

Report: The GEOINT 2018 Symposium

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Summary

The GEOINT 2018 Symposium was held in Tampa, Florida from April 22 to 25, 2018.

This year's theme was "Driving Data to Decisions and Action". This symposium has been hosted annually since 2004 by the US



Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF), and is the largest event of its kind dedicated to geospatial intelligence (GEOINT) for defense and security.

Primarily from the United States, participants included government officials, representatives from private businesses, and academics that are active in fields related to geospatial intelligence operations and earth observation (EO) satellites for security and defense. The official number of participants will be confirmed by the USGIF at a later date, but roughly 4,000 people attended. More than 50 participants from Japan that work in the field of EO satellite-related defense and security took part. Exhibitions were provided by approximately 200 companies, within a 100,000 square foot (approx. 9,200 square meter) hall.

Our Impressions

Attending the GEOINT event each year gives one a better grasp of current policies, and about technological trends related to EO for defense and security. At past symposiums small satellites (SmallSats) were a main topic of discussion, but that was not the case at the main venue this year. SmallSats seemed to be treated as an ordinary matter of course at this event, and there were discussions about standardization and such, within working groups.

Artificial intelligence (AI) has been discussed often during recent years, and was a central topic this year. Some participants announced that AI processing has become essential towards connecting EO satellite pixel data to decision making and actions (the theme of this years event). AI featured prominently within presentations and exhibitions at the main venue.

Main Presentations & Discussions

(1) NGA

<Omitted below>

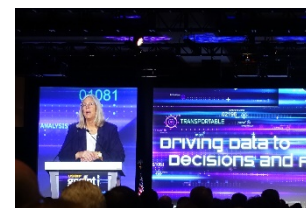


Director of the NGA

(2) The Principal Deputy Director of

National Intelligence

<Omitted below>



Principal Deputy DNI

(3) USGIF

<Omitted below>



GEOINT Education

(4) The Small Satellite Working Group

<Omitted below>

Exhibitions

(1) Overview

<Omitted below>



Exhibitions

(2) A New SAR era

<Omitted below>



Commercial SAR
Networking Event

(3) The Approaching AI Era

<Omitted below>

Other Miscellaneous Comments

Tampa is known as Florida's business center. Unlike Miami and Orlando, there are no theme parks. Ybor City is one of the few local districts that features tourist attractions, and is accessible in 10 minutes, by streetcar. Established in the 19th century by a cigar manufacturer, the neighborhood boasts a number of historic buildings, and prospered via an influx of Cuban workers. A number of cigar shops offer hand-rolling demonstrations.

Cuban sandwiches are a local specialty. These are made with ham, roasted



Cuban Sandwich

pork, Swiss cheese, pickles, mustard, and salami on Cuban bread, which is long and narrow, with a light and flaky texture. The sandwich is toasted in a press called a "plancha", which both heats and compresses it, until the surface is slightly crispy and the cheese is melted. This tastes quite different from a sandwich made with a French baguette. Combined with local beer, I found this 'Taste of Tampa' most enjoyable.

For more information, please contact to:



Satellite Business Network

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Appendix: The comparison of EO value added service companies using AI technology

<Omitted below>

(by Kuzuoka)

