

INTERVENÇÃO DA**SECRETÁRIA DE ESTADO ADJUNTA E DA DEFESA NACIONAL**

BERTA DE MELO CABRAL

AFCEA TechNet International Symposium & Exposition

"Go Connected + Go Smart = Zero Distance"

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Só serão válidas as palavras proferidas pela oradora

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**Mr. Defense Joint Chief of Staff,
Vice Admiral Pereira da Cunha**

Ladies and gentlemen

welcome to the TechNet 2013.

I would like to begin my address by welcoming everybody to Lisbon on the occasion of the AFCEA – TechNet International 2013 Symposium and Exhibition. It gives us great pleasure to host this event focusing on connectivity.

This year TechNet International is organized under the sponsorship of the Minister of Defense of Portugal and in cooperation with Industrial Portuguese Association (AIP) and the NATO Communications and Information (NCI) Agency.

For the Portuguese Government it is indeed a great honor to sponsor this event.

Profit, nonprofit associations, companies, government representatives, military and intelligence personnel will focus on the challenge of developing network-enabled capabilities while managing security implications.

All of them will be contributing to AFCEA's mission of increasing knowledge in the field of information technology and communications.

As Secretary of Defense, I would like to express our gratitude for the presence of such a distinguish audience, with representatives of the NATO and Portuguese Armed Forces, National Guard, National Police, Boarder Security Forces, Intelligence Agencies and Government Institutions, as well as the Industry.

This reflects the aim of bringing all the stakeholders together exchanging information and reinforcing cooperation, one of the goals of the AFCEA international.

We have also, to express our deep appreciation to AFCEA Portugal in its 25th anniversary and the work that has been performed by this association in close cooperation with the Portuguese Government, Armed Forces, Universities, R&D centers and Defense enterprises as well in the field of information exchange, dedicated to increasing knowledge in information technology, communications, and electronics for the defense, homeland security and intelligence communities.

The participation of the NCIA in this event, the NATO agency for communications and information technologies, is one high points of this event, namely when we are working hard together to set up a brand new communications school in Oeiras.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The focus of the event is “Go Connected + Go smart = Zero distance” leads us, in times of transformation and ongoing changes, to do more tasks with additional responsibility. This is the challenge of today.

To do more and to do it together.

Making better use of the resources in a world of decreasing budgets;

Exchanging information and knowledge to achieve the same goals with less resources;

And in a world with decreasing budgets and increasing security challenges we are all brought together here and now to learn and exchange information on how we must address this problem, this Gordian Knot, without sacrificing the fundamental ethical values that must lead our policies.

It is an undeniable fact that the budgets available for defense are shrinking. It is imperative to work together to meet our best levels of ambition.

Taking that into account, NATO is undertaking a massive reorganization effort to meet this challenge.

The Smart defense initiative brings a new way of thinking about generating the modern defense capabilities the Alliance needs for the coming decade and beyond.

It is a renewed culture of cooperation that encourages Allies to cooperate in developing, acquiring and maintaining military

capabilities to undertake the Alliance's essential core tasks agreed in the new NATO strategic concept. That means pooling and sharing capabilities, setting priorities and coordinating efforts better. Portugal is really committed through the participation in one of the smart defense projects – the harbor protection - in close cooperation with the industry

Over two days, government, military and industry leaders will have the opportunity to explore how the intelligence community can help in making guaranteed connectivity and smart defense, providing technical vision and recommendations. In parallel, the discussions will focus on how industries can partner with the government to ensure better connectivity, situational awareness, indicators and warnings.

Over the next two days we will try to answer the inevitable question:

How can we stay effective?

It's not about spending less money but finding a way to be more efficient in the use of the available resources.

It seems a simple enough way to go about the problem. But we know it is not that simple.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are all called upon to find a new conceptual way to answer defense and security challenges at hand.

We are all called upon to trust each other.

But in order to do that we must fight our own domestic political pressures, bureaucratic inertia and fear of change, we must find a way to coordinate efforts.

And in order to do so, moments such as this one are very important.

Without open and pragmatic dialogue between government officials, defense experts, large, medium or small businesses, intelligence agencies and military authorities these challenges simply cannot be met.

In short: we must understand each other in order to learn from each other. To find answers.

And an answer is not a single thing, a lonely eureka moment, a flash of insight.

Answers derive from a network of elements that work together to give us a new pattern, a new and innovative solution to complex problems.

This is what we aim here.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like also to invite you to visit our booth in which you can observe some of the most successful research and development Armed Forces projects promoted by the Minister of Defense as result of a fruitful cooperation between the Portuguese Armed Forces, Defense Industries, and Academics.

Projects that provide a piece of the global answer we all aim and hopefully trigger the interest of industry partners.

For I do not believe that each one of us alone and separated has the answer but a small piece of it, a small piece that put together with someone else's own piece of the puzzle and so on and so forth will lead to the complete answer and a collective eureka moment.

If the challenge at hand is our Goliath, let's think about moments like these as our slingshots and the answers we find together the small rock that will bring the giant down.

I hope that this conference will serve to expand our knowledge, exchange experiences and improve professional contacts.

I wish everybody an enjoyable conference and a very pleasant stay in Lisbon.