

Report: GEOINT2017

July 2, 2017



Shigeki Kuzuoka
Translated by S. Hayashi



COPYRIGHT © 2017 · USGIF

目次

Summary.....	1
Our impressions.....	2
Presentations and Exhibitions.....	2
(1) Presentations by the U.S. Government.....	2
(2) USGIF.....	2
(2) Platforms for AI.....	2
(3) Enterprise Systems.....	2
(4) New Satellites.....	2
Coffee Time.....	3

Summary

Held from June 4th to June 7th, 2017 in San Antonio, Texas, USA, the theme of the GEOINT 2017 symposium was "Advancing Capabilities to Meet Emerging Threats". This event has been held every year since 2004, and is hosted by an organization called the 'US Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF)'. This is the largest symposium and exhibition in the world that deals with geographical and spatial information related to national

security and intelligence activities. Attendees included representatives of government and private organizations engaged in geographical and spatial information that include data acquired via Earth Observation (EO) satellites for security and defense use. The official number of participants has not been announced yet by the organizer, however, it seemed to me that about 3,500 people took part, similar to last year's symposium. Exhibitions were provided by 240 companies and organizations. There



were about 60 participants from Japan, representing government and private organizations active in earth observation for national security and intelligence purposes.

Our impressions

I was somewhat disappointed with this year's symposium, finding the content rather shallow in comparison to previous events. At past iterations of GEOINT, the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) provided an opening speech describing his expectations for the event, and after that, directors of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) and the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) described their programs and plans for the near future. This provided a summary of recent trends in GEOINT technologies and policies along with hints about the direction of future activities. This year, the Honorable Dan Coats, the new Director of National Intelligence and successor to retired Lieutenant General James R. Clapper Jr., did not participate in the event, nor did his representatives. Ms. Betty J. Sapp, Director of the NRO, also did not appear. Mr. Robert Cardillo, Director of the NGA, provided a keynote speech, however, it only covered topics previously announced. This speech may have been helpful for people new to the event, explaining the achievements of the NGA and its activities, but it did not provide direction about future plans. It seems that the organization's direction is unclear and not yet established, as the new U.S. administration has taken a long time to iron out plans. Exhibitions were provided by large space and defense companies, however, booths were small and lacked new information.

Most common at this symposium, in speeches and exhibitions, were technical subjects, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big Data, and small satellites. Such topics were also covered during training sessions held

separately.

< Omitted below >

Presentations and Exhibitions

(1) Presentations by the U.S. Government

< Omitted below >

(2) USGIF

< Omitted below >



The Old Captain Kirk

(2) Platforms for AI

< Omitted below >

(3) Enterprise Systems

< Omitted below >

(4) New Satellites

< Omitted below >

Coffee Time

This was my third visit to San Antonio, Texas.

The city has a number of sightseeing spots, such as The Alamo, and



historic market districts. A network of walkways along the banks for the San Antonio River called 'River Walk' is in the center of the city, traversed by a number of boats serving visitors. The entire city seems a bit like Disneyland. Dining highlights include Tex-Mex items like tacos and frozen margaritas.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact:

Shigeki Kuzuoka



Satellite Business Network
<http://sat-biznet.com/en>

Shigeki Kuzuoka



Euroconsult Japan Office
<http://www.euroconsult-ec.com>