



Dear NDIA San Diego Members,

I hope you enjoy this month's newsletter, which includes information and an update on the NDIA Defense Workforce Project, a NDIA SD Committee Lead spotlight, recent event highlights, as well as upcoming event information.

Due to your ingenuity, flexibility, and dedication, we have been able to meet the challenges during this extraordinary, unprecedented time. I am honored to lead such an incredible chapter and inspired by your commitment to our mission.

Regards,

Eric
San Diego Chapter President

NDIA Defense Workforce Project: A VISION for 2040



NDIA's Defense Workforce Project (DWP) is a multi-year initiative to address challenges to the vision of a robust, ready, and cleared defense workforce for 2040. Working groups comprise DWP, each mapped to a different line of effort identified by NDIA as critical to the future success of the defense industrial base. Deliverables for the working groups include recommendations to policymakers, legislators, and industry leaders, which are briefed out at the annual Defense Workforce Summit in September.

The long-term goal of each working group is to identify a set of recommendations for industry, legislators, and policymakers in the executive branch pertaining to its specified line of effort. These deliverables will advance the vision of a ready, cleared workforce for 2040. Periodic cross-briefs allow working group leaders to showcase their team's progress and solicit input from their peers. NDIA's annual Defense Workforce Summit is planned to be held in late Summer/early Fall 2021. This event will be an excellent opportunity to present findings.

Please see below for each Defense Working Group's Purpose and Chair.



Talent Pools Working Group

- Purpose: Increase diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workforce to tap into all talent pools
- Chair (Acting): Jim Girard, L3Harris

STEM Education Pathways Working Group

- Purpose: Strengthen the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education pathways
- Chair: Dr. Jean Vander Gheynst, PhD, UMass Dartmouth

Skilled Careers Working Group

- Purpose: Attract, train, and grow the skilled vocational workforce
- Chair: Tom Vecchiolla, ST Engineering North America

Futures Working Group

- Purpose: Assess and leverage technological changes in the nature of work
- Chair: Scott Drach, Boeing Defense, Space & Security

Working group members are being recruited from all NDIA and WID Chapters, and NDIA is looking for involvement from industry, government, and academia. Government employees can be members of the working groups as well. NDIA is looking to have as many perspectives involved as possible. The understanding of how the government views the challenges facing the defense workforce and their response in tandem with industry will be critical to the success of the NDIA Workforce Project.

Interested in joining a Working Group? If you are or have any questions, please contact [Chris Sax](#) .



Jason Minter, an Extraordinary Leader Providing Exemplary Service to the Defense Industry



Mr. Jason Minter has been providing loyal service to our NDIA SD Chapter for the past 16 years. He has held numerous leadership roles which have greatly contributed to our chapter's success. Currently Jason leads our Executive Forum Committee, but will be transitioning out of this role in the months ahead to pass the torch to Scott Sautter. However, he will remain actively engaged with our Membership Committee. We are grateful to Jason for all that he has done and continues to do for our NDIA SD Chapter, the NDIA organization, and industry.

Interviewer: How long have you been a NDIA Member and a Committee Lead for NIWC- PAC? Have you held other roles with our NDIA Chapter?

Jason: I joined NDIA San Diego in 2005 as a Navy Gold Coast volunteer. I became Gold Coast Committee Chairman in 2007 and Co-hosted the event with NAVAIR. I served as Gold Coast Chairman again in 2008 which we Co-hosted with NAVSEA Port Hueneme. I served as NDIA San Diego Chapter Vice President 2008-2010 and Chapter President in 2010-2011. After serving as Immediate Past President 2012-2014 I served as NDIA San Diego Chapter Secretary 2015-2016. In 2015 I assumed to role of SSC PAC (NIWC PAC) Executive Forum Committee Chairman.

Interviewer: What have you enjoyed most about your role as our NDIA SD NIWC-PAC Lead?

Jason: The NDIA Executive Forum has become known as an excellent opportunity for industry veterans and those new to the defense business to meet with fellow industry and government partners in a casual and relaxed environment. It is great to see new people enter the industry and to help facilitate new business relationships.

Interviewer: During your time as Committee Lead, what would you say was your greatest accomplishment? Or can you share a success story?

Jason: NDIA San Diego has been fortunate to have the support of NIWC PAC leadership and PAO in allowing us to provide an expanded 'Appetizer' menu and a very popular 'Beverage' station. I have been told by many people that the Executive Forum is their favorite event and provides the best value for their time and money.

Interviewer: Can you provide a brief description of your current role and professional experience in our defense industry, outside of your NDIA leadership and service? Please feel free to share with us any professional accomplishments, awards, or other recognition.

Jason: In the past 6 years I have provided program management support to NSWC Corona Code 102 Facilities Department. I have 35 years of overall contractor program management experience at McLaughlin Research Corporation (MRC), Cambridge International Systems, AT&T Government Solutions, Epsilon Systems Solutions, and Dynamics Research Corporation. As for other professional accomplishments, I am the author of 3 United



States patents and several technical papers related to Microelectronics development and manufacturing. I served 4 years on active duty in the US Navy as a jet engine technician in the Navy Fighter Weapons School 'Top Gun' at Miramar CA.

Interviewer: *What is a fun fact or something about you many people may not know?*

Jason: I love to travel, mountain bike, spend time with our grand kids, and hike.

Navy Gold Coast 2021 Coming this Summer!



Mark your calendars! The San Diego Chapter of the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) is excited to announce the 33rd Annual Department of the Navy Gold Coast Small Business Procurement Event, from September 1-2, 2021. The event will be held in an interactive, immersive, and virtual platform. As always, this event will provide exciting and relevant topics delivered by government and industry experts.

The NDIA Department of the Navy Gold Coast Event is the premier Navy procurement conference in the country. Gold Coast provides a forum to educate, guide, and assist businesses, large and small, in support of the warfighter mission within Department of the Navy and throughout the DOD.

All of you play a critical role within our defense industry which supports our warfighters, nation, and world's security. Therefore, we would like your feedback as to what features are most important to you in a virtual conference. Some examples are as follows: Cross Networking (i.e. Matchmaking with virtual encountering opportunities) and Vendor Booths. We want to hear from you! If you have virtual platform ideas, please contact [Terry McKearney](#). Additionally, we need volunteers and appreciate your participative leadership! If you are able to volunteer, please contact [Frank Muller](#).



Tear 3M AR/VR 2021

On February 23rd and 24th the TEAR 3M AR/VR Technical Exchange was virtually hosted by the Battlespace Exploitation of Mixed Reality (BEMR) Lab, at Naval Information Warfare Center Pacific (NIWC PAC). It was a very successful event! There was an approximate total of 700 academia, government/DOD, and industry participants who support Industrial Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality. Additionally the event had over 200 sponsors.



We are very appreciative of all the hard work required from the TEAR 3M AR/VR POCs. This event wouldn't have been such a success without their expertise and well-organized management. Tammy Sanchez, our NDIA SD Committee Lead for the AR/VR and Fall Forum events, did an amazing job collaborating and managing the logistics and content which allowed for a seamless, successful event. Thank you, Tammy!

Reminder: Registrants will have access to the event's presentations for approximately 1 year after the event date.

Joint AFCEA, NDIA, and WID Virtual Luncheon Event: Guest Speaker, Mrs. Delores Washburn, Chief Engineer for NIWC Pacific



On March 16th, Mrs. Delores Washburn, Chief Engineer for the Naval Information Warfare Center Pacific (NIWC Pacific), joined the combined AFCEA, NDIA, and WID San Diego organizations to lead an interactive discussion on continuous development and how NIWC Pacific is implementing this software process. She is the command's senior civilian responsible for enterprise-wide engineering efforts that span a range of high priority technical areas for the Department of the Navy (DON) including data science, cyber, machine learning, artificial intelligence, and autonomy.

If you were unable to participate, we have good news, **another luncheon event is scheduled for April 14th with guest speaker, Mr. Greg Geisen.** We hope you can join us! See below for more information!



Don't Delay and Register Today! Virtual Luncheon Event: Guest Speaker, Mr. Greg Geisen, Revitalization Project Manager for NIWC Pacific



We are excited to share with you that on April 24th Mr. Greg Geisen, the Naval Information Warfare Systems Command's Facility Revitalization Project Manager, will be our honored luncheon speaker. Mr. Geisen's duties include leading the redevelopment of 70 acres of Federal property of Naval Base Point Loma Old Town Campus to acquire modern NAVWAR facilities. Prior to his current duties, he was the NAVWAR Director, Corporate Communications and Congressional Liaison from 2010 to 2018. With a budget of over \$8B, NAVWAR employs more than 11,000 military and civilian professionals worldwide, half of which are collocated with the headquarters in San Diego, Calif. Geisen is a graduate of the University of Southern California and in 2010, after 20 years of service, he retired from Active Duty in the Navy.

Register today here: [April Luncheon with Mr. Greg Geisen](#) .

The San Diego Festival of Science and Engineering is Celebrating 13 Years of STEAM Education! Join the fun!



The San Diego Festival of Science & Engineering is an educational experience free and open to the public including interactive demonstrations, hands-on activities, and dynamic speakers to engage kids and families in all that encompasses STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math). This year's virtual experience will have a main stage with livestreaming events, special events including Women in STEAM, a COVID-19 Conversation for Kids, a teacher appreciation event, and much more. For a preview of this year's events check out <https://www.lovestemsd.org> or see the flyers below in English and Spanish. Directly below is a summary of this event's schedule.

STEAM WEEK – APRIL 24-MAY 2

Visit our [events calendar https://www.lovestemsd.org/events-2021/](https://www.lovestemsd.org/events-2021/) on a regular basis for virtual STEAM events happening throughout the week.

LIVE MAIN STAGE - APRIL 27 & 28

From 10am-6pm PT Tuesday and Wednesday of STEAM Week we will be streaming fun activities, experiments, and entertainment for you live on location! Emcees will keep the energy going throughout the day, so tune in when you can and stay as long as you want.



SPOTLIGHT PROGRAMS

April 27 | 3:30-5:00pm

Understanding COVID-19 - A Conversation for Kids and Teens

April 29 | 1:30-3:00pm

Women in STEAM

May 6 | 4:00-6:00pm

"We Appreciate You" Teacher Professional Development & Networking Event

GENERAL SESSIONS

Access pre-recorded video sessions provided by our partners in the following categories:

- Career Talks - Insight into the wide range of jobs within STEAM companies via representatives from companies showcasing various strengths and interests of employees.
- Company Tours - A day in the life of working at STEAM companies through a tour of companies on campus, inside labs, highlighting amenities, employees, etc.
- Did You Know? Hear from the subject-matter experts! These sessions give you a dive deep into an industry-related topic or current event such as climate change, genomics, or COVID-19.
- Experiments & Activities - Follow along with company representatives engaging in an experiment or activity that you can do in your classroom or at home!
- Leadership Library - Company leaders talk about their passion for their roles and the industry at large. They'll share their visions for the future or talk about their career paths, goals, etc.
- Mentor Moments - This is a space for tips, suggestions and even stories about how STEAM company employees been mentored along the way in their careers. Whether you are looking for a job, contemplating the next step in your educational journey or looking for inspiration, these are the sessions for you.

[FLYER](#) in English

[FLYER](#) in Spanish

**If you would like to become a member, please visit the NDIA Membership Page at <https://www.ndia-sd.org/about-ndia-san-diego/membership/>.

You can also contact Susan Couch at susan.couch@baml.com. Susan is the NDIA San Diego Membership Chair and will respond to any questions you may have.

Save the Date! NIWC Pacific and NDIA Executive Forum on May 19th, 2021

Please join us on Wednesday, May 19th for the virtual NIWC Pacific and NDIA Executive Forum, which will be held from 1500-1630. Please see below for the forum's agenda. Space will be limited to 150 virtual attendees, so you will want to act quickly when registration opens. The registration fee is \$10 and will help support NDIA awards and educational outreach.



Agenda

- CO/ED Opening Remarks
- NIWC Organization updates and special topics
- Industry committee reports

Registration information will be coming soon! Please go here for event updates: [NIWC Pacific and NDIA Executive Forum](#) .

Make Powerful Connections with the SBC

This month we had the pleasure of interviewing our Small Business Committee (SBC) Lead, Jim Lasswell. Please see below to hear from Jim and learn more about why SBC events are so impactful to our members.

Interviewer: *Per the NDIA 2021 priorities, does the SD SBC have any specific objectives for the year ahead?*

Jim: Our plan is to double down on our success to date by working to expand our membership, as well as attendance, at our meetings and events. We are slowly adding key speakers who bring expertise to the events. The move to virtual meetings has been useful to our group(s) by allowing us to bring in both speakers and attendees from out of the area. We now have routine participation by NDIA National and Small Business Offices from outside the area. Additionally Kurt Worden has joined the committee and is revitalizing our SB Forums. One of which took place on March 31st.

Interviewer: *Why is member participation at the SBC meetings and forums so important?*

Jim: Well, many people think that our SB events are only for Small Businesses. Far from the truth. The value of our meetings and forums comes from the connections between Small and Large Business as well as a connection with the government. The SB Forum is directly focused on pairing SBs with a particular Large Business either as Primes or Subs.

Interviewer: *Please share anything you believe is relevant or important for our members to know about SD's NDIA SBC?*

Jim: There is no membership requirement and we are able to learn far more when additional folks attend as they bring in tribal knowledge. In addition, especially with virtual events, we are able to bring together folks from Headquarters; representatives from other agencies besides NAVWAR and NIWC-Pac.



Miss Out On A Recent Small Business Committee Meeting or Forum? Catch-up Here and Join Us Next Time!



[NDIA SD SBC Meeting Minutes Feb-2021](#)

[NDIA SD SBC Meeting Minutes Mar-2021](#)

On March 16th our SBC held a meeting covering many topics of interest to include the following: CMCC, COVID-19 contracting, and an update from NDIA National on their efforts working with OSD (A&S) on a variety of timely issues.

We hope to see you at our next SD SBC on April 14th!

On March 31st Kurt Worden hosted a Small Business Forum highlighting SERCO (USA) and their opportunities to team with Small Businesses on a variety of opportunities (both as Prime and Subcontractors). 60 Businesses gathered virtually to learn about SERCO North America's business and small business needs. Mark Glover, VP of Business Development lead the session for the SI2 Business unit. Mark was supported by the SERCO team Directors providing an in depth look at small business opportunities:

- Marcie Worthington - Shore and Base Modernization (SBM)
- Tim Mack - Ship/Submarine Modernization (SSM)
- Kenny Hy - In-Service Engineering (ISE)
- Kevin Castanet - Hardware Integration Programs (HIP)

Attendees had the opportunity to meet with each of the Directors in separate meeting rooms to discuss partnering as appropriate.

NDIA San Diego looks forward to hosting the next forum in the June timeframe, stay tuned for details.

We hope you were able to participate in these recent events! These meetings and forums offer great opportunities to stay connected and engaged within our industry. If you are not yet on our SBC distro and would like to be added, please email [Jim Lasswell](mailto:Jim.Lasswell@ndia.org).