

# ★ DAKOTA DEFENSE ALLIANCE ★

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*"It is our hope that as we get our names out, become better informed, and network, we can secure more work for all of our companies. This is just the start, but it is the right way to set us apart from other Alliances across the country."  
~Executive Director,  
Kristin Hedger~*

## Letter from the Executive Director

Dear DDA Friends,

It is great to be in touch following our exciting and successful DDA fly-in to D.C.

We have a few exciting things in the mix as we head into these remaining few months of 2009. From Irregular Warfare initiatives to advancing new technologies and methods for manufacturing, the DDA is on the forefront.

The U.S. Senate is expected to complete its mark-up of our defense budget during the first couple of weeks of September. Following the subsequent conference hearing we will see what the Congress sends to the President and what our policy priorities will be.

Defense Secretary Gates has already highlighted irregular warfare as a priority platform for the future of our national security. In his April 6<sup>th</sup> announcement, Gates stated that virtually all of our resources need to be focused on developing solutions to the challenges posed by a new form of warfare that is likely to remain the state of the art for decades to come. The COLD WAR methods are no longer sufficient to combat today's war. In order for our military to have a competitive advantage against today's threat, we have to develop the technologies and products to empower our more agile, smarter, U.S. warfighter to combat foes that span nation-state boundaries and seek to do harm through IEDs, terror, and now even cyber terror.

Logistics in mobilizing our resources is key. Our member companies are not only providing solutions, we are leading in logistics solutions. We are fortunate to have RFID targeted companies, and the Upper Great Plains Institute to lead the way.

Unmanned air missions are also of particular benefit in this new world of warfare. The UND unmanned air systems curriculum will also set us apart to provide irregular warfare capabilities.

We have a number of unique capabilities and resources that set us apart from other states. As we approach the passage of this 2010 DoD budget, we look to be engaged in the 2011 budget formulation.

Please let us know what we can be doing to empower your company. Our state ranks dead last in Small Business Innovative Research dollars and it is only because we don't apply. Obviously, this is something we need to change for our future. Working as an alliance, we can. I hope you have been well this summer and I look forward to keeping in touch. Feel free to call me anytime.

Best regards,  
Kristin  
701.426.9584.

## DDA Welcomes New Member!

We would like to give a big welcome to Omega Systems, Inc., a Phoenix, AZ based business that provides rapidly deployable tactical communications, training and Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR), cross-functional requirements analysis, manned/unmanned ISR systems integration and evaluation consulting and lastly deployment support services. Visit them on the web at [www.omegasys.net](http://www.omegasys.net).

*"Brought to the Great Plains to complete the aviation requirements of my engineering degree, it was the people that made me stay. The caring communities in ND are the reason that people stick around up here when the snow and the wind start to blow." ~DRS Intern from UND, Crystal Kelly~*

## DDA Internship Program Continues into the 2009-2010 School Year.

The new school year is upon us and with that comes more students looking for next summer's internship opportunities and job/career prospects as well as job fairs and college expo's. We want to remind our members and associates that we encourage your participation in student internship programs throughout the state. It is very important to keep our young graduates within our state's borders and to do this we need to offer them opportunities to train and learn from our own businesses. Interns can be a valuable asset to any business. Alien Technologies used interns and saw a major cost savings and several improvements because of this. If you have a location based in ND you can also apply for matching funds through Operation Intern. If your business qualifies they will match funds up to \$6,000 for an intern position. You can have the value of an intern but not have to pay completely out of your own pocket! The DDA also can post positions for you on the college and university student services websites if you like. If interested in applying for Operation Intern please visit <http://www.workforce.nd.gov/programs/operation-intern/>. Operation Intern is also participating in a virtual webfair during the month of October where your business can advertise jobs and internship positions. Visit [www.webfairnd.com](http://www.webfairnd.com).

## New Partnerships Allow DDA To Expand On Green Initiative.

The DDA has recently partnered with Prairie Stewardship Network and Climate Solutions Partnership to expand on our proposed Beyond Lean, Go Green initiative. Full details are still being determined and all information will be disclosed in the coming weeks. The project has shifted to focus on one community at a time rather than several businesses across the entire state, which was logistically impossible at the current time. We will focus on one community within the state of ND, choose a business, likely a manufacturing facility and a DDA member as well as a college or university and lastly a faith-based organization. These facilities will have energy audits and will be given assistance in implementing green business practices to increase cost, energy and/or chemical savings, to increase efficiency and reduce their overall carbon footprints in hopes to maintain and sustain our environment. Our goal is to help our members and their bottom line while at the same time promoting environmental and economical changes. Our hope is to be able to replicate the program in communities across the entire state.

## Learn About Opportunities in Irregular Warfare.

The DDA will be starting a series of IVN (Interactive Video Network) sessions thru the University System once again. The first session slated to begin mid September will be a conference on Irregular Warfare. Our hope is have a panel of industry leaders available to discuss just what irregular warfare is, the opportunities available to ND companies to work in this area, develop and manufacture products that contribute to combating non-traditional terrorism and also to learn about career opportunities, education requirements and basically how to get yourself involved in this field. NDSU will be the host location, but 11 other locations spanning across the state will be involved which we encourage you to attend. We are also offering a live web stream option for all future DDA-hosted IVN sessions for those who cannot make the on-location conferences. More information will be sent out soon. A tentative date for this session is Friday 10.16 from 3-5:00 PM (CST).

For more information on any of these topics please send an email to [netia@dakotadefensealliance.com](mailto:netia@dakotadefensealliance.com)

[www.dakotadefensealliance.com](http://www.dakotadefensealliance.com)

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