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Unmanned/Unattended Sensors and Sensor Networks VI

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Introduction

The interest in unmanned/unattended sensors and sensor networks has dramatically increased over the past years. Corporations and government agencies are making large investments to develop related systems for military, homeland defense and security applications. Defending national assets and monitoring national coastlines and land borders are extremely challenging tasks. In large part, as a result of the commitment by conference presenters and attendees, significant progress has been made to develop significantly improved unmanned and unattended sensor technologies and systems.

The conference included four keynote talks and twenty seven presentations organized into eight sessions covering recent advances in force protection and security, unmanned system technologies, advanced free space optical communications, techniques and applications, sensor networks, target detection and tracking, novel technologies, active and passive imagers, and image sensing and processing.

Thanks to those who prepared and presented the technical papers and for their contribution to a very successful meeting. The success of this conference is attributed to the participation of the commercial, university, and government research-and-development community as well as the organizing efforts of the diverse and talented program committee. Thanks to our presenters and colleagues who traveled great distances to contribute to the success of this conference. Special thanks to our four keynote speakers: Dr. Cary Chabalowski (Office of Secretary of Army); Dr. John Dolan, (Carnegie Mellon University), Dr. Mark Campbell (Cornell University), and Dr. Pierre J. Corriveau (Naval Undersea Warfare Center). Additionally, special thanks to Robert T. Hintz from the Naval Air Warfare Center for a stimulating invited talk on the state-of-art of autonomous collision avoidance systems (ACAS) for unmanned air systems.

Special thanks to all of the session chairs who worked to help organize our program and who participated in this year's conference in Berlin, Germany including: Sachi Desai, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command; Grant R. Gerhart, U.S. Army Tank-Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center Todd M. Hintz, Space & Naval Warfare Systems Command SPAWARSYSCEN; Myron E. Hohil, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command; Leslie C. Laycock, BAE Systems (United Kingdom); and Tariq Manzur, Naval Undersea Warfare Center.

The conference was well attended this year, with a lot of interest in all the sessions. We hope the interest in this technology will continue to grow, and that this conference will expand with even greater technical content and significance in future years.

Edward M. Carapezza