

Panelists Discuss Challenges in Navigating Space as a Warfighting Domain



Space may have been the final frontier for the Starship Enterprise, but it's the current frontier for the world's fighting forces. As nations race to conquer this military high ground, the U.S. Department of Defense and private industry are increasingly working together to ensure American warfighters' place in space now and in the future.

During the Monday afternoon panel, "Space: The 5th Warfighting Domain," four representatives from the military and industry discussed the following questions from moderator Theresa Hitchens, a reporter with Breaking Defense, and audience members.

We've heard a lot about how the threat environment is

changing. What keeps you up at night in that regard?

VADM Jeffrey Trussler, USN, deputy chief of naval operations for information warfare, N2/N6, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations/Director of Naval Intelligence, said he's concerned about both the expanded use of the RF spectrum and China's efforts in space.

Because the Navy is reliant on RF, it needs to look at the best ways to use the RF spectrum as the space layer proliferates, he said.

Meanwhile, China has made its intentions for space supremacy public knowledge, and that's earned the attention of the Department of Defense.

"I've never seen a department more focused on an adversary and what we need to do," Trussler said. "The work we're doing in space, we're going to move out and move out fast."

Derek Tournear, PhD, executive director, Space Development Agency, discussed resiliency. His company launched 10 satellites on Sunday as part of its effort to put hundreds of small satellites in the sky rather than a few large ones that are easier to shoot down. Tournear said Space Development Agency is also concerned about common mode failures, especially cyberthreats, RF spectrum threats, and supply-chain threats.

Steven Butow, director, space portfolio, Defense Innovation Unit, said from a commercial standpoint, economic security and national security are intertwined. That makes it important to work across all levels of government for financial stability.

How do you deal with overclassification?

Butow said an argument can be made that moving fast is more effective than locking down information for long periods of time.

“Industry knows how to lock down information, but also how to release it and commoditize it,” he said.

Ed Zoiss, president, space & airborne systems, [L3Harris Technologies](#), said a private company can be a matchmaker when its customers are working on similar classified technologies.

Trussler believes the problem isn't just overclassification. “Even our simple acquisition processes give information to China,” he said. “It's about how we share information and doing it right. It's not as simple as overclassification.”

Tournear made the case for selectively releasing information. “We can't deter if can't talk about it. Thirty years ago, we couldn't say ‘national reconnaissance office,’ but the Soviets already knew we had it,” he said. “We need to make sure we know what we need to protect, but also talk about what we're doing so there's a deterrence factor.”

LEO (low earth orbit) has thousands of satellites. How concerned are you about debris, signal interference and collision?

“Two thoughts: Space is congested, and space is big – it depends on the orbital regime,” Tournear said. There can be unintended consequences to mitigating congestion, but he believes that policies that promote being a good steward in your orbital slot can be effective.

Butow pointed out that there are more planes in the U.S. airspace than satellites in LEO, but the planes are regulated. That's why he thinks it's important that a space traffic commission be formalized and adopted on a global scale.

Navy Prioritizes Mental Health with New Playbook

The U.S. Navy has always been dedicated to ensuring that the bodies and minds of its Sailors are ready and prepared to win in combat. But there have been challenges over the years in helping Sailors with mental-health resources during active service, and as they transition out of the Navy into civilian life.

The Navy Culture and Resilience Office, N17, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations is addressing those challenges through its new Mental Health Playbook. This 28-page playbook, which was released in February, is designed to put mental health tools and resources into the hands of every Navy leader, no matter what their rank.

“Our goal is that everyone in our great Navy develops a shared understanding about how to conduct mental-health and preventative maintenance for our people, and then where to go for additional resources,” said Rear Admiral Brett Mietus, director of N17. “It’s an incredibly important topic to me and all of the Navy’s senior leadership.”

The Navy already offers a variety of mental-health resources. Navy N9 quality-of-life programs include Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR); Wounded Warrior; Mind Body Mental Fitness (MBMF); and Sailor Assistance and Intercept for Life (SAIL). There are also family advocacy programs, childcare and relocation programs, assistance programs, non-medical counseling at fleet and family-support centers, and more.

The Navy League of the United States has mental-health resources as well. For example, Sea-Air-Space’s Transition Connection Job Fair, which will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday in the Cherry Blossom Ballroom, is one of the ways

the Navy League helps with transitioning Sailors' overall well-being.

The Mental Health Playbook complements all these efforts through its mission to create a "climate of trust and respect with open, two-way communication; challenging inappropriate conduct or poor leadership; and eliminating stigma for seeking help." The Playbook is organized into five sections:

- Roles and Responsibilities, which is geared toward helping commanders create, "a community of support, where sailors feel connected to the mission, the command and each other."
- Conversations That Matter, which provides strategies for conducting mental-health discussions.
- Identifying and Responding to a Mental Health Related Concern, which discusses what to do when sailors are in mental or emotional distress.
- Navigating Support Systems, which helps sailors find the right support at the right time.
- Navy's Mental Health Capabilities and Resources, which describes the clinical and non-clinical tools available both inside and outside the military and provides contact information for a variety of programs.

"Most of the resources that are in the playbook have been out there, but they just haven't been put together in a way that's easily digestible and then usable by a fleet leader," Mietus said.

Mietus said the playbook is a response to requests and concerns from fleet members about the Navy's approach to mental health. He noted that while older Sailors aren't necessarily used to acknowledging or discussing mental-health issues, younger generations are much more attuned to their mental and emotional needs.

“Our goal is to eliminate stigma when it comes to mental-health care. I think the important thing for us all is to normalize conversations around it,” he said.

DoD Addresses Supply Chain Woes Both Pre- and Post-Pandemic



Karen Fenstermacher, with Naval Supply Systems Command, talks during the Supply Chain Risk Roundtable. *SOLARES PHOTOGRAPHY* NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. – The COVID pandemic has spiked consumer interest in supply chain issues. But for the Department of Defense, supply chain problems have existed for decades, said panelists during the Supply Chain Risk Roundtable held April 5

at Sea-Air-Space.

Chris Espenshade, director of small business for Naval Supply Systems Command, kicked off the roundtable discussion with an examination of the issues affecting global supply-chain resiliency. Everything from big data analytics to port closures and border delays impact the supply chain, he said. Specifically, lack of depth and competition among suppliers is hampering cost and quality.

“For example, today, 90% of our missiles come from only three sources,” Espenshade said.

Shortages in energy, labor and raw materials are key drivers of supply-chain disruption. In particular, Espenshade said, environmental issues, climate change and natural disasters, global health and pandemic response, social unrest, trade and tariff policies, and political unrest and terrorism have resulted in increased cost and price inflation.

As a result of President Biden’s February Executive Order 14017 on America’s Supply Chains, the Department of Defense is actively building a deeper understanding of its supply chains and industrial base capabilities, with a holistic approach to resilience, Espenshade said.

But there are two key issues, said Kurt Wendelken, vice commander for NAVSUP.

“There are a limited number of suppliers, and we’re fighting obsolescence on a daily basis,” he said. “Both of these need to inform how we think about procurement and if cost is the right solution.”

Both Wendelken and Karen Fenstermacher, executive for strategic initiatives for NAVSUP, emphasized the “one Navy” concept when communicating with suppliers.

“The Navy is really 19 navies. We have very well-carved

stovepipes in the Navy. But we want to have a single Navy voice to industry on the key challenges we're facing and our strategies to work together," Fenstermacher said.

This includes creating a conversation during the acquisition process about how the Department of Defense is going to sustain the systems it's purchasing. "The acquisition policy is tremendously complex and voluminous," Fenstermacher said. "One thing that's exciting is the low-cost framework we've established."

From an industry standpoint, supply chain has traditionally been thought of as a back-office function, but now has come to the forefront. "I see that both as a challenge and a great opportunity," said Clark Dumont, senior director of global procurement for BAE Systems.

Panelists also emphasized the importance of including small businesses in the supply chain.

"We're open for business; the money is there," said Jimmy Smith, director of the Department of the Navy Office of Small Business Programs. He noted that last year, the Department of Defense spent \$17.1 billion on small-business programs.

In particular, Smith mentioned the DoD's Mentor-Protégé Program, a partnership between large and small manufacturing businesses.

"The government will give a large partner up to \$3 million to help a small business partner, but in many cases I can't find partners from industry to do this," Smith said. "I encourage you to step forward and take this opportunity."

From Screens to Subs to AI: Scenes From the Show Floor



Jacob Nibali uses a FLAIM Systems Virtual Reality firefighting tool at the LEIDOS booth. *SOLARES PHOTOGRAPHY*

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. – From hands-on demos to stadium-quality video screens, more than 300 exhibitors are presenting the latest defense technology to Sea-Air-Space attendees. Here are some of the highlights from the Prince George's Exhibit Hall, which will be open today from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

General Dynamics (Booth 1023) is showcasing its Columbia-class nuclear submarine. This replacement for the aging Ohio class of ballistic submarines is scheduled to be delivered to the U.S. Navy in 2027, said Greg Rose, General Dynamic's chief of public affairs.

The Columbia class, which will be built into the 2040s, is similar in design to the Ohio class, but with some significant

changes, Rose said. At 560 feet long with a displacement of nearly 21,000 tons, the Columbia-class fleet will be the largest submarines ever built in the U.S. They also will have a fuel core that lasts the life of the ship, eliminating the need for a mid-service refueling.

At Booth 737, **Leidos** has a replica of Sea Hunter, which along with Sea Hawk, are the first autonomous unmanned surface vessels used by the U.S. Navy.

The carbon-fiber craft have software that allows them to navigate the “rules of the road on the sea,” said Leidos representative Matthew Garner. Sea Hunter recently completed a trip from San Diego to Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, completely unmanned. Together, Sea Hunter and Sea Hawk have logged more than 40,000 autonomous miles, Halley said.

There will likely be future iterations of Sea Hunter, Garner said, noting the U.S. Navy is calling for 150 ships in its 500-ship fleet to eventually be unmanned.

SAIC (Booth 803) conducted a demonstration of its virtual mission center Tuesday afternoon, communicating entirely virtually with a mission center in Aurora, Colorado.

“Traditional operations centers need people to perform the functions, but our mission center allows networking in a virtual environment across the entire planet,” said Gardner Congdon, SAIC’s director of extended realities domain.

SAIC uses virtual reality and tactical software for its virtual mission center, which is currently a use case for the Space Force, Congdon said.

L3Harris Technologies (Booth 1037) is giving demonstrations of its new BNVD Fused Binocular Night Vision Goggle. The goggles fuse image-intensified tubes with a thermal camera to help detect heat and overlay. This is particularly useful for identifying hidden targets like someone in camouflage in the

woods, said Leith Ames with L3Harris.

Visitors to the booth can see the goggles in action, with both visual and thermal images captured on a screen in real time.

HII (Booth 1322) is using its booth to showcase its rebranding from Huntington Ingalls Industries to HII. Along with models devoted to the company's traditional background in shipbuilding, there are also exhibits of autonomous vehicles and other technologies.

Director of Communications Greg McCarthy pointed out displays of Odyssey, HII's new suite of advanced autonomy solutions that can turn any ship or vehicle in any domain into an intelligent, robotic platform.

HII is also debuting integrated digital shipbuilding. USS Enterprise CVN-80 is the company's first digitally designed aircraft carrier. Enterprise is currently in the keel-laying phase of construction, McCarthy said.

**Small Businesses Present
Ideas to OSBP**



(Left to right) Hanani Wade and William Lash with Chirality Capital Consulting present their business during the Navy is Open for Business session. *SOLARES PHOTOGRAPHY*

During the Tuesday afternoon Navy is Open for Business forum, 11 small businesses had the opportunity to pitch their products and ideas to a panel of Department of the Navy procurement experts. The companies, which were chosen from a group of applicants to the Department of the Navy Office of Small Business Programs, included:

Chirality Capital Consulting

Chirality, from the Greek word for hand, is based on mirror images. The concept behind Chirality Capital Consulting is that the left hand (the company) is a mirror image of the right hand (the federal government). Chirality provides program and product management; organizational design and development; technology modernization; data analytics; training logistics; and diversity, equity and inclusion capabilities to clients inside and outside the defense space.

Chitra Productions

CEO Vibhaa Vermani came to the U.S. as a bride in an arranged marriage 30 years ago. In 2008, she launched Chitra Productions. Products include risk management framework support. The typical Department of Defense RMF process takes 12 to 18 months to achieve, Vermani said, but Chitra products help make approvals faster and less expensive.

Giesler

In the private sector, Geisler has developed technologies that help secure the power grid and can network and encrypt data in fractions of a milliseconds. Working with the Department of Defense, it can also encrypt sensors around Navy vessels in real time without interrupting any systems.

International Trade Management Group

There's a need to automate, secure and create resiliency in our supply chains. ITM creates logistic strategies to enhance global supply-chain assets and ensure visibility and accountability in the physical supply chain.

JA Moody

Seawater is a highly corrosive substance that can shorten the life of a ship. This family-owned business creates fluid products that use cold-spray technology that don't heat metal to the melting point, and can double the lifecycle of a bow. In 2021, it introduced the Vanessa Hardened Seat Next Generation TOTS Valve to the U.S. Navy.

Maritime Arresting Technologies

This company sees itself as an evangelist for nonlethal weapons. Products include prophylactic maritime port security barriers that can detect security breaches and determine the intent. Maritime also manufactures the Stingray counter unmanned water vehicle net, which forms a barrier from the sea

surface to seabed and captures hostile divers and UUVs. The company's newest product is a recoilless launcher that can deploy non-kinetic effectors from small, unmanned platforms.

Maureen Data Systems/FylaxCyber

Nearly six ransomware attacks occur every minute. Maureen Data Systems is partnering with Black Kite to develop the Ransomware Susceptibility Index to help both defense and private clients understand how likely they are to experience an attack, provide continuous system monitoring and identify which vendors are most susceptible to attacks.

Metamagnetics

This company spun out of the Northeastern University Center for Microwave Magnetic Materials and Integrated Circuits in 2009, and now designs and manufactures microwave and millimeter-wave components. Its products are designed to enhance the effectiveness of mission-critical radar, communication and power-supply systems, and its flagship technology can mitigate high-powered jamming that affects a signal of interest.

Mistral

This systems integrator and ideas company works with warfighters and first responders. Its products include the C-Master Diver Navigation System, which allows up to 15 combat divers to securely communicate with each other, and provides the divers with mission-specific crucial data.

Physical Sciences

This company creates powerful, next-generation lithium-ion battery technology for maritime systems. Its manufacturing process creates more energy and power in the batteries. It also uses nonflammable electrolytes, making the batteries safer to handle than traditional lithium-ion batteries. The

batteries are operationally deployed, and in use today.

Vision Engineering Solutions

U.S. warfighters need more imagery and intelligence from space. At the same time, data products from space are increasing in number and complexity. Optical communications can increase bandwidth over RF networks and are more secure, but there are a lack of optical-communication ground stations to communicate this data. Vision has a Phase II Small Business Innovation Research contract with the Navy to provide these optical ground stations.

Outdoor and Dock Exhibitors Offer Whatever Floats Your Boat



The M-80 Stiletto floating maritime experimentation platform in National Harbor. *SOLARES PHOTOGRAPHY*

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. – From a Stiletto to a Rekognition Video Analyzer, outdoor and dock exhibitors are giving Sea-Air-Space attendees the opportunity to check out cutting-edge defense technology.

The carbon-fiber, 88-foot M-80 Stiletto is a floating platform devoted to maritime experimentation, with the goal of supporting the Joint Forces in countering emerging threats. Operated by Joint Prototyping & Experimentation Maritime, Stiletto allows its customers to evaluate and refine their technologies in realistic environments, using representative threats in tactics-based scenarios.

Stiletto tests about 60 to 65 different technologies every year, and more than half of its customers are small businesses, said Dennis Danko, JPEM-Stiletto joint prototyping maritime programming manager.

“We foster commercial innovation by giving small businesses

and nontraditional system developers an opportunity to experiment on the water and gain a deep understanding of military missions and maritime operations,” he said.

Stiletto has the capability of working a few feet or hundreds of miles off the coast, and carries its own 11-meter rigid inflatable boat. It can also launch drones and other unmanned systems from its flight deck.

Danko said Stiletto has tested radar and cybersecurity technologies, network systems and even ergonomic seats for boats. It conducts environmental vulnerability assessments for technology systems and engineering evaluations, including various coatings to prevent marine growth.

The Rekognition Video Analyzer is part of a partnership between Amazon Web Services, Viasat and Federated Wireless.

The Viasat system can detect objects from water, piers, docks, land vehicles, paths and even clothing or other apparel, said Steve Conklin of Viasat. Amazon’s Rekognition system analyzes the data, protecting text, data and other communications. Federated Wireless provides secure 5G encryption and protection.

“We can set up in any kind of edge location or disaster environment,” Conklin said, noting that two weeks ago, the system was operational in Poland, on the front lines of the Ukraine conflict.

On Tuesday, April 5, L3Harris Technologies will give tours and rides from the dock on its autonomous boat to showcase its C5ISR-T technology.

More Than 50 Employers Discuss Civilian Transitions at Job Fair



Yonny Dublinsky of Boeing talks with Staff Sgt. Abigail Scott about possible job opportunities after the military at the Transition Connection job fair. *SOLARES PHOTOGRAPHY*

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. – Navy Lt. j.g. Jen Fishbein is in transition. She has a baby due in August, she's studying for a master's degree in executive public management and she's scheduled to separate from the military in two years – so, it made sense that she was visiting the Transition Connection Job Fair Monday afternoon.

The second annual Sea-Air-Space hiring event focused on providing job opportunities to members of the military and their families. More than 50 employers offered information and advice to attendees who were investigating civilian careers.

“I want to see what’s out there if I were to get out of the military,” says Fishbein, who currently works at the National Reconnaissance Office. “I’m looking at where life can take me.”

Marine Sgt. Owen Budd was also taking a proactive approach to his post-military career. He’s separating in 2023, but he’s already looking to the future. He’s studying for an undergraduate degree in sports and health science at the American Military University, and hopes to parlay his work in human resources with the Marine Corps Embassy Security Group into a civilian career.

Budd was interested in ClearanceJobs, the country’s largest career network for professionals with U.S. federal government security clearances. ClearanceJobs’ online networking platform lists more than 60,000 defense and intelligence jobs, along with free advice on military transitions and services like resume-building templates.

“We have over 1 million users who can connect with pre-screened employers and communicate directly with recruiters,” said Katie Keller, ClearanceJobs editor. “We’ve served the cleared community since 2002.”

Other exhibitors included the Penn State University Applied Research Laboratory, a Navy University Affiliated Research Center focusing on defense science, systems and technologies.

Many of the laboratory employees are ex-military or their spouses. “They understand what we do,” said laboratory representative Tina Kephart.

Northern Virginia also had a presence at the Transition Connection Job Fair. The Fairfax County Economic Development Authority recruits military veterans for careers at a variety of employers, said representative Rod Williams. There are over 90,000 job listings available at workinnothernvirginia.com, with a median salary of \$115,000 per job, he said.

Some of those jobs are in air traffic control, which appeals to Staff Sgt. Abigail Scott. Scott, who has been with the Marines for seven years and works as an air defense controller at the Marine Corps Embassy Security Group. Her service doesn't end until January 2024, but she was at the Transition Connection Job Fair as part of her post-military networking strategy.

"I'm looking for a career where I can transfer my skills in security and air traffic control," said Scott, who has provided physical security at U.S. embassies in Kazakhstan and the Central African Republic.

Free Service Helps Vets Launch Civilian Careers



Don Fried, a Marine Corps veteran who now serves as director of branding and marketing for VetJobs, says the service has surpassed 75,000 verified job placements, and currently have more than 3 million job listings. *VetJobs*

In 2004, Deb Kloepfel left her executive job at American Airlines to make an overseas permanent change of station with her husband, U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Dan Kloepfel. She hoped to further her career in her new location but discovered the opportunities were virtually nonexistent.

Kloepfel realized she wasn't alone. She met other highly trained and educated military spouses who also had to choose between their careers or their devotion to family and country. So, with a \$323 investment, she started the Military Spouse Corporate Career Network, or MSCCN, to help support people like her.

MSCCN was so successful that in 2010, the Kloepfels cofounded CASY: Corporate America Supports You. CASY's goal was to provide free vocational training and job placement services for people transitioning from all military services, veterans and members of the National Guard and Reserves.

By 2019, CASY and MSCCN had helped more than 57,000 members of the military and their spouses find new civilian careers. That year, the two organizations acquired VetJobs, an online military job board, and launched MilitarySpouseJobs.org. The company is one of the resource partners featured at today's Transition Connection job fair, being held in Cherry Blossom Ballroom from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. This Sea-Air-Space hiring event focuses on providing job opportunities to those with a military family or defense background.

Today, VetJobs.org and MilitarySpouseJobs.org are the largest free online job training, counseling and placement resources for all members of the military and their spouses. Last year, they surpassed 75,000 verified job placements, and currently have more than 3 million job listings, says Don Fried, a Marine Corps veteran who now serves as director of branding and marketing for VetJobs.

"When I separated out in 1999, there were nowhere near the resources we have today," he says. "I think we had a three-day TAPS [transition assistance program] class. Now, people start planning their transition six to 12 months before they leave the service."

This is key, Fried says, because statistics show that more than 60% of former service members work at different types of jobs than they did in the military.

"It's sometimes hard to know your interests and what to look for in a civilian job," he says. "VetJobs can help with that."

Any current or former member of the military or their spouses can use VetJobs' and MilitarySpouseJobs' online employment

listings, job assessment quiz and video job training resources for free. If they register with the sites, they also have access to a free career specialist who can help them navigate a new career search. They can get a direct introduction to employers with job openings, and can also participate in mentorships with industry partners.

Fried estimates that 400 to 700 people use VetJobs every week. The organization is funded by charitable foundations, grants and sponsorship by corporations like Microsoft, Amazon, IBM, Boeing, Wells Fargo, Prudential, Deloitte and Swift Transportation. Job listings are provided by the nonprofit DirectEmployers Association.

Fried says companies like to hire service members for a variety of reasons.

“In a time when employers are having a hard time putting butts in seats, we show up. We have an air of maturity and discipline, and we’re contributors,” he says. “Employers like those types of soft skills. They can take our soft skills and then train us in the technical aspects of a job.”

Satellite Imagery Analytics: A New Way of Looking at the Ukraine Conflict



BlackSky's Spectra AI can provide up-to-date imagery of battle zones, disaster areas, wildfires and more. / *BLACKSKY*
Every day, every hour, even every minute, the conflict in Ukraine is evolving. Monitoring and understanding those changes is key not only for geopolitical entities, but also corporations, humanitarian organizations and other private-sector groups.

But sifting through the abundance of data coming out of Ukraine can be overwhelming. Propaganda abounds. Videos and images may be manipulated. And traditional satellite imaging can't capture the real-time data necessary to make informed decisions.

Seattle-based BlackSky (Booth 957) is solving those problems through its global monitoring services that combine artificial intelligence, cloud computing, multisensor data fusion, activity analysis and autonomous satellite tasking. Using a proprietary worldwide satellite constellation, BlackSky's Spectra AI analytics platform provides real-time geospatial intelligence to customers in both the public and private sectors

This is quite an evolution from the core technology behind

global satellite imagery, says Patrick O'Neil, BlackSky's chief innovation officer. Traditionally, satellites are used for mapping applications, identifying landmarks like roads and buildings. But those images tend to be updated only a couple times a year, and that's not helpful in today's fast-moving world.

"You want to be able to take images rapidly as the situation changes," O'Neil says. "We're seeing the conflict in Ukraine as a kind of proving point for why real-time intelligence matters so much. Customers can't wait for days for their overhead imagery or the analytics we supply. We've built our system to support that."

The automated satellite constellation that fuels Spectra AI passes a site roughly once an hour, with the capability of tracking virtually every spot on the planet. The satellites also monitor thousands of active targets, including major airports and commercial ports around the world.

That image data is then combined with open-source information such as social media postings, news reports and press releases. Other information, such as infrared data, can show active fires and pinpoint where conflict is occurring. Spectra AI uses artificial intelligence to fuse all of this data into a single dashboard analysis that customers can pull up on a web browser, with a 90-minute delivery timeline.

"Being able to just log in and have an e-commerce-like experience where you're buying satellite imagery and the analytics that go on top is really a pretty significant change from the historical satellite imagery patterns," O'Neil says.

In Ukraine, BlackSky can provide images of where damage is occurring, how transportation networks are impacted and how refugee travel is flowing. It can help companies understand the macroeconomic impacts, including the availability of energy in Europe and the flow of commodities from Ukrainian

port cities.

BlackSky can also track other events around the world, including natural disaster cleanups, climate-change events, wildfires, drone strikes and supply-chain operations.

“Applications like that are really quite interesting and are enabled by our unique technology,” O’Neil says. “They’re opening up use cases that previously would not have been possible.”

Transition Connection Brings Together Job Seekers and Industry Wanting Workers



Navy Lt. j.g. Sarena Padilla and Eric Padilla participate in Transition Connection, a first-time hiring event that debuted at Sea-Air-Space 2021. *SOLARES PHOTOGRAPHY*

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. – In the three years that Navy Lt. j.g. Sarena Padilla and Eric Padilla have been married, they’ve lived in four different states. Sarena has changed her career from a nuclear officer to a meteorology and oceanography research officer, which necessitated the moves. But now that she’s ensconced at the U.S. National Ice Center in Suitland, Maryland, the couple is looking to settle down. And that means a more permanent job for Eric.

Eric, who has a physics and engineering background, took advantage of Sea-Air-Space’s inaugural Transition Connection hiring event on Tuesday. Military members, spouses and civilians had the opportunity to interact with more than a

dozen companies, and were also able to upload their resumes and virtually chat with potential employers through the Transition Connection page on the Sea-Air-Space website.

“I’ve had contract jobs during our marriage, but it’s been hard to find opportunities to further my career,” said Eric, who’s interested in space-oriented work. “It’s been great to be able to talk to potential employers about my career intentions.”

Employers said there has been plenty of interest in their companies. Gianna Lamanna of Manassas, Virginia-based Hepburn and Sons said her company, which does advisory work for the maritime industry, received about 150 resumes through the Transition Connection portal prior to the hiring event. She and her Bill Lewis colleague conducted back-to-back job interviews throughout the day.

“We really appreciate the opportunity to meet with so many people,” Lamanna said. “To have a [show like Sea-Air-Space] with a connected hiring event is unique.”

Lamanna estimated that about 75% of the people who sent her resumes are either planning or thinking about transitioning out of the military to civilian life.

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Collin Fox is one of those potential transitioners. Fox, who has served for 17 years, most recently in the Navy Foreign Area, comes from a military family. Both his father and grandfather served, and Fox is certainly open to continuing his career after he hits the 20-year mark. But Transition Connection gave him opportunity to evaluate civilian career options as well.

“I do a lot of writing, so I’m interested in jobs that involve analysis and concept development,” he said.

At the Amazon booth, one of the recruiters had firsthand experience in moving from military to civilian life. Madeleine

Caballero served in the Army for two and a half years before retiring for medical reasons.

“I understand how hard the transition can be,” she said. “I had someone tell me today how anxious they are.”

Amazon is committed to hiring 100,000 military veterans and spouses by 2024, Caballero said. The company currently employs more than 43,000 veterans and spouses in areas such as operations, human resources, safety, onsite medical facilities and Amazon Web Services.

Not all of the job seekers at Transition Connection were military, however. Faisal Munshi, who works in marine engineering, moved to the United States from India four months ago. He found the Transition Connection event on LinkedIn and decided to attend with his wife, Afroz Indorewla, a health information management student at Northern Virginia Community College.

“This is the first job fair I’ve been to since I moved to the U.S.,” Munshi said. “I’ve found many opportunities in my industry.”