

# NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Charleston to host one of the first in-person major defense conferences

*The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual CDCA Defense Summit is scheduled to take place Dec. 7-9 in Charleston*

CHARLESTON, S.C. – One of the largest defense conferences in the southeastern U.S. will return in-person and is scheduled to take place this December in Charleston, the [Charleston Defense Contractors Association \(CDCA\)](#) announced last month.

The [14th Annual CDCA Defense Summit](#) is scheduled for Dec. 7-9 and is hosted by the CDCA at the Charleston Area Convention Center in North Charleston. The event focuses on command, control, computers, communications, cyber defense, combat systems, intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, information warfare and more.

The summit brings together leaders from government, military, academia and businesses to spark ideas, innovation and discuss solutions to current and future challenges. Several hundred businesses are typically represented each year, while thousands of people attend and work the event. This year's conference is expected to be one of the best-attended summits since its inception.

"Nothing really beats face-to-face interaction, which is why we're excited about returning to an in-person event, which brings the best and brightest leaders from the private sector, military, government and academia together," said April Nadeau, president of the CDCA. "Based on the level of interest we are seeing, this looks like it is going to be our best-attended conference so far, as we think people are excited to finally get out and network again."

In addition to exhibit demonstrations, keynote addresses, innovation spotlights and high energy technology exchanges, the annual conference typically attracts some influential leaders. Former speakers and attendees have included Senator Lindsey Graham, Senator Tim Scott, Rear Admiral Christian Becker, Lt. Gen. William Bender, Lt. Gen. General Dennis Crall and many more.

This year, among the long list of accomplished speakers, Rear Admiral Douglas Small, Commander of Naval Information Warfare Systems Command, and Rear Admiral Kevin Lunday, Deputy for Material Readiness of the U.S. Coast Guard, are two of the many key leaders who are scheduled to attend and speak.

Some of the CDCA's leading sponsors and members include Akima, Booz Allen Hamilton, CACI International, GRSi, KBR, Life Cycle Engineering, McAfee, Quest Public Sector, Rubrik Federal, SAIC, Sentar, and WR Systems.

Those interested in sponsoring or attending the conference can learn more by visiting [charlestdca.org/cdca-summit-14](http://charlestdca.org/cdca-summit-14).

The annual summit in Charleston is geographically positioned close to the Naval Information Warfare Center Atlantic and between U.S. Cyber Command in Maryland, U.S. Fleet Forces Command in Virginia, Joint Special Operations Command in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Army Cyber Command in Augusta, Georgia, U.S. Southern Command, U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command in Florida. As a result, it has grown into one of the largest defense leadership summits in the eastern U.S.

In addition to the annual summit, the CDCA hosts quarterly small business and industry outreach initiative (SBIOI) symposiums throughout the year.

#### **About CDCA**

The Charleston Defense Contractors Association (CDCA) supports the defense community in the Charleston metro area, South Carolina and the Southeast U.S. The CDCA advocates defense issues with the community and represents its members with the Naval Information Warfare Center (NIWC), Atlantic, Coast Guard and other Government agencies in the area and surrounding regions. The CDCA also provides input on issues and initiatives to the broader community in such areas as education, small business mentoring and congressional affairs. To learn more about CDCA or to join, visit: <https://www.charlestdca.org/join-us-overview>.

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