

The logo for DISC 2026 features the text 'DISC' in a large, bold, dark blue font above '2026' in a similar font. The text is set against a background of several interlocking gears of various sizes, rendered in a light blue, semi-transparent style. The overall background is a light blue gradient with a subtle pattern of circuit lines and dots.

DISC 2026

MARCH 18-19

CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA

Hosted by

Office of US Senator Thom Tillis

Office of US Senator Ted Budd

North Carolina Military Business Center

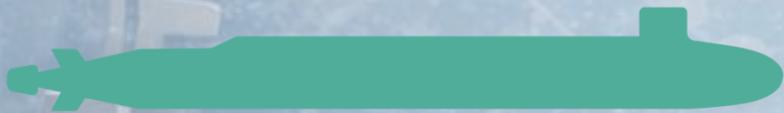
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Innovation Architecture to Boost and Strengthen the Defense Industrial Base

Speakers:

- Moderator: **Bob Burton**, Director of Defense Technologies, North Carolina Military Business Center
- Part 1:
 - Klinton Snead, Staff Director, Army Research Office
- Part 2:
 - Mesbah Uddin, Ph.D., Executive Director, National Defense & Intelligence Innovation Institute (NDI3) and Professor | Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Science, UNC Charlotte
 - Jackie Selig-Gumtow, Deputy Executive Director, National Defense & Intelligence Innovation Institute (NDI3)
 - Dr. Stephen Lee, Interim Executive Director, North Carolina State University Defense Innovation Initiative



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Dr. Mesbah Uddin

Director, NDI3

Professor,

Mechanical Engineering and Engineering
Science

Jackie Selig-Gumtow

Executive Deputy Director, NDI3

Lead for AI and Security Research
Initiatives, Division of Research



**NATIONAL DEFENSE & INTELLIGENCE
INNOVATION INSTITUTE**

Regional & National Relevance

- Strategic location in Carolinas
- Regional strengths fast-track defense modernization efforts

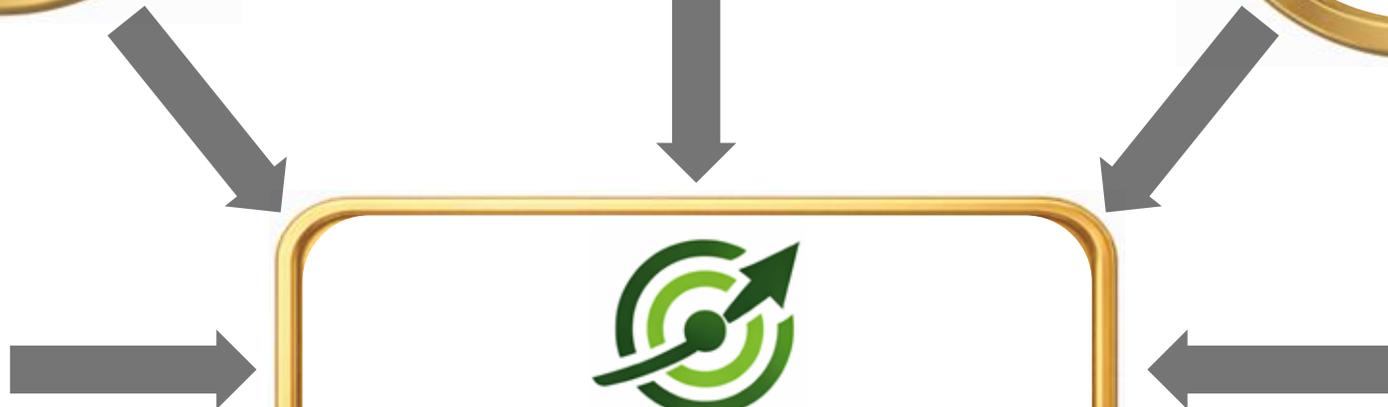
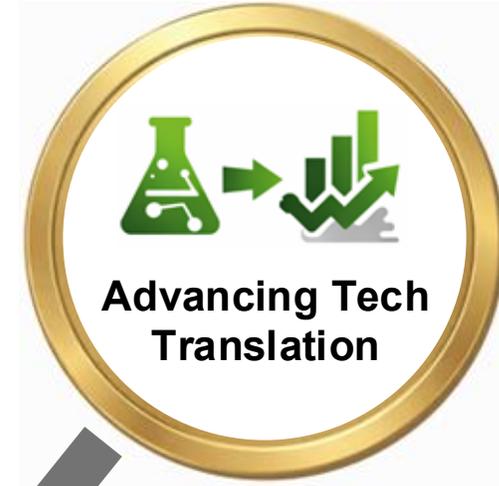
Extending Areas of Research Excellence

- Unifying structure to align expertise with defense needs
- Build a defense & intelligence ready workforce

Foundation for Building Strong Partnerships

- Scalable platform for sustained partnerships



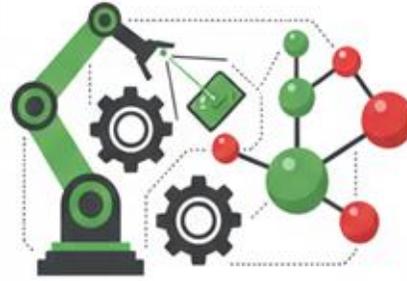


We aspire to be:

- **recognized as a national nexus for defense and security innovation.**
- **a place where government, industry, and universities work together seamlessly.**
- **not just a participant. A convener. A connector. A place where innovation and economic growth reinforce each other.**



**Operational Energy
Systems & Resilient
Infrastructure**



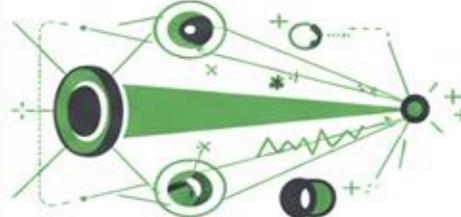
**Advanced
Manufacturing, Materials
& Metrology**



**Cybersecurity & Cyber-
Physical Resilience**



**Unmanned Aircraft
Systems / Counter-
Unmanned Aircraft
Systems**



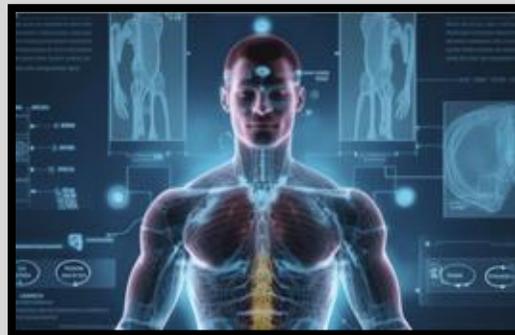
**Directed Energy,
Photonics & Opto-
Electronics**



**Military Health &
Rehabilitation / Human
Performance / Cognitive
Modeling**



**Charlotte AI Institute for
Research (CLTAI²)**



AI4Health



**Center for Applied
GIScience (CAGIS)**



**Center for Computational
Intelligence to Predict Health
and Environmental Risks
(CIPHER)**



**Center for Energy Security
and Reliability (CESAR)**



**Center for Identification
Technology Research
(CITeR)**



**Center for
Leadership Science
(CLS)**



**Energy Production
and Infrastructure
Center (EPIC)**

Start with mission demand

continuously aligning defense priorities to academic and industry capabilities

Shift research culture to federal execution timelines

accelerating transition from concept to fielded capability

Internal mechanisms to catalyze projects

aligned with validated mission/government needs and gaps

Co-develop with end users

ensuring solutions are operationally relevant and adoptable

Operate as a convening platform

strengthening the defense industrial base through trusted partnerships

Build workforce through execution

embedding students in mission-relevant research and delivery

Questions?



**NATIONAL DEFENSE & INTELLIGENCE
INNOVATION INSTITUTE**

research.charlotte.edu/NDI3

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NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Defense and Security Institute (DSI)

Institute in Planning at NC State



Dr. Stephen Lee
Executive Director



Why a Defense and Security Institute?

- NC State is military-friendly and top-ranked for veterans, yet only a small share of our research portfolio is defense/security-related.
- FY24 defense-related expenditures were about \$49M and we have plenty of growth room.
- North Carolina receives only about 0.5% of DoD S&T R&D funding despite a very large military footprint, signaling both a gap and an opportunity.

Core Value Proposition

- Provide a single, credible “front door” for DoD, NSA, DHS and industry to engage NC State.
- Centralize institutional knowledge on complex defense contracting; strengthen security and compliance structures and processes; and enhance support for investigators to initiate defense and security research, lowering barriers for faculty and staff.
- Catalyze large, interdisciplinary teams that can compete for major centers, IDIQs and UARC-scale initiatives.



NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Defense and Security Institute (DSI)

Institute in Planning at NC State



Dr. Stephen Lee
Executive Director