JDISS Program Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Current staff members and veterans of the Joint Deployable Intelligence Support Systems (JDISS) Joint Program Office (JPO) gathered in the NMIC auditorium on 27 Sep to celebrate the program's 25th anniversary.

The JDISS Program is historically significant as it evolved in response to the demonstrated shortcomings in intelligence support during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm in 1991. It proved to be a transformative IT program that allowed intelligence to be treated as an integrated whole to meet the needs of joint task force and component commanders around the globe in a wide array of contingencies, facilitating effective joint operations. The program's legacy, longevity, and continued relevance is a testament to its success and importance to evolving Intelligence Community information technology initiatives.

JDISS key players past and present gathered in the NMIC Gallery on 27 Sep to celebrate the program's 25th anniversary. Pictured from left are Tom Dove, Susan Chiaravalle, Russ Myers, current JDISS Program Manager CDR Brian Hoffer, Mark Greer, Chris Page, and Web Essex.

In the early 1990s following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the U.S. military was realigning its diminishing resources and refocusing missions. Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, expanding U.S. military involvement to combat transnational threats and support humanitarian and peacekeeping operations, and the fielding of increasingly sophisticated weaponry dramatically increased the demand for the timely dissemination of fused, all-source intelligence from the national level intelligence centers to the joint warfighters at the theater and tactical level of operations.

Among the key intelligence lessons learned during Desert Shield/Desert Storm was the need to overcome the problems created by service stovepipes and the lack of interoperable equipment and procedures that impeded the timely dissemination of intelligence to commanders in the theater of operations. Then, as now, the challenge of addressing rapid and proliferating changes fell to information technology professionals.

ONI CIO Christopher Page, a JDISS veteran and former program manager, said "The men and women of JDISS have proven themselves over the years to be the best of the best information technology professionals and the crew to call in a time of crisis."

Page recalled how in June 1999, as the U.S. was celebrating the successful conclusion of the combined campaign for Kosovo, it was also anticipating what was then believed to be the next great challenge: making it through the Y2K transition.

That same year JDISS absorbed and successfully certified and deployed multiple intelligence systems, software programs, and applications. Following the terrorist attacks of 9/11, the JDISS Program Office rapidly readied combatant commands to go to war.

The JDISS JPO carries on this legacy of success today by continuing user-focused innovation efforts during the transition to the Intelligence Community Information Technology Enterprise (IC ITE).

WWW.ONI.NAVY.MIL