

Day 1: 01 December 2010

Summary:

The first day of the Second Annual CAR/NTCE Applied Innovation Summit of the Coalition for Applied Research (CAR)/Non Traditional Centers of Excellence (NTCE) started out with a test of how determined the participants were, in finding the location of the event venue at the Harbor Inn on the Naval Submarine Base, Point Loma, San Diego California. Whoever was unable to pass the test, should quit trying to do business with the Navy. Finding the office location for a prospective customer at the Washington Navy Yard headquarters of the Naval Systems Command (NAVSEA), is no less challenging. Fortunately, the attendees of the Summit were a cross section of a particularly unique segment of society - they were innovators. When challenges come knocking, innovators rise up to the occasion and find new, practical and useful ways of accomplishing needed tasks. They included technical and management personnel of all tiers of innovation organizations: including, but not limited to – Major Industry, Industry Suppliers, R&D Companies, SBIR/STTR Companies, Universities, Government Agencies that field new technologies as well as their affiliated branches and field centers.

The purpose/objective of the Summit was to bring innovators into direct relationships with end users who have specific technical challenges to be addressed. This objective was met and exceeded, as there were informative briefings from representatives of no less than three branches of the Navy: PEO SUBS, PEO LMW and PEO C4I. In fact, due to the encouraging atmosphere of the Summit, the briefings from each of these branches were allowed to continue way beyond the times allotted for them, so much so that the briefing from SPAWAR, which was initially scheduled for Day 1, had to be rescheduled for the next day. The presentation from PEO SUBS was delivered by CDR John Vlattas, Program Manager for the Undersea Enterprise Research and Development office (SEA 073R). PEO LMW was represented by Mr. Rod Mackinnon, who runs the San Diego office of PEO LMW, and the Executive Director for PEO C4I, Mr. Pat Sullivan came in person. All the briefings were engaging and highlighted the respective areas where the innovation community could make immediate and future contributions to the needs of the war fighter and associated end users.

The agenda for Day was wrapped up with an open discussion, led by a panel of three discussion leaders, consisting of Mr. Richard McNamara, a retired Executive Director for PEO SUBS, who is well known in his own right as an innovator with regards to the methods and means of bringing the most innovative ideas and technologies to the Navy Undersea Enterprise. Others on the discussion panel were: Laureen K. Brickley, President of ASSETT Inc. based in Manassas VA, and Dr. Ken Cheung, the Director for Research and Development at Oceanit Inc, based in Hololulu Hawaii. It was very exciting to witness the interactions and interconnections among a group of innovators from different organizational tiers of the community ranging from University Professors engaged in basic research, all the way to Navy Ship Yard operators who actually work on the assets that the Navy depends on for its missions.

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