Technology Futures
Breakout Session

Overview

The U.S. Intelligence Community faces drastic technological change. The panel focused on the collaboration needed between the public sector, industry, and academia in order to develop solutions that enhance the IC's capabilities and enable it to achieve its goals.

Summary

The panelists discussed the IC's efforts to avoid experiencing "future shock" from the race to develop and deploy technology. All segments of the IC must engage – both to adopt advanced technology and to create a culture of innovation that motivates and empowers people. The community is also working on public trust, as many private companies are pulling away from the IC due to the way it is represented in the press.

Panelists

- **Robert Ames,** VMware, National Security Intel
- **Akash "Aki" Jain,** CTO, Palantir
- **Michael Lansdown,** Chief Scientist S&T Directorate, DIA
- **Teresa Shea,** Raytheon, previously SIGINT at NSA
- **Robert "Bob" Gourley,** OODA LLC, former Navy Intelligence (moderator)

Key Takeaways:

- *"The future is already here, it is just unevenly distributed"* said Palantir CTO Akash "Aki" Jain, discussing the unequal distribution of data and the IC's processing capabilities.
- A fundamental asset of information sharing is having resilient data.
- Companies must collaborate with the IC to develop technological solutions that advance U.S. national security and protect the nation.
- To earn public support, the IC needs to be more transparent so the U.S. public can understand more about its missions and goals.
- Technology matters most in government when it is applied to problems that would otherwise hinder mission success.
- The United States and its adversaries are in a race to develop and apply advanced technologies. More investment in R&D by the Intelligence Community will speed both the development and widespread application of such technologies.

Recommendations

- The IC should adopt a different approach to career paths that allows personnel to rotate through private industry; this will allow industry to benefit from government technology investments and enable government to adopt commercial best practices.
- Training of new employees needs to consider that the workforce is increasingly fluent with technology.
- The IC now requires technology that enables its specific capabilities and decision-making processes to be undertaken faster.
- A larger national security presence is needed on the West Coast since many engineers there are serving the same missions as the IC.

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