# A Report on Participation at GEOINT 2022

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## Overview

The GEOINT 2022 symposium, sponsored by the United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF), was held over four days from Sunday, April 24 to Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at the Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center in Aurora (a suburb of Denver), Colorado, U.S. This year's theme was "GEOINT: The Foundation of Intelligence."

GEOINT is the world's largest symposium for geospatial information centered on defense and security. Although



this symposium has been held every year since 2004, it was canceled in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic, and although it was held in 2021, it was difficult for me to participate, due to having to travel from Japan. This year's event thus became the first symposium that I traveled to in three years.

The participants here were mainly from the U.S. and included people from the public/private/academic sectors related to geospatial intelligence operations including Earth observation (EO) satellites in the domain of defense and security. According to the event organizer, there were about 4,000 attendees and more than 220 exhibitors. In addition, the number of participants from Japan exceeded 30 in total, including from the public and private sectors, and since COVID and our co-existence

with it, this seems to emphasize that businesses related to defense, security, and GEOINT are indeed returning to some form of normalcy. However, what was contrasting this year was that the number of participants from China seemed to be a lot less than that of the past.

**Overall impression and analysis**
After participating for the first time in three years, I first felt that the world of GEOINT had changed significantly due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. I first participated in the GEOINT Symposium in 2005, and at this time, commercial Earth observation (EO) satellites were being widely used for disaster response amid Hurricane Katrina, and their merits were widely known by the private sector. And the exhibition also focused on satellites such as EO satellites. After 2005, in response to a drastic reduction of defense budgets and an increased risk of homegrown terrorism as seen in early 2010, the need for EO satellites gradually decreased, and with that, the recognition of the merits of intelligence functions such as for ground-based cloud systems, "human geography," and activity-based intelligence has increased.

This year, the pendulum seems to have swung back to the satellite/sensors again. In addition to the pride that can be found in GEOINT achievements such as reports that it GEOINT tech had monitored the invasion of Ukraine in advance, as per the main theme, many topics on satellites and sensors as the basis of "intelligence" were presented. High-resolution optical satellites and SAR satellites are commonplace now, and this year, first of all, discussions here & there on RF monitor satellites (i.e., satellites that gather information via radio waves) were pretty well-received. Furthermore, discussions on satellites and sensors that collect information other than via conventional optics and SAR, such as hyperspectral satellites and thermal infrared satellites, were in full bloom.

For GEOINT in terms of how to use GEOINT for intelligence for defense and security, which are common mission purposes, and the satellites and sensors that provide a means of fulfilling this, all of this seems to come & go like a pendulum depending on the situation of the year.

In this, presentations at this event centered on the keynote speeches given by the heads of organizations in the U.S. intelligence community. However, although this year there was a talk given by the director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) and the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) also presented discussions, etc., by their deputy directors, not their main directors, returning to subjects of the NGA from wider topics of GEOINT from a few years ago.

Furthermore, focusing on keynote speeches, there was almost no concrete explanations given for the discussions on the main stage. For example, when the NRO launched a program called the "Commercial Initiative to Buy Operationally Responsive GEOINT" (CIBORG) to purchase data for civilian small (optical) satellite constellations, and when the DNI launched a new concept such as "ICITE," a cloud-centric ground system for the entire intelligence community, there was a detailed explanation given on the main GEOINT stage. It seems that there was no specific explanation of the current themes this year. Or did I miss it all?
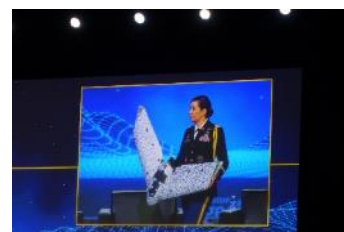
**Main presentations/discussions**
**(1) Keynote speech by Richard D. Clarke, commander of the US Special Operations Command (USSOCOM)**
<omitted below>

**(2) Keynote speech by Robert Sharp, director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA)**
<omitted below>



**(3) GEOINT Forward**
<omitted below>

**(a) RF monitoring**
<omitted below>



**(b) Latest SAR information**
<omitted below>

**Exhibits**
**(1) RF monitoring**
<omitted below>

**(2) Inter-satellite optical communications and satellite operations**
<omitted below>

**(3) Artificial intelligence/machine learning (AI/ML)**
<omitted below>

**Other miscellaneous comments**

The venue for this year's GEOINT Symposium was a resort hotel that was built a few years ago near Denver International Airport, and immediately after construction, the area became a place where airport hotels were built one after another. The hotel that I stayed at was one of these later builds, and I was able to take a dedicated shuttle bus back and forth to the symposium. But there were no stores or restaurants near the hotel within walking distance, including convenience stores. So this time, except for the GEOINT reception held at the venue on the first day, I had dinner at the same hotel restaurant five days in a row. In addition to the hotel staff coming to recognize me and my face, I ended up having almost everything on the hotel restaurant's menu.

So, when it comes to dinner every night at the same American bar & grill, you end up simply choosing a different type of burger or steak.  Unlike hamburgers from chains, a hamburger that pairs flame-broiled medium-rare patties with gravy, tons of fries, green chili soup, and local beer is a uniquely American dish.

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