Sea Service Leaders to Discuss Priorities, Cybersecurity and Strategic Stability

WEST 2015 Conference will explore balancing budgets and mission requirements.

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San Diego—Striking the right balance between meeting higher demands during a time of shrinking budgets is a challenge that all of the military services are facing. On the table are prioritization, personnel and procurement, each a variable and each crucial to successful missions.

Military, government and industry leaders will meet at AFCEA International and the U.S. Naval Institute’s WEST 2015 February 10-12 at the San Diego Convention Center to examine this balancing act. Robert O. Work, deputy secretary of defense, will frame the discussions during his opening speech on February 10. Among the other speakers and panelists are Adm. William E. Gortney, USN, commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and U.S. Northern Command, and Vice Adm. Richard Hunt, USN (Ret.), former director, Navy Staff, and current vice president of Navy and U.S. Marine Corps Programs, Raytheon.

The 25th annual WEST Conference panel sessions will focus on sea service priorities, the additional capabilities needed to make the network a key warfighter advantage and how the sea services can exploit the best technologies with creative disruption. Conference attendees also can take part in theater sessions that focus on cybersecurity and qualify as continuing education.

During the town hall address closing out the conference on February 12, Gordon R. England, former deputy secretary of defense and former secretary of the Navy, will moderate a panel of sea service chiefs discussing their primary concerns. Confirmed to take part in the conversation are Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., USMC, commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps; Adm. Michelle J. Howard, USN, vice chief of naval operations; and Adm. Paul F. Zukunft, USCG, commandant, U.S. Coast Guard.

“AFCEA International and the United States Naval Institute are pleased to once again see approval of local attendance at this annual event at no cost to the government with supervisors’ approval,” says Lt. Gen. Robert M. Shea, USMC (Ret.), AFCEA president.
and CEO, and Vice Adm. Peter H. Daly, USN (Ret.), USNI CEO. “This announcement is important to us as we continue our efforts to serve and strengthen the maritime force.”

The Department of the Navy’s West Coast 2015 DON IT Conference will take place concurrently and co-located with WEST 2015. Senior leaders, primarily from the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy (Management) and the Navy’s Chief Information Officer as well as other Navy and Marine Corps organizations, will share information and provide training in information technology and business transformation.

Follow WEST 2015 activities and contribute to the conversation on Twitter using #west2015. News coverage during and after WEST 2015 will be available on SIGNAL Media’s website. Register to attend WEST 2015 online.

AFCEA International, established in 1946, is a nonprofit membership organization. The association provides forums for the ethical exchange of information and is dedicated to increasing knowledge through the exploration of issues relevant to its members. Join online.

The U.S. Naval Institute, established in 1873, provides an independent forum for those who dare to read, think, speak and write in order to advance the professional, literary and scientific understanding of sea power and other issues critical to national defense.

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