U.S. Special Operations Command
Command Data Office

Investing in a Digital Future

Thom Kenney
Chief Data Officer

CDO

"We are modernizing into a data-enabled command employing cloud, data, and AI technologies throughout our operations from the tactical edge to strategic decision-making."

General Rich Clarke

Commanding General

Balancing Hardware and Humans

Humans are more important than hardware

Quality is better than quantity

Special Operations Forces cannot be mass produced

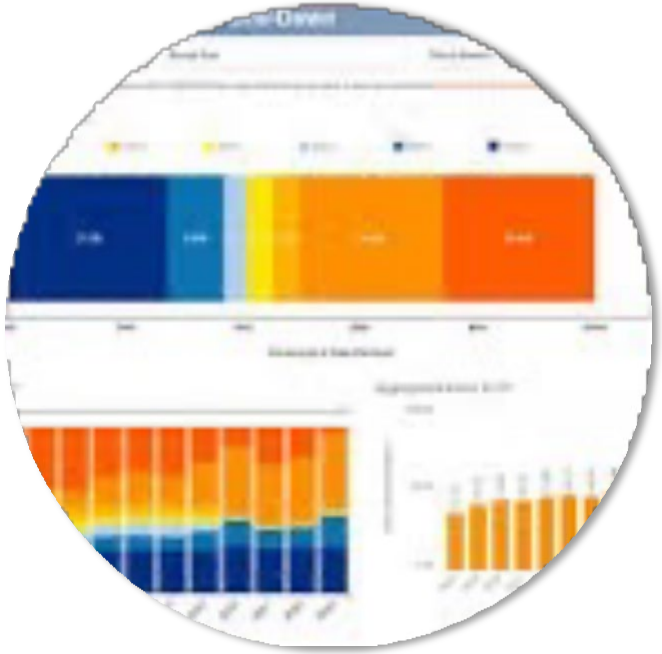
Competent Special Operations Forces cannot be created after emergencies occur

Most Special Operations require non-SOF assistance

SOCOM's Digital Transformation

Mission Command

Intelligence Fusion



Business Intelligence

Mission Command

- API Centric Design
  - Plug and play multiple capabilities that are interoperable
  - Data sharing in near real-time enabling a global operations view

- Open Architectures
  - Easily add, change, or remove components of a system
  - Rapidly adopt new technologies

- Platform Agnostic
  - One cloud does not rule them all

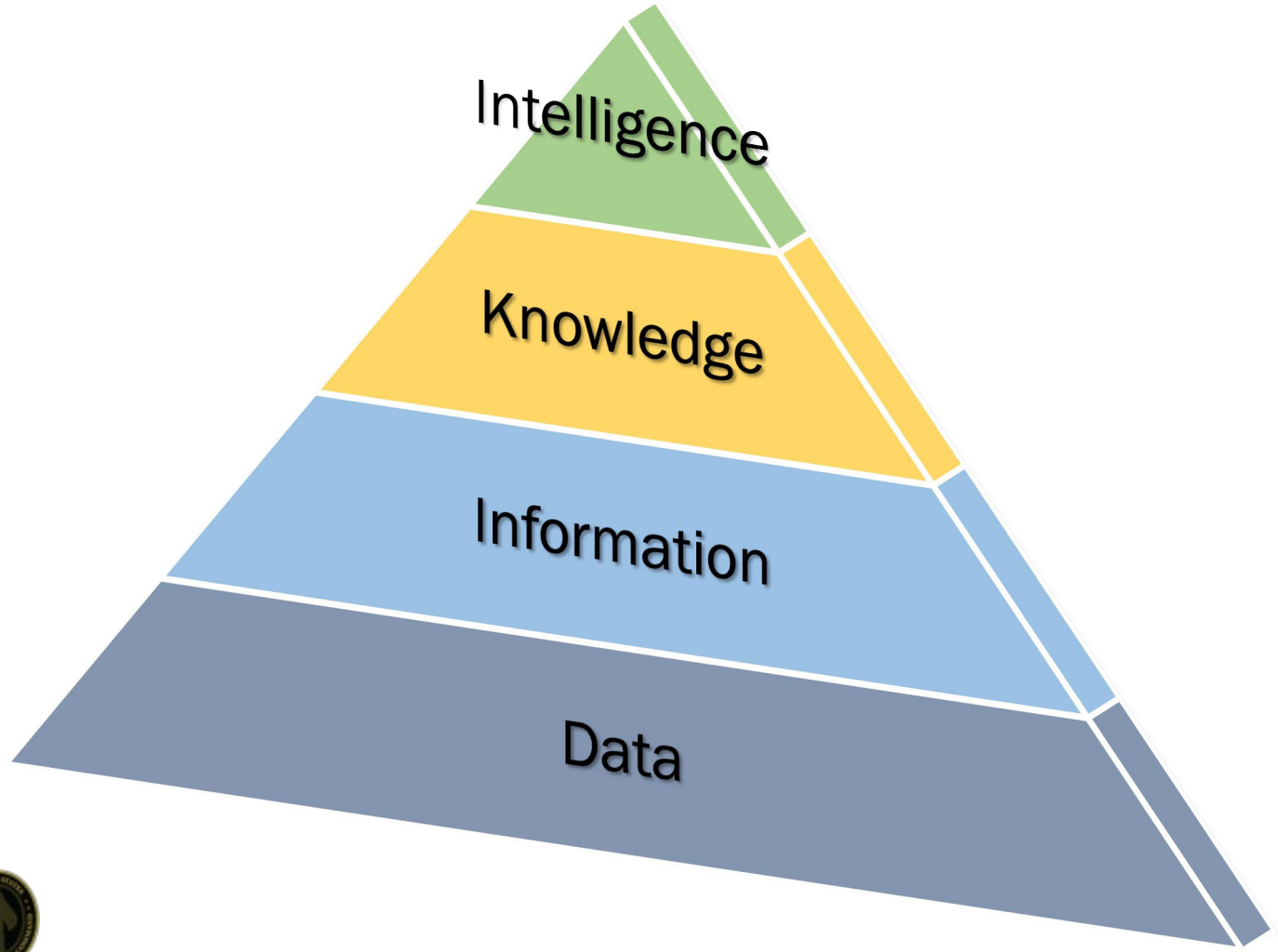
Intelligence Fusion

- Real time data integration
  - Visual, RF, and spectral intelligence on a global scale
  - Open-source Intelligence (OSINT) is now a part of the battle plan
- Protection of data is key
  - Ensure data is trustworthy
  - Sharing with partners
- Understanding data at speed
  - Automatically labeling and classifying data is a mission-critical need

Business Intelligence

- Where's the data?
  - In 2017, the JAIC estimated collecting 22 terabytes of data every day
  - DoD has an estimated XX petabytes of data
  - Data discovery can often arduous
- Learn by doing
  - Automation can teach us a lot
  - Build data-centric skills
- It's not just operational data
  - Leveraging data and AI in logistics, personnel, and admin functions can unlock billions in capital efficiencies

Maturing in our understanding of data



"If we have data, let's look at data.

If all we have are opinions, let's go with mine."

Jim Barksdale
CEO of Netscape

Thank you

CDO