



## Quick Notes

### Panel: "The State of the Force"

**Moderator: Lt Gen (Ret) Thomas Trask**

- Defeat not terrorism, but defeat Al-Queda and ISIS
- Partnered with other Nations SOF Forces, Industry Leaders, Academia, etc. for capabilities.
- Increased utilization of Unmanned Aircraft/Drones
- SOF Employment; Force availability, accountability, leadership development, structure, selection
- 3 themes/take-aways; structure first tempo, back to leadership development, Force structure/development

### Panel: "The Role of ASD SO/LIC"

**Moderator: Catherine Herridge, CBS News**

- Be able to look into the hearts of men and women; war can make a good man better or a bad man worse. Get as close to zero defect as possible, this is SOF
- Efficiency reductions; SOF (part of 4th estate?); Budget concerns, overall \$112Bil for Defense. Where does SOF stand? Unsure of what the SOF budget will look like...best guess - 10-15% of overall budget (approx. \$10Bil – \$14Bil)
- Possible 10% cut from last year.
- Next gen ISR, AI, Nano Technology, etc.
- Divesting of legacy Technologies that are not a good ROI
- Power is a zero sum gain
- SOF can be better; Enhanced resources and oversight
- 2 Decades of CT engagement... Transitioning to Economic competition with China (Deterrence), or how to combat China in South China Sea and Taiwan Straights

- Must plan information messaging when challenged by our adversary, not something 6 weeks in director meetings arguing what the best verbiage is for the message; must be able to take chances
- SOF capabilities and resources have significantly grown, but ASD SO/LIC hasn't
- Constructive next steps; fill key billets already have, elevate SOF (IMPLEMENT 922) to Secretary of Defense. Put the Secretary back into SOF. Create SOF as a separate military, like Space Force.
- Secretary of Defense needs to empower ASD SO/LIC for preparing Forces and resources

**Panel: "Small Business Support for SOF"**

**Moderator: Lori Larsen, Chief Strategy Officer, Celestar Corporation**

- SBA Small Businesses has changed from 3 to 5 years with the ability of the for the business owner to select either option. \$4Mil threshold for 8a Hub Zones and Woman owned; potential to increase to \$10Mil in the future. No mid-tier at this time.
- OASIS Contract Vehicle
- on/off ramps period for ; category management
- Government goal is to consolidate contacts
- AUSA in October
- Advance planning brief, Aberdeen proving ground, Army to put dates out for briefings on website
- Mentor protégé program; partner with large for to compete for contracts (joint venture); waive affiliation code
- Application process 60 business days
- DOD reauthorized Army Portege program by Congress; Manufacturing, R&D, and Cyber Security