A year ago, no one could have predicted the unique challenges that have come in 2020 as the world wrestles with a major global pandemic. Challenges also create opportunities, though, as organizations have grappled with not only the health and safety aspects, but a fundamental re-evaluation of how the workplace operates. I have been very proud to see how the ORSA community has continually stepped up to provide important analysis to decision-makers all over the country. One great example is the work MAJ Evan Wolf has done supporting the city of El Paso. His model helped local leaders to make better decisions by providing them with better information.

While the pandemic has slowed or stopped many organizations across the world, the Army never stops. As the Army continues to execute critical missions, our ORSAs continue to provide invaluable support. From aiding in the force design of the Afghan National Security Force, to designing linear optimization models to help combatant commands improve their logistics readiness, to standing up the first Soldier-led software factory, the ORSA community delivers creative analytical solutions to the Army’s unique problems.

As a result, senior leaders across the Army are constantly seeking out more support. I regularly receive calls from organizations seeking to increase their organic ORSA footprint. This is a direct reflection on the high quality individuals and analysis they receive from our team and I would encourage each of you to continue being great ambassadors of ORSAs. When you arrive to a unit, grab an oar and start rowing – be a great teammate, officer, and Soldier first, then a great ORSA. Continue to leverage the community. No one should think of themselves as being on an island, but instead as a node in a vast network.

Along those lines, I would also encourage you to take advantage of the Army Operations Research Symposium. Participate as much as you are able. It is a critical opportunity for our community to come together to not only share some of your incredible efforts, but to grow professionally and learn more about the community as a whole. I want to thank GEN Murray and AFC for hosting this year’s symposium. I am extremely proud to represent this community and look forward to your continued contributions to the Army and the country.

MG Karl Gingrich
Director, Programs Analysis and Evaluation, G-8
FA49 Proponent Executive Agent