresident@gmail.com account with registration questions, they won't be answered since we will concentrate that on receiving and processing papers. We will put information out and intend to work registration through the website. More to follow.
4. Social and snack sponsorships. Sponsors are greatly appreciated for helping with the costs of the Tuesday social and the snacks throughout the conference. Sponsors receive recognition during the event and in the signage supporting it. Social sponsorships are \$2,500 and snack sponsorships are \$500. Sponsorships include 2-person attendance.

AGENDA: A detailed agenda will be published after the selection of presenters. For planning purposes, please use the following. The timeline is intentionally short, we are looking for capabilities that are ready and/or already in use. Based off that, you should already have information papers/slicks/presentations that can be easily tailored for this. Remember, you don't have to be a presenter to attend, there are plenty of great opportunities for discussions on other topics.

21 July 2023 Call for papers

4 Aug 2023: Papers due to the swa.vicepresident@gmail.com account.

18 Aug 2023: Selection and notification

15 Sep 2023: NLT selected presentations are due to swa.vicepresident@gmail.com

19 Sep 2023: 0730-0900 onsite registration/check in

19 Sep 2023: 0900 opening remarks

19 Sep 2023: 0930-1200 military/government panels and speakers

19 Sep 2023: 1300-1630 industry presentations

19 Sep 2023: 1630-2030 on site social/networking

20 Sep 2023: 0900 opening remarks

20 Sep 2023: 0930-1200 military/government speakers and panels

20 Sep 2023: 1300-1600 industry presentations

20 Sep 2023: 1600 closing remarks

21 Sep 2023: 112th Signal BN (SO) (A) ball.

The Shadow Warrior Association is a non-profit, volunteer, organization created to honor the history and legacy of current and former members of the 112th Signal Battalion (SO)(A). Located on Fort Liberty, NC. The SWA accomplishes its charter by providing educational scholarships, recognition to outstanding members of the special operations signal community, and by supporting the historical initiatives and families of the 112th Signal Battalion (SO)(A).



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Save the date. The USASOC C4I Conference and SWA TECH EXPO are scheduled 15-18 April 2024 at Fort Liberty NC with the 15th being the Tommy Lee Smart Memorial Golf Tournament.

For more information contact John McLaughlin at swa.vicepresident@gmail.com.
Thank you for your support! We look forward to seeing you in September!

John McLaughlin

COL (RET) John McLaughlin

President

The Shadow Warrior Association