



## Interoperability: A Key Theme at the GEOINT 2012 Symposium

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Interoperability wasn't just the topic of **Deputy PM-ISE Mike Howell's** breakout panel at the GEOINT 2012 Symposium—it was the recurring theme throughout the symposium. Many discussed the important roles of attribute-based access control and data tagging in successful information sharing—they pointed to these as solutions that enable sharing while seamlessly and securely tracking network users and data access.

Mr. Howell moderated the panel, Geospatial Interoperability: The Basis for Shared Information and Investments, with colleagues **James Kwolek of NGA**, **Dan Cotter of DHS**, and **Jerry Johnston of DOI**. All of the panelists spoke of the vital role of standards in achieving



interoperability and applauded the work of the Open Geospatial Consortium in providing a piece of the framework that will support system and network interoperability. They agreed that given the scope of the challenge, standardization provides the only viable solution. The Geospatial Interoperable Reference Architecture, or GIRA, is how the group is working together to facilitate interoperability among those who need it, including widely varying mission sets with different policy restrictions and technological capabilities. **Photo: DNI James Clapper and the Honorable Joan Dempsey, credit: USGIF**

**ODNI Chief Information Officer Al Tarasiuk** and **DoD Deputy Chief Information Officer Rob Carey** both underscored that attribute based-access control and properly tagged data, or metadata, are necessary components of future enterprise architecture, which also enables security and sharing in the cloud.

**General Alexander, who is the CYBERCOM Commander and NSA/CSS Director**, highlighted the need to improve information sharing between government and the private sector, particularly cyber threat and attack information. He also explained that since 90% of our nation's critical infrastructure is owned by the private sector, there is an overwhelming imperative to get cybersecurity information sharing right, and to do so soon. He pointed to the leadership of DHS Secretary Napolitano in this arena.

**Director of National Intelligence Clapper** spoke of the need to protect our information, stressing the need for security to be built into our systems. **Director Long of NGA** added that as the intelligence community pushes toward more mobile, versatile data stores, they need to improve automated information exchanges.

The United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation did an excellent job of facilitating these important conversations. Did you attend GEOINT? Please share your thoughts in the comments below.

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