



13th International Conference on Semantic Technology for Intelligence, Defense, and Security (STIDS 2026)

May 27-29, 2026

Attendee Information Packet

Hosted by NCOR with unclassified sessions at George Mason University, Fuse at Mason Square

[Event website](#) | Contact: info@ncornetwork.org

Quick Facts

Item	Details
Unclassified Sessions	May 27-28, 2026 at Fuse at Mason Square, George Mason University, 3351 Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22201. Classified day participants should contact John Beverley info@ncornetwork.org with any questions.
Classified Day	May 29, 2026 at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, 11100 Johns Hopkins Road, Laurel, MD 20723. Classified day participants should contact Neil Otte at neil.otte@jhuapl.com for access instructions.



Before You Arrive

- Register on the [Event website](#) prior to arrival.
- Registration check-in will be conducted on May 27 starting at 8am. Please bring a government-issued photo ID for check-in and building access.
- You will be given a conference badge following check-in. Attendees should wear their conference badge while onsite.
- If you are attending the classified day, handle access/visit requirements through Neil Otte neil.otte@jhuapl.com before traveling to APL. Do not bring classified materials to the unclassified conference venue.
- If you have dietary restrictions or accessibility needs that have not yet been communicated, email info@ncornetwork.org as soon as possible.
- Recommended attire is business casual.
- Bring laptop chargers and any adapters you may need. Wi-Fi details, if available, will be provided onsite.

Venue, Parking, and Local Transportation

Venue address: Fuse at Mason Square, George Mason University, 3351 Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22201.

Metro: The Virginia Square-GMU Metro station on the Orange and Silver lines is adjacent to George Mason's Arlington campus. Attendees staying in Ballston, Virginia Square, Clarendon, Courthouse, or Rosslyn will generally have the simplest local commute.

Parking: Parking is available in the Van Metre Hall Parking Garage. GMU lists visitor parking rates at \$5 per hour with a weekday daily maximum of \$19. GMU-provided event information also notes a weekend daily flat rate of \$10. Payment methods accepted are Visa/Mastercard and validations. For questions, contact Parking Services at (703) 993-8146 or arlpark@gmu.edu.

Rideshare/taxi: Use the Fuse at Mason Square / George Mason University Mason Square address. Allow extra time for morning traffic and for finding the registration area in the Exchange Lobby.

Virtual Participation and Teams Chat

- **A Teams link** will be provided to registered attendees for virtual participation.
- **The Team chat channel** may be used for logistics, substantive discussion, questions before and during the event, and coordination among attendees.



Meals, Refreshments, and Dinners

- Lunch will be catered on both unclassified conference days. Coffee, refreshments, and light snacks will be available during the day. Costs for refreshments and lunches will be covered by NCOR.
- Dinner reservations have been made for the first and second nights.
- For most attendees, dinner on the first night is covered by registration fees. Government attendees who registered at no cost may need to reimburse NCOR for their portion of dinner at fair market value. NCOR will provide payment instructions as needed. Alcohol must be purchased separately and is not covered by NCOR or registration fees.
- For all attendees, dinner on the second night will not be covered by registration fees.

Dinner locations currently listed in the agenda (<https://ncor-network.org/events/stids2026>):

Date	Time	Location
May 27	6:00-8:00 PM	Maggiano's Little Italy, 5333 Wisconsin Ave NW, Washington, DC 20015
May 28	6:00-8:00 PM	Dinner, location TBD

Classified Day at Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory

- **Date:** May 29, 2026.
- **Location:** Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, 11100 Johns Hopkins Road, Laurel, MD 20723.
- **Access/contact:** Reach out to Neil Otte at neil.otte@jhuapl.com for classified-day participation, visit/access instructions, and any required security coordination.
- The classified day is separate from the unclassified GMU sessions. Please follow all instructions from APL and your home organization regarding clearance/access, electronics, and security procedures.
- The classified day is co-sponsored by KGOIDS and APL.

Suggested Nearby Hotels

NCOR is not endorsing or guaranteeing availability, rates, parking, amenities, cancellation terms, or government rates at any hotel. Attendees should book directly with hotels or approved travel systems and confirm rates/policies before booking. The easiest neighborhoods for the GMU venue are Virginia Square, Ballston, Clarendon, Courthouse, and Rosslyn.

Hotel	Address	Why consider it	Official page
Hilton Arlington	950 North Stafford Street, Arlington, VA	Ballston location adjacent to Metro; good for attendees who want a simple Metro/walk	Website



	22203	commute and nearby restaurants.	
The Westin Arlington	801 North Glebe Road, Arlington, VA 22203	Ballston hotel near Ballston-MU Metro; full-service option with easy access to Arlington and DC.	Website
Residence Inn Arlington Courthouse	1401 North Adams Street, Arlington, VA 22201	Suite/long-stay option in Courthouse; useful for attendees who prefer extra workspace or kitchen-style amenities.	Website
Hilton Garden Inn Arlington/Courthouse Plaza	1333 North Courthouse Road, Arlington, VA 22201	Courthouse-area option with straightforward rideshare/Metro access to the conference venue.	Website
Hyatt Place Arlington/Courthouse Plaza	2401 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201	Courthouse-area hotel close to Metro and restaurants; a practical mid-range option.	Website

After-Hours Activities and Local Options

Please check hours, reservations, transit, and security rules before going. Some museums and attractions close near the end of the conference day, so they may be better for pre-conference, morning, or post-conference plans.

Option	Best for	Notes	Official page
Ballston Quarter	Low-friction local food and entertainment	Near the venue area; restaurants, entertainment, shopping, and indoor/outdoor spaces in Ballston.	Website
Clarendon / Courthouse / Ballston dining	Informal after-session meetups	Walkable Arlington neighborhoods with many restaurants and bars close to Mason Square.	Website
National Mall and Memorials at night	Classic DC visit after dinner or later evening	The National Mall and Memorial Parks are open 24 hours; evening visits can be quieter and scenic.	Website
Kennedy Center Millennium Stage	Free performing arts option	The Kennedy Center lists free Millennium Stage performances Wednesday-Saturday at 6:00 PM; check the schedule before going.	Website
U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial	Arlington/DC skyline views	Memorial grounds are open 6:00 AM-midnight; a good short visit if weather is good.	Website
Old Town Alexandria waterfront	Dinner, riverfront walk, live music	Walkable historic waterfront area with restaurants, bars, and live-music options.	Website
Arlington National Cemetery	Pre/post-conference or early departure option	Open daily 8:00 AM-5:00 PM, so it is not ideal after a full conference day but may work before/after travel.	Website
National Air and Space Museum, DC	Pre/post-conference Smithsonian visit	Free admission; DC museum currently requires free timed-entry passes and is generally open 10:00 AM-5:30 PM.	Website



National Museum of the U.S. Army	Defense/military history	Free admission at Fort Belvoir; generally open 9:00 AM-5:00 PM, so better for arrival/departure day.	Website
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Useful Links

- [STIDS 2026 Agenda](#)
- [George Mason Mason Square parking](#)
- [Virginia Square-GMU Metro station](#)
- [JHU Applied Physics Laboratory](#)