LOS ANGELES TOWN HALL

EVENT SUMMARY

On February 19, 2014, senior defense leaders joined a panel of experts from Booz Allen Hamilton in Los Angeles, CA, to discuss how enterprise integration can enable smarter, better, and faster mission success. In particular, the group discussed the importance of exposing and reusing as much existing data as possible while building in interoperability from the start.

The panelists included Tom Pfeifer, lead of the US Air Force (USAF) C4ISR business; Lorne Caddick, lead of the Advanced Systems Engineering and Integration (ASE&I) division of Booz Allen Hamilton Engineering Services; and Brian Abbe, co-lead of Rapid Prototyping and Platform Integration (RPPI) within the Strategic Innovation Group.

Drawing upon nearly 60 years of combined military and federal expertise, the panelists discussed their diverse experiences and presented case studies to suggest strategies for acquiring, developing, and managing a government-owned system of systems (SoS), including:

▸ Apply tactics from mobile application developers who repurpose tools, software, and data in ways often not intended—or even imagined—to reduce the time and cost of building end-to-end systems.
▸ Integrate commercial capabilities, concepts, and applications with existing systems to quickly solve problems within current budget constraints.
▸ Include rapid prototyping at every phase of the acquisition process to reduce ambiguity and speed the development of new technologies.

Left to right: Moderator Hartman, Abbe, Caddick, and Pfeifer

▸ Keep software coding pure and simple to facilitate quick upgrades.
▸ Consider tapping into the creativity of universities and small businesses to resolve existing DOD challenges.

Ron Kadish, who is responsible for all operations in Booz Allen's Defense & Intelligence business, closed the session by stressing the need to continue the acquisition reform conversation. "Today, we wanted to focus primarily on how the enterprise mindset can help you take what you have and improve it, avoid spending a lot of money, and create the culture necessary for change to happen," said Kadish. "Ultimately, it's about you. Overcoming the budget barriers, putting ideas together and making it work, those all happen because of people like you. We launched this Smart Command Town Hall series to start this kind of dialogue and help keep it going."

The Los Angeles event was the second in The Smart Command Town Hall series. Learn more at boozallen.com/smartcommand.