November 4-5, 2025, AFCEA C4ISR Symposium
Courtyard San Diego Airport/Liberty Station (2592 Laning Rd, San Diego, CA 92106)

Program Overview rev 1.2 dated 6/30/2025

When: 4-5Nov2025
Where: Courtyard San Diego Airport/Liberty Station, 2592 Laning Rd, San Diego, CA 92106
Registration page: https://sandiego.afceachapters.org/c4isr-symposium/

This year's C4ISR Symposium commemorates the—
- 250th anniversaries of the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, and U.S. Army; and
- AFCEA San Diego Chapter's 45th Annual C4ISR Symposium.

In honoring these milestones, AFCEA San Diego Chapter continues our tradition of—

1) *Positive and ethical engagement* through the orchestration of meaningful networking and educational opportunities which enable military, government, industry and academia to align technology to meet the National Security and National Defense needs across defense, security, cyber and intelligence.

2) Geo-strategically *relevant programming* illuminating the most urgent, technologically advanced, and mission-critical needs of our time.

3) *Cross-service collaboration and unity of effort* across the NAVWAR Enterprise Commands, other Department of Navy Echelon 2 Commands, and Joint Force stakeholders.

As a demonstration of our Chapter's commitment to excellence and to our community's continued success in pursuit of strategic security, modernization, and readiness objectives, we're pleased to feature **ADM Michelle J. Howard (Ret.)** as this year's **keynote speaker**.

ADM Howard's 35-year career in the U.S. Navy was distinguished by her exceptional record as Commander of: a ship, an Expeditionary Strike Group, Task Force, and a Naval theater. In 1999 Michelle J. Howard became the first African American woman to command a ship in the U.S. Navy. In 2014, she was the first woman to become a four-star Admiral in the U.S. Navy and the first woman to be appointed to the position of Vice Chief of Naval Operations (VCNO). She is the first African American woman to reach the rank of three-star and four stars in the Armed Forces.

ADM Michelle J. Howard (Ret.)

Her last command was from 2016 to 2017 as U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa (NAVEUR-NAVAF). She simultaneously led NATO's Allied Joint Force Command Naples with oversight of missions from the Western Balkans to Iraq. Operations in her career include NATO peacekeeping, West African Training Cruise, Indonesia Tsunami Relief operations, and the rescue of Maersk Alabama from Somali Pirates. Michelle is a Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran.

She is currently one of 13 members of the IBM board of directors. She also served on the Board of Visitors for the U.S. Naval Academy from 2022 to 2024, and on an advisory panel to the US Institute of Peace.

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Consistent with last year's inaugural Vice Admiral Samuel L. Gravely Jr. Trailblazer Awards, the ***2025 ADM Michelle J. Howard Senior Leader Award*** recognizes the community's senior-most leaders from active duty (AD) military, GS civilian, industry, and academia. To qualify, awardees' careers must be distinguished by—

- Current rank not less than O-6 (AD military).
- Current grade not less than GS-15 (GS civilians).
- More than 25 years of continual service to U.S. DoD organizations.
- Extensive Joint operations, where applicable.
- Significant contributions to U.S. National Security, U.S. National Defense, and/or domestic technological comparative advantages.

This year's technical panels (**CEU Approved**) will focus on four key dimensions of deploying Warfighter- and Warfighting-enabling AI. The classified track (5Nov) will add specific context to the day 1 panels and include a **unique opportunity for industry partners to present use-case solutions to the Government in a 90-second elevator pitch format**.

Day 2 of the unclassified track will include a facilitated workshop that effectively crowdsources solution concepts for meeting a current NAVWAR Warfighting/Warfighter need and closing remarks from NAVWAR Senior leadership.

Time	Track	Sponsor	Presenters / Featured Guests
	Tuesday, November 4th		
0800	Breakfast		
0845	Pledge of Allegiance, Welcome and Symposium Program Overview		AFCEA
0900	Invocation & In Memoriam		AFCEA
0915	***Keynote address***	TBD	ADM. Michelle J. Howard (Ret.)
1015	***ADM Howard Senior Leader Award Ceremony***	TBD	
1025	**Networking and Engagement Break in (30 mins)**		
1025	**VIP Coffee Reception with ADM Howard**	TBD	
1055	Program Transition (5 mins)		AFCEA
1100	**Compute for Tactical and Strategic Advantage** *The foundational computing capabilities enabling AI at scale—edge, cloud, HPC.*	TBD	
1200	***Networking Lunch & US Marine Corps Birthday Cake Celebration (60 mins)***		
1300	**Dominant Decision Superiority** *Seeing the fight before it starts with enhanced sensing, processing, and command decision-making across the kill chain.*	TBD	
1400	**Networking and Engagement Break in (30 mins)**		
1425	Program Transition (5 mins)		AFCEA
1430	**Trust at Machine Speed** *Exploring secure, encrypted communications and AI's role in adaptive, contested network environments.*	TBD	
1530	**Networking and Engagement Break in (30 mins)**		

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1555	Program Transition (5 mins)		AFCEA
1600	**Combat System and Kill Web Orchestration** *Fusing AI into platforms, sensors, and operations—multi-domain, system-of-systems integration.*	TBD	
1700	Transition		AFCEA
1700-1900	Networking Social / Happy Hour	**TBD**	
Wednesday, November 5th			
UNCLASS Track			
0800	Breakfast		
0900	Welcome Back		AFCEA
0910	**Attendee Workshop on NAVWAR Use Case**	TBD	
1110	Transition (10 mins)		AFCEA
1120	**Presentation of crowd-sourced solution to Command Leadership**	TBD	
1200	**Commencement Address**	TBD	
1230	Closing Remarks		Mr. Matt Beekman, AFCEA San Diego Chapter President
CLASSIFIED Track			
0900	Bus departs Courtyard San Diego Airport/Liberty Station for Topside		
0930	Arrival at Topside access control		
1000	**SECFORN briefs corresponding to Day 1 panels (i.e., compute, applications, networking, and integration)**	TBD	
1130	Transition (30 mins)		
1200	**Industry Use Case elevator pitches (90 secs each)**	TBD	
1400	Bus return to Courtyard San Diego Airport/Liberty Station		
1430	Return to Courtyard San Diego Airport/Liberty Station		