

Summary: 2nd International Conference on i-Warfare & Security

To all - I was delighted to have the opportunity of Chairing the ICIW event in Monterey this year. This was the second International Conference on i-Warfare and Security building on the inaugural event last year at the University of Maryland.

The Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey is well acquainted with international visitors, with students from some 50 different countries studying there. We were therefore delighted to welcome participants from Europe, the Far East and Australia to join a strong US contingent.

Although we formally began the conference on Thursday morning, a number of people met on Wednesday evening for a welcome drink at the Hyatt Hotel – this was a great opportunity for old friends to meet up and for new acquaintances to be made.

The conference opened with a stimulating talk from Tim Thomas, of the Foreign Military Studies Office, an adjunct office to the US Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, USA. His chosen topic was Decoding the Virtual Dragon.

This was followed by a very full day of research paper presentations in three streams, which this year represented the diversity that i-Warfare and Security research brings to the academic debate. There was a healthy mix of empirical and theoretical papers and topics ranged from the technical to the strategic.

On Thursday afternoon I moderated an interactive session to discuss how we can help the process to develop a set of standards for Information Operations with regard to Training and Education. The group was lively and spirited and a lot of good takeaways were received to follow up on. If you are interested in participating in this project, please feel free to contact me at earmiste@ecu.edu.au.

A wonderful feature of this conference is making time for participants to talk with each other and to understand what other research is being conducted on IO and IW around the world. This was certainly achieved on Thursday evening with a splendid conference dinner arranged at the Pasadera Country Club. I think I can speak for everyone that friends were made and for some, new ideas for future liaisons formulated. The photos posted on the photo gallery speak a thousand words.

Friday morning began with a stimulating and thought provoking speech by John Arquilla from the Naval Postgraduate School looking at Information Warfare today. The day continued with more research presentations and a summary plenary session to wrap up all of the briefs into overall themes.

I believe that it was a great event, and much was gained by all who attended. I would like to thank everyone who contributed this year to the conference, and I am looking forward to the 3rd ICIW in Omaha next year.

Leigh Armistead, co-conference chair.
March 2007

ICIW 2008 will be held at the Peter Kiewit Institute, University of Nebraska Omaha, USA on 24-25 April 2008. <http://www.academic-conferences.org/iciw/iciw2008/iciw08-home.htm>