

CRANE REGIONAL DEFENSE GROUP

Annual Report 2023

CRANE REGIONAL

DEFENSE GROUP



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Background	1
About CRDG	2
Statement of Purpose	3
CRDG Objectives	4
Committees	5
Advocacy/Legislative Initiatives	6
Governance	7
Chairman's Letter	8
Membership Benefits	9
Membership Levels	10
Members	11
Community Engagement	14
Future Focus	21

CRANE REGIONAL
DEFENSE GROUP



2023 Annual Report

BACKGROUND

The White River basin of southwestern Indiana is home to Naval Support Activity Crane, the nation's third largest naval installation. As the largest employer in the area with more than 5,500 employees and over \$3 Billion in annual economic activity, Crane is among our most valuable assets in the region. NSA Crane and Lake Glendora Test Facility play a vital role in equipping our men and women in uniform and serve as an essential economic driver for South Central Indiana.

CRDG is a result of a multi-year effort with multiple committees and organizations coming together to establish a framework to best support Crane and the surrounding communities. The following milestones explain how CRDG came into existence.

2018: White River Military Coordination Alliance

The White River Military Coordination Alliance (WRMCA) was formed in 2018 to strengthen the relationship between Crane and the community as a result of a 2017 Joint Land Use Study (JLUS). The purpose of the 24-member alliance is to promote community growth, support the military missions of Crane, and establish effective, timely means of communication between the community and Crane to coordinate opportunities and address concerns.

The Alliance is comprised of state and local government officials, regional and local economic development officials, and Crane representatives.

The Alliance works to promote community growth, support the military missions of Crane, and establish effective, timely means of communication between the community and Crane to coordinate opportunities and address concerns.

2020: Crane Regional Defense Group

In 2020, the Crane Regional Defense Group was established as a subcommittee of WRMCA to expand grassroots community support and advocate for Crane at the local and federal level. This committee came as a recommendation from the JLUS for a specific task force to be formed to advocate on behalf of Crane and the communities and businesses it supports at the state and federal level.

CRANE REGIONAL
DEFENSE GROUP



2023 Annual Report | 1

ABOUT CRDG

CRDG is a citizen and member-led organization established through partnerships among chambers of commerce, county councils, financial institutions and local business leaders. Institutions represented on the Board of Directors were nominated and appointed by WRMCA.

The Board formed its objectives, initiatives and bylaws early in the establishment after extensive peer research, focusing on similar organizations throughout the country that support Naval Warfare Centers and Army Ammunition plants. Advisors observed activities and events held by these organizations, learned about the membership structure, dues and financial statements, and how their board of directors operate. This research, combined with the specific expertise of the founding CRDG members, formed the overall structure and foundation for CRDG. Since then, the mission, vision, membership structure and benefits, and bi-laws have been updated to better fit the needs of members and the defense ecosystem it serves.



CRANE REGIONAL
DEFENSE GROUP



2023 Annual Report | 2

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The mission of the Crane Regional Defense Group (CRDG) was enhanced in 2023 as a result of the organization's evolving role and growth in the past three years. Now, CRDG's mission is to elevate the strategic value of Crane and expand southern Indiana's defense innovation ecosystem through defense-related outreach and legislative initiatives that enhance military missions in the region.



"THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH NSWC CRANE IS IMMINENT."

-Mr. Jarad King
BUSINESS DIRECTOR (ACTING) AT NSWC CRANE

At the CONNECT TO MISSION event hosted by CRANE REGIONAL DEFENSE GROUP



"OUR MISSION SUCCESS IS DEPENDENT UPON OUR INDUSTRY PARTNERS."

-Dr. Kyle Werner (SSTM)
DEPUTY TECHNICAL DIRECTOR AT NSWC CRANE

At the CONNECT TO MISSION event hosted by CRANE REGIONAL DEFENSE GROUP

**CRANE REGIONAL
DEFENSE GROUP**



2023 Annual Report | 3

CRDG OBJECTIVES

Educate and Inform	Educate and inform the businesses, citizens, and governments of the region about the economic and cultural benefits of a strong military presence in the region and the importance of the related regional infrastructure.
Promote Defense	Serve as a catalyst to promote defense ecosystem assets within NSA Crane and throughout the Indiana Uplands region.
Stimulate Relationships	Through the diversity of the membership, coordinate with various entities who have similar interests in maintaining a healthy and stable community, economy, and DoD installations in our region.



COMMITTEES

In 2023, CRDG established 3 board committees to assist with efforts in events, membership recruitment and retention, and legislative initiatives. These volunteer committees are available to any board member, or 5-star advisory member and have an opportunity to directly influence the organization's actions and direction.

Membership

The membership committee is responsible for providing new, innovative ways to recruit new members, as well as analyzing current benefits and continuously improving those offerings. The committee will also gauge member satisfaction and strive to enhance the experience for all.

Events

The events committee supports all CRDG events, from planning and logistics beforehand, to registration and marketing, and day-of coordination such as set-up and sign-in.

Legislation

The legislative committee exists to identify and propose needed legislative language to support Crane and its surrounding communities. Committee members will ensure CRDG has appropriate and timely communication with state and federal legislators, and coordinate opportunities to share the organization's mission with them, as well as the southern Indiana defense ecosystem's story.

CRANE REGIONAL
DEFENSE GROUP



2023 Annual Report | 5

ADVOCACY & LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

In 2023, CRDG assisted the White River Military Coordination Alliance as they influenced legislation to benefit military bases as well as military members, and their families.

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb's Next Level Agenda focused on several major funding increases in the state budget in the 2023 legislative session, including education, public health and safety, and community development. Two Senate Bills and two House Bills affecting the military bases and military families were passed this spring and will improve Indiana's defense environment. Radius Indiana, WRMCA, and CRDG worked closely with Indiana Representatives and community partners on the creation of these bills and we commend our leaders for recognizing the importance of the defense industry in our state.

Senate Bill 332: Planning and zoning affecting military bases

Senate Bill 447: Threats to critical infrastructure

House Bill 1555: Military family occupational licenses

House Bill 1034: Income tax exemption for military pay



CRANE REGIONAL
DEFENSE GROUP



2023 Annual Report | 6

GOVERNANCE

In 2023, CRDG welcomed two new board members: Matt Craig with Radius Indiana and Duane Embree with Draper Laboratories. CRDG would like to thank outgoing board member Jeff Quyle, President and CEO of Radius Indiana, for his passion and dedication to the organization as he had a large role in the founding of CRDG and the establishment of its foundation.

Board of Directors & Staff

Kent Parisien: Chair of CRDG
First Savings Bank

Shance Sizemore: Secretary/Treasurer
Bedford Chamber of Commerce

Carlos Gaitani
TRISTAR

Kim Box: Staff
Radius Indiana

Kevin Sparks
Crane Credit Union

Matt Craig
Radius Indiana

Nancy Eckerle
Jasper Chamber of Commerce

Duane Embree
Draper Laboratory

Advisory Board

Agility Consulting International - Emily Harshman

Amentum - Adam Buehler

Applied Research Institute - Brooke Pyne

Booz Allen Hamilton - Don Harder

CACI Intl. - Robert Hudson

IEDC (IN APEX Accelerator) - Chris Jeffers

JRC Integrated Systems - Greg Sapp

ManTech - Chad McGregor

NineTwelve Solutions - Alison French

Regional Opportunities Initiative - Tina Peterson

Resource Management Concepts, Inc. - Chris Peterson

S²MARTS - powered by NSTXL - Doug Crowe

WestGate Authority - Samantha Nelson (PRF Representative)

NSWC Crane - Phil Smith (Honorary Member)

CRANE REGIONAL
DEFENSE GROUP



2023 Annual Report | 7

A NOTE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

It's hard to believe CRDG has accomplished three full years of events, recruitment and growth. 2023 was no exception - and I'm truly honored to be a small part of the organization's success. When initial conversations about establishing the organization occurred in 2020, I'm not sure any of us imagined we would be where we are today.

While we didn't quite reach the lofty and advantageous goal of 80 members to double our membership in 2023, we did end with 72 members - many of those joining as 5-star members to join the advisory board and contribute to organizational planning and decision-making. We couldn't be in this position without the support of many industry peers, business leaders and legislators - so thank you! It has been my absolute pleasure to serve as Chair for another year as we all work to foster the growth of economic prosperity in southern Indiana.

This year, we continued and built upon our flagship events including Key Leader Series, Connect to Crane, and the Congressional Reception in Washington D.C. In addition to these, we hosted the first CRDG Annual Stakeholder Meeting in September, and Senator Todd Young for a legislative roundtable. Over 1,000 attendees joined us for our events this year from over 20 states across the U.S.

The biggest success in 2023, in my opinion, would be the launch of quarterly Connect to Mission events featuring NSWC Crane's technical departments. Each event grew in size and programming, with more and more interest building throughout the year. We are thrilled to continue this partnership with NSWC into 2024 and to continue to improve the event for the benefit of our members and attendees.

2023 was a fantastic year for membership recruitment, event programming, and overall name recognition, and we're looking forward to the opportunity to provide further value to members and continue our outreach efforts. There are big plans in place for the future of CRDG and I'm proud to be a part of the journey. Thank you for joining us!

Very respectfully,

Kent Parisien

Chair of Crane Regional Defense Group

Executive Vice President / Area President First Savings Bank



KENT PARISIEN, CHAIR OF CRDG

CRANE REGIONAL
DEFENSE GROUP



2023 Annual Report | 8

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Influence the agenda as thought leaders during collaborative events with Army or Navy leadership, NSA Crane installation command, federal, state, local and community leaders.

Learn early and often via access to key regional stakeholders, decision makers, influencers, and consultants, including direct briefings on the activities both inside and outside the NSA Crane gates.

Network with Crane commands, other government agencies and organizations, federal, State, local jurisdiction, business and community leaders.

Stay informed of the Defense activities inside and outside the gate in the Indiana Uplands region.

Shape the future through CRDG priority initiatives in areas including mission priorities, economic diversification, workforce development, higher education, and infrastructure improvements.

Work together in partnership with government, industry and military leaders to accelerate the economic and community development of Indiana Uplands.

Succeed as influential members supporting high-priority initiatives with impacts for local, state, regional and national communities of interest.

CRANE REGIONAL
DEFENSE GROUP



2023 Annual Report | 9

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

	One-Star	Two-Star	Three-Star	Four-Star	Five-Star
Investment	\$500	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$3,500	\$5,000
Complimentary ticket(s) to all Connect to Mission (C2M) events	1	2	3	4	5
Complimentary ticket(s) to all Key Leader Series (KLS) events	1	2	3	4	5
Name featured on CRDG website	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Receive bi-weekly DoD newsletter	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Invitation and recognition at CRDG Annual Meeting	Invitation only	✓	✓	✓	✓
Logo featured on CRDG website and at events			✓	✓	✓
Eligible for participation in membership and events committees			✓	✓	✓
Invitation to Connect to Crane (C2C)			TBD based on # of attendees.	✓	✓
Free exhibitor table at the Buy Indiana Expo				✓	✓
Regular reposts and engagement on CRDG social media accounts				✓	✓
Eligible for participation in legislative committee					✓
CRDG Advisory Board Member - invitation to all CRDG Board Meetings					✓
Invitation to participate in Congressional Reception in Washington D.C. (up to two people at own travel expense)					✓
One submission for attendance to the Team Crane Congressional Breakfast (CRDG not responsible for final approval for attendance)					✓
Guaranteed invitation to any unplanned CRDG events with limited capacity					✓
CRDG Social Media Posts	Yearly post as part of 1-star group	Yearly post as part of 2-star group	Quarterly post as part of 3-star group	Yearly individual shoutout post	Bi-annual individual shoutout post



MEMBERS

Below is a full list of the CRDG membership as of December 31, 2023. CRDG greatly appreciates and thanks all of its members, supporters, partners and stakeholders for their support and dedication to the organization.

Five Star ★★★★★



Booz | Allen | Hamilton®



CRANE REGIONAL
DEFENSE GROUP



Four Star ★★★★★



Worldwide Supplies • Worldwide Support

Three Star ★★★★★



INDIANA UNIVERSITY



DEFENSE SOLUTIONS INC.



CRANE REGIONAL DEFENSE GROUP



Two Star ★★

- Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce
- Cintel
- Del Rey Systems & Technology
- First Division Consulting
- Intalus Inc
- Jasper Chamber of Commerce
- Loughmiller Machine, Tool & Design, Inc
- Peerless Technologies
- Technology Service Corporation
- TRISTAR

One Star ★

- Ansys Government Initiatives (AGI)
- BD Blackwell Consulting
- Bubo Defense
- BUC Construction Supply
- Decision Technologies
- Dioltas
- DLH Corporation
- Electronic Warfare Associates
- Foxx Consulting
- geoConvergence LLC
- General Tool Company
- Jacobs Technology
- Krempp Construction
- Mission Solutions Group
- Mursix
- Paragon Force
- Pratt Miller Engineering & Fabrication
- Precise Systems
- Professional Plastics Inc
- Scientia LLC
- Scientific Inc.
- Semiring Inc.
- Steelcore Construction Contractors
- Systems Engineering Group
- The Mill
- Unconventional Innovation
- Uplands Science and Technology Foundation (USTF)
- V2X
- Warrant Technologies
- Westlamb LLC

CRANE REGIONAL
DEFENSE GROUP



2023 Annual Report | 13

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Congressional Reception/Breakfast

CRDG was fortunate to once again participate in the Team Crane Congressional Reception and Breakfast alongside NSA Crane and industry peers this past June in Washington D.C. The events served to engage government leaders, defense and technology firms, and constituents in conversations and updates about ongoing developments for the base and southern Indiana's defense industry.

For the second year, CRDG brought together the defense ecosystem for an evening of food and networking as a prelude to the next morning's events with Team Crane. Guests have a unique opportunity to interact with other defense industry peers along with academic and government officials and staff to discuss relevant topics. Additionally, CRDG officers and members were available to discuss the organization's role in the southern Indiana community as an effort to expand community support and advocate for Crane at the local and federal levels.

CRDG leaders and members were also in attendance for the Team Crane Breakfast the following morning, which featured Indiana Senators Mike Braun and Todd Young, and Indiana Members of Congress Larry Bucshon and Erin Houchin. The breakfast was sponsored by ARI, the Federal Managers Association Crane Chapter 170, the IEDC, and Radius Indiana. Featured speakers led a discussion on NSA Crane's impact and criticality to the Indiana ecosystem as the region works to bridge the gap between defense technology and innovation.



CRANE REGIONAL
DEFENSE GROUP



2023 Annual Report | 14

Key Leader Series

CRDG's Key Leader Series events provide members with the opportunity to hear from influential keynote speakers, network with other members, and gain exposure to Crane commands and other industry leaders. In 2023, we saw these events shift from quarterly to bi-annually, as CRDG added a new quarterly event, Connect to Mission.

February 3, 2023

Keynote speakers Joe Carley and Tina Peterson provided attendees with an update on USTF, a nonprofit research foundation focused on the development of WestGate Technology Park. USTF is planning a future where people come to WestGate not just to work, but also to dine, shop, recreate and live. Its mission and initiatives directly align with CRDG and its objective to enhance the strategic value of Naval Support Activity Crane, as well as strengthen the economic prosperity of the region.

Kent Parisien, CRDG chairman, shared the annual report which highlighted successes and challenges throughout the past year as well as plans for future growth and key initiatives. The organization noted a major accomplishment in membership, having gained over 40 members since its establishment and surpassing its ambitious goal. CRDG is doubling-down on the goal, aiming for 80 members by the end of 2023.

November 21, 2023

CRDG hosted NSA Crane and WRMCA for a special edition of the Key Leader Series event featuring a State of the Installation Address by Commander Luis G. Martinez as he briefed the group on installation successes over the past year, as well as current and upcoming projects including projected workforce needs.

The annual State of the Installation Address provides an opportunity for NSA Crane to share Team Crane's strategic goals and any operational changes or proposed construction projects that may impact the organization's membership and the communities they serve.

CRANE REGIONAL
DEFENSE GROUP



2023 Annual Report | 15

Cmdr. Martinez shared that NSA Crane's mission is to enable and sustain Sailors and Soldiers through operational and family readiness by providing consistent, standardized, and reliable shore support to tenant partners. By embracing Team Crane's role to support the warfighter and breaking down traditional "stovepipes" that exist, collaboration increases between base partner commands and their individual missions. NSA Crane believes this is a necessary cultural shift that continues to promote growth and expansion as the technological advances and capabilities evolve.

Connect to Mission

Q1 2023 - Spectrum Warfare Department

CRDG hosted the first-ever Connect to Mission event in partnership with NSWC Crane. The half-day, collaborative forum brought together nearly 200 current and prospective defense contractors representing more than 100 businesses (small, large, and non-traditional) from 18 different states throughout the industry for a deep dive into the Spectrum Warfare Systems (SWS) Department and its needs/challenges related to the focus areas of Electronic Warfare (surface, air, and expeditionary), Radar Technologies, and Force Level Electronic Warfare.

The agenda included three interactive panel discussions, networking opportunities and remarks from NSWC leadership. Division managers, chief strategists and engineers, contracting officers and more covered topics from how to earn a contract, to how the divisions are assisting the warfighter today, and how attendees could position themselves to join their mission.

Q2 2023 - Global Deterrence & Defense Department

Over 150 defense contractors representing more than 100 businesses from 14 states throughout the industry attended the event for a deep dive into the Global Department and its needs/challenges as they support the Navy's Strategic Systems Program Office as well as other Department of Defense offices. These areas of focus include support to hypersonics programs and trusted and assured microelectronics.

CRANE REGIONAL
DEFENSE GROUP



The program included two interactive panel discussions, an in-depth discussion on trusted microelectronics and hypersonics, multiple networking opportunities and remarks from NSWC leadership. Division managers, chief strategists and engineers, contracting officers and more covered topics from how to earn a contract, to how the divisions are assisting the warfighter today, and how attendees could best position themselves to join their mission.

Additionally, Anne Fields Lucas, regional director for NavalX Midwest Tech Bridge provided insight into how Tech Bridge aims to educate the ecosystem on resources available in the Midwest, Crane technology areas, partnership opportunities, and how to work with the DoD.

Q3 2023 - Special Warfare and Expeditionary Systems Department

The event program guided nearly 175 attendees from 18 different states through a deep dive into the Expeditionary Department and its needs/ challenges as it provides intelligent systems solutions for all domains that enhance detection, decision-making, maneuver, and kinetic and non-kinetic engagement capabilities for the Expeditionary Warfighter. ExW performs work for more than 150 funding sponsors primarily from USMC, USSOCOM, Naval Special Warfare, NAVSEA, etc.

“Connect to Mission (C2M) events provide an opportunity to engage with external partners who contribute to NSWC Crane’s mission,” said Dr. Kyle Werner, the Deputy Technical Director at NSWC Crane. “Our ecosystem partners play a critical role in Crane’s ability to rapidly deliver innovative sensor and weapon system solutions to our Warfighters.”

Q4 2023 - Team Crane

In the final C2M event of 2023, programming featured representatives from Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Crane’s Corporate Operations Department, Command Support, and Office of Undersecretary of Defense (OUSD), as well as Crane Army Ammunition Activity (CAAA) and facility specialists from NSWC Crane and Naval Facilities Mid-Atlantic Public Works Department.

**CRANE REGIONAL
DEFENSE GROUP**



2023 Annual Report | 17

The robust agenda included an overview of the NSWC Crane Corporate Operations Department that highlighted areas such as human resources, communications and security. Additionally, CAAA presented a video and introduction into its mission and goals as they execute large investments into infrastructure improvements throughout the base. A Team Crane facility panel also briefed the audience, providing insight into operational challenges, and contracting needs from a public-works perspective.

The final panel of the day featured NSWC Crane's specific multiple OUSD assignments and their respective contracting opportunities, including those in Research and Engineering (R&E) and Acquisition and Sustainment (A&S).

In a new C2M approach, this wide range of topics and mission areas provided attendees with a broad explanation of Team Crane's functions and how they all work together to support the warfighter.

Connect to Crane

CRDG hosted the third-annual Connect to Crane networking event designed to offer attendees intimate, one-on-one sessions with 20 NSWC Crane representatives and its mission partners. Participants have 10 minutes with each representative to network and learn best practices for gaining contracts, showcase their products and services, and increase their understanding of the federal procurement process. The fast-paced, "speed networking" style event encourages companies to make a lasting impression on the person sitting across from them throughout the day.

NSWC Commanding Officer, Captain Rex A. Boonyobhas, provided opening comments and highlighted the importance of strong partnerships between the installation and its supporting small businesses, specifically how events like C2C strengthen the defense ecosystem. Boonyobhas expressed, "NSWC Crane is committed to fostering traditional and non-traditional business relationships in the local area."

The event creates a space for small businesses that are developing cutting-edge innovations to talk with strategists, contracting officials, policymakers, and local defense and business leaders. C2C is the only experience of its kind in the region, and participants travel from across the country to participate.

CRANE REGIONAL
DEFENSE GROUP



2023 Annual Report | 18

Annual Meeting

CRDG hosted its first-ever Annual Stakeholder Meeting in 2023, with programming that included a Team Crane leadership panel, 2023 highlights and future plans for CRDG, and a keynote fireside chat with U.S. Senator Mike Braun.

CRDG highlights included the successful Connect to Mission series, which has garnered over 350 attendees from at least 18 different states. Additionally, Parisien noted the increase in membership (60), with a new goal of reaching 80 members by the end of the year.

Team Crane's new slate of commanding officers, Colonel Franyate D. Taylor, Crane Army Ammunition Activity, Commander Luis G. Martinez, Naval Support Activity Crane and Captain Rex A. Boonyobhas, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division, addressed the audience, to discuss current installation missions and initiatives, future plans and personal goals.

U.S. Senator and candidate for Indiana Governor, Mike Braun also participated in a fireside-style discussion with Matt Craig as he welcomed the Senator him back to southern Indiana and covered his thoughts on the growing defense ecosystem in the region, as well as questions surrounding defense initiatives on both the local and federal level.

Legislative Roundtable

CRDG hosted U.S. Senator Todd Young for a defense industry roundtable in February. Participants shared the growth and continued success of the Technology Park as it diversifies from being largely reliant on NSWC Crane support contractors, to a Technology Park that will have near limitless development. From the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) and Science Act, to additional hypersonics and microelectronics work, which is currently attracting OEMs to the region, the park continues to prove itself as an invaluable asset.

Senator Young noted his top priorities, many relating back to investment in core research and emerging technologies to develop prototypes and eventually partner with the private sector to discover possible uses for implementation.

CRANE REGIONAL
DEFENSE GROUP



2023 Annual Report | 19

Partner Information Website & Promotional Materials

The CRDG website allows current and potential members to find out more about the organization's mission, membership benefits and offers, stay up-to-date about upcoming events, and contact us to learn how to get involved. Users can also find news about the organization as well as resources and materials in one central location! CRDG plans to update the current website in 2024 to expand its capabilities and enhance the design to match the organization's growth.

CRDG also designed and purchased promotional materials in 2023 such as a step-and-repeat backdrop and logo cling for events, business cards, brochures, cell phone accessory holder, and more. These materials help increase name recognition and awareness.



Committee Report at Quarterly White River Coordination Alliance Meeting

Throughout the year, a representative from CRDG presented a status update of the organization's activities to WRMCA during its quarterly stakeholder meetings. This is an effort to keep the group of state and local government officials, regional and local economic development officials, and Crane representatives informed of the CRDG initiatives and progress toward mission goals. These organizations, with frequently overlapping objectives, work hard to collaborate and influence their stakeholders to engage and contribute toward the mission of supporting Crane, the communities that surround it, and the warfighter.

CRANE REGIONAL
DEFENSE GROUP



2023 Annual Report | 20

FUTURE FOCUS

2023 was a year of growth, development and expansion for the organization which built off the success of 2022. The momentum CRDG carries heading into 2024 is great, with more members and interest than ever before. Increased membership provides additional opportunities for events, legislative initiatives and priorities, and further exposure for the southern Indiana defense ecosystem.

Future efforts will focus on continuing to grow and connect membership with useful and tangible benefits while providing additional opportunities to network with fellow members. CRDG also plans to attend more conferences, forums and programs across the state to begin recruiting more broadly to increase attention for the region. A new website is also planned, as well as potentially creating more promotional products and materials for the organization to increase brand/name recognition.

The new Connect to Mission series was an undeniable success and will continue throughout 2024, with modifications and enhancements being made as needed to grow and improve the event alongside NSWC Crane and their technical departments. It's hoped that these events, coupled with the legacy programs, member benefits and network that CRDG membership numbers will continue to grow at a consistent rate.

This next year, CRDG will also build upon its deliberate effort in 2023 to expand connections with local, state and federal decision-makers on behalf of the Crane community to advocate for policies and initiatives that advance, strengthen and support Crane's mission and capabilities. CRDG has already begun planning for next year's Congressional Reception which will now be a staple social event to welcome attendees to our nation's capital before the annual Crane Congressional Breakfast hosted by Indiana legislators in partnership with Team Crane. CRDG will work with the appropriate stakeholders to develop an agenda to move toward this cause, and will also plan more meetings and interactions with state and local officials to establish new opportunities to interact with policymakers in order to discuss Crane-friendly initiatives.

CRANE REGIONAL
DEFENSE GROUP



Through the hard work and dedication of the board, members, partners, stakeholders and supporters, CRDG has become a successful, established organization and is being seen as a model for defense ecosystem member groups. Much more is left to be accomplished and 2024 will see a further acceleration and amplification of our efforts to better connect regional stakeholders and focus to expand southern Indiana's defense innovation ecosystem through defense-related outreach and legislative initiatives that enhance military missions in the region.



CRANE REGIONAL
DEFENSE GROUP



2023 Annual Report | 22

CRANE REGIONAL
DEFENSE GROUP

