**JUSTIFICATION LETTER - 2024 DCTF**

[Date]

[Name]

[Title]

[Entity Name]

[Postal Address]

[City, State, Zip]

[ ] 2024

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

I would like to attend the 2024 Deployable Communications Technology Forum from Monday, April 08 – Thursday, April 11, 2024, in Dublin, Ireland. The forum brings together U.S. DoD executive and tactical communicators from military departments, unified commands, government agencies and, coalition and partner nations for a continuing dialogue on the development and delivery of C5ISR capabilities to the warfighter.

**About the Forum**

The forum is hosted by Warriors Ethos, a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit that seeks to assist veterans in transitioning to a successful civilian career through engagement, education, and job placement.

The 2024 Deployable Communications Technology Forum provides an intimate educational and training space where government delegates collaborate with one another and leading industry members to develop solutions that address mission-critical needs.

**Content and Speakers**

The theme of this year’s event is “*Data-Driven Decision Making at the Edge*”. Key topics that will be discussed to help government agencies meet the evolving C5ISR needs include:

* Cloud enabled CJADC2
* Communicating in a contested environment
* Operationalizing artificial intelligence / machine learning
* Data-Driven Decision Making at the Edge
* AI in Support of Combat Operations
* Russian Actions in the Ukraine from a Firsthand Viewpoint

**Keynote**

The forum will introduce GEN (R.) Austin S (Scott) Miller as the keynote speaker. GEN Miller assumed responsibilities as the Executive Chairman for [PrairieFire](https://www.prairiefire.com/) in January 2023. He spent over 38 years in uniform graduating from the United States Military Academy, West Point in 1983 and retiring from active duty in 2021. His career took him to the far reaches of conflict in complex geopolitical regions including the Indo-Pacific, Africa, Middle East, and South Asia.

As an Airborne-Ranger, Infantry officer, he commanded at every grade including a company in Korea, the TF Ranger assault force in Mogadishu during “Black Hawk Down”, the Joint Special Operations Command and as the final commander of NATO's Resolute Support Mission and United States Forces – Afghanistan.

Likely the most deployed leader throughout the Global War on Terror – from 2001 until 2021, he was one of the early Americans on the ground to commence the hunt for Usama Bin Laden and other high-value targets. Through the years he commanded multiple Special Operation Task Forces in combat throughout the Middle East and South Asia, culminating in his assignment as the final commander of NATO's Resolute Support Mission and United States Forces - Afghanistan from September 2, 2018, through July 12, 2021.

In 2014, as commanding general of the United States Army Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, he led the initiative to integrate women into the prestigious U.S. Army Ranger School; a significant advancement that laid the foundation for women to pursue top positions across the Army.

His awards include two awards of the coveted Combat Infantryman Badge, two Purple Hearts, the Silver Star and an unprecedented 20 Overseas Service Bars denoting in excess of ten full years in combat zones.

**Special Guest Speaker**

The forum will introduce John “Mike” Murray as a special guest speaker. General Murray is a retired United States Army General, the first Commanding General of United States Army Futures Command (AFC), a four-star Army Command headquartered in Austin, Texas. General Murray was previously the Army G-8, a deputy to the Chief of Staff of the United States Army. As the G-8, General Murray served as the principal advisor to the Chief of Staff of the Army for materiel requirements and as the military counterpart to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology.

General Murray was born in Kenton, Ohio, the son of John and Janet Murray. He received his commission as an Infantry Officer via the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps program upon graduation from The Ohio State University in 1982.

During his time in the Army, General Murray held key staff positions including Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8 and Director, Force Management, both in the Pentagon. As part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, he served in several high-level roles including Brigade Combat Team Commander, Corps Operations Officer during "The Surge" and as a Deputy Commanding General of the famed 1st Cavalry Division. He also served as the Deputy Commander for Support / Commander of Task Force 3 in Afghanistan during Operations Enduring Freedom and Resolute Support. The decorated veteran has received more than a dozen medals and awards for outstanding service to his country.

He stepped down as AFC commanding general on 3 December 2021 and was officially retired from the Army on 1 February 2022, completing nearly 40 years of service.

Since retirement from the Army, he has founded an LLC, is a member of several boards of advisors and directors, and individually consults with several defense focused companies.

**Speakers, Panelists and Moderators**

Other featured distinguished speakers and panelists include:

* COL Ronald Iammartino Jr., Commander, 2d Theater Signal Brigade, USA
* COL Michael Medgyessy Chief Information Officer, Air Force Intelligence Community USAF
* LTC Brian Wong, Commander, Joint Communications Unit (JCU)
* LTC Ryan Kenny, Commander, 112th Signal Battalion, (Special Operations) (Airborne), USA
* LTC Randall “Randy” A. Linnemann, Chief Innovation Officer, XVIII Airborne Corps, USA
* Lt Col Marvin M. “Mitch" Brown, Commander, 1st Combat Communications Squadron, USAF
* LTCOL Michael Anthony, Assistant Chief of Staff G-6, 1st Marine Division, FMFUSMC
* LTCOL Nathan Jones, Staff Officer Grade 1 C5ISREW Development, SO Modernisation Branch
* Maj Zachary Taylor Regimental S6, 75th Ranger Regiment, U.S. Army
* Maj Richard Tyler "Regen" Margerison, Maj, Chief, Wing Plans & Programs \60th Air Mobility Wing, USAF
* CW5 Rylan Knight, Chief Engineer and Technical Advisor, USSOCOM J6
* CW5 Jeramy Cosner, the Chief Technology Officer of the Army Futures Command’s Network Cross-Functional Team
* LTG (R.) Mark Bowman, former Director C4/Cyber, CIO, Joint Staff J6/CIO, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
* MajGen (R.) Mark Clark, U.S. Marine Corps, former Commander of MARSOC
* Brigadier (R.) Mark Smethurst, former Deputy Commander Australian SOCOMD, Comd ISAF SOF, DJ3 US SOCOM.
* COL (R) Wade Johnston U.S. Army, former CIO, Army Futures Command
* COL (R.) John McLaughlin, U.S. Army, former Director, C4 Operations, USSOCOM
* Dr. Cyril “Mark” Taylor, D.Eng., Chief Technical Officer, USSOCOM
* Mr. Jock Padgett, CDAO, CJADC2 Chief of Product and Experimentation
* Oleksandr “Sasha” Danylyuk, Head of The Center for Ukrainian Defense Reforms
* Dene Farrell, Chief Data Officer, XVIII ABN Corps, U.S. Army
* Mr. Jeffrey Lush, Chief Data Officer, USAFE-AFAFRICA USAF
* Thomas “Tom” Holschuh, Manager, Communications Technology Research Department, Idaho National Laboratory
* Mark Roberts, Deputy Director, Tactical Assault Kit (TAK)

**Training Sessions**

I intend on participating in the complimentary training sessions, to be given by various leading technology companies to learn more about best use cases and their latest software or hardware releases, which are offered as a benefit of participation at the forum. Training sessions include Klas, Booz Allen Hamiliton and Dell Technologies.

**Additional**

In addition to the above, I will also participate in collaborative working groups on the topics; listen to and ask questions of distinguished panels comprising experts in the field of government and military tactical communications deployments; and attend breakout sessions that will enable delegates to focus on the goals that pertain to our organization.

You can find further information on the forum at <https://deployablecommunicationsforum.com/>

**Costs**

I am seeking approval for time away from the office as well as registration, travel and housing-related expenses. An estimated cost breakdown is included below:

Airfare:  $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Transportation:  $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Hotel:  $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Meals:  $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
Registration Fee:  $ 325

TOTAL: $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Summary**

My attendance at this forum will help us meet our goals by providing us with a competitive edge and a significant return on investment. When I return, I can debrief the rest of the team on key solutions and findings obtained from attending the 2024 Deployable Communications Technology Forum.

In summary, this forum provides a truly unique opportunity to:

* Collaborate with and learn from similar agencies and peers that share common requirements, issues and challenges.
* Discover current thinking and the latest advancements in deployable communications technology.
* Have direct access to experts in the field of government and military tactical C5ISR deployments.
* Have direct access to the world’s leading IT companies that serve the defense industry.
* Improve existing systems and network capability by submitting gaps and addressing technical and security issues.
* Comply with the National Defense Strategy by working to prioritize the government’s development of cutting-edge technology and capabilities, to improve procurement practices and adopt industry best practices.
* Participate in technology lectures, breakout sessions and trainings; and
* Further my department’s goals

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_