



**Dr. Rob E. Smith** is the INDOPACOM lead for advanced manufacturing and the FORGE initiative and also serves as the J85 AI and Autonomy technical expert. With a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering focused on A.I. and machine learning from Michigan Technological University, Dr. Smith has over 20 years of experience in advanced modeling and simulation from his time at Ford, Whirlpool Corporation, and for 17 years as a U.S. Army civilian, most recently serving as the US Army Pacific Science Advisor.

Some of his manufacturing interests include trying to invert bureaucracy using agentic AI to turn scale into an advantage; trying to build a storefront ecosystem linking labs, industry, and production capability with AI and high-performance computing; and anti-counterfeit and rapid qualification testing of parts. The INDOPACOM FORGE will create a robust "hub-and-spoke" network projecting edge production forward and reaching back to the mainland U.S. for expertise. Dr. Smith is a 2016 DARPA Service Chief Fellow, Army Mad Scientist, and holds multiple patents, and has authored over 30 peer-reviewed papers.