# TekSynap

## TECHNOLOGY MOVING AT THE SPEED OF THOUGHT®

## Customer Missions are our Mission:
## The ARDA Proof-of-Concept

When I was new at TekSynap, I asked senior leadership: "What do we do here? Are we a services company, or a solutions one?" I was struck by the simple, but powerful response: "We do whatever our customers need us to do."

TekSynap is laser-focused on our customers and their missions. On the strength of what we've collectively accomplished across the federal government, we are investing and growing in the Intelligence Community (IC), which in turn enables all TekSynap customer missions. Our new TekXlerate Lab project – **ARDA** - is a proof-of-concept demonstration of artificial intelligence (AI) supported analytics, focused on Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT).

### ARDA: AI Recommendation Driven Analytics

AI is in the current limelight – who has not heard about ChatGPT these days? AI is machine-displayed intelligence that simulates human behavior or thinking and can be trained to solve specific problems. GEOINT is an IC discipline that overlaps with many TekSynap customers. GEOINT is intelligence about human activity on earth derived from the exploitation and analysis of imagery, signals, signatures, or any information with geospatial (i.e., location-based) information. GEOINT describes, assesses, and visually depicts physical features and geographically referenced activities on the Earth.

The ARDA proof-of-concept addresses a set of challenges for GEOINT analysts at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA). Anyone who sails a U.S. ship, flies a U.S. aircraft, makes national policy decisions, fights wars, locates targets, responds to natural disasters, or even navigates with a cell phone relies on NGA. NGA is a unique combination of intelligence agencies and DoD combat support agencies.

ARDA has a double meaning apropos of NGA; it is also a Lord of the Rings reference: "also known as Earth, Arda was the world in which all peoples of Middle-earth and of Valinor lived".

Currently, NGA analysts use a disparate patchwork of tools and data stores to capture their knowledge, complete analytic tasks, and develop analytic judgments. This increases the cognitive burden on the analyst in remembering and creating connections but also prevents sharing with other analysts. NGA has asked the industry for an integrated and immersive environment to capture, enrich, explore, and evolve the knowledge analysts have gathered over their careers - an integrated, intuitive, and interactive analytic modeling environment—an "Analyst Workbench."

### Powerful Capabilities for Users at All Levels
ARDA represents a robust but easy-to-use analyst workbench for NGA, with planned capabilities that extend to many TekSynap customer missions. It will bring powerful but complex AI-based data management and analytic modeling functionality to non-technical analysts and other end users. Our proof-of-concept focuses on testing the feasibility of two innovations: an Analysis Fabric and a Gamified User Experience (UX).

The Analysis Fabric extends the current state-of-the-art Data Fabric concept, which enables universal data access and pre-processing, with AI-driven analytic recommendations and guidance. The result is an environment that enables advanced analytics, including machine learning, for all users across the enterprise's data sources.

A Gamified User Experience is based on the broader concept of gamification: game elements and game designs in non-game contexts to increase user engagement, learning, and motivation. It has been shown to provide better connections with teams, applications and data, rapid performance feedback, and context-sensitive task guidance.

### Getting the Word Out
We will publicize our work on ARDA for the first time in May 2023 in a Lightning Talk at the United States Geospatial-Intelligence Foundation's (USGIF) GEOINT 2023 Symposium. The GEOINT Symposium is a premier, high-profile event in the IC. After that, it's back to work! Initial delivery of ARDA is scheduled for the Fall of 2023.

**Mike DeLaFleur**
**IC Capture Director**



*Save the Date*

## TekSynap's Family Fun Day

Sunday, June 25
1:00pm - 6:00pm
Smokey Glen Farm, Gaithersburg, MD

**TekSynap's first Sail Away Cruise journey was a success!
The next group will set sail in September. Thanks to everyone who participated for making this promotion a huge success!**





## Caught in the Act

**Kathy Lincoln** was given kudos for her excellent IT support at DTRA.

**Michael Jones** was praised for his tremendous work and technical skills.

**Stephen Sarracino** was thanked for his great customer service skills and for providing wonderful service/assistance to the DTRA workforce.

**Kisha McKenzie** and **John Finn** were recognized for their excellent teamwork, communication, coordination, and collaboration at CISA.

**Isaac Benporat** received multiple kudos for his tremendous work, patience, and assistance.

**Lonny LeGrand** and **Otis Brown** were thanked for their outstanding work at the US Embassy in Luxembourg.

**Steven Howard** and **TraNiece McElvaine** were commended for their work this past month.

**Destin Davis** and **Dwann Herron** were acknowledged for always putting in 100%.

Congratulations to **Henry Weber** and **Abenazer Bayou** for receiving a shout-out from the Director! We are so proud of them!

The KM Team got huge kudos from the G4 Directorate last week. They lauded the team's attention to detail and personal care for the Directorate through all of the one-on-ones with them! Our KM Team is led by **Mark Eubanks** with Team Members: **Erin Vance**, **Cordell Mitchell, Jason Walton,** and **Dwight Neely.**

Our customer extended their sincere appreciation to **Darrel Mikoski** and the Webcast Team for their support of an All Hands Meeting.

VA WiFi Act: 23J-TOG-Rumford -Team Recognition
- Our fearless Activations leader, **Jeremiah Nance**
- The site's awesome Project Manager and her backup, **Rupi Stepniczka,** and **Nichole Bishop**
- The Entire fantastic Wireless Activations Operations Team: **Caleb Rimato, Jim Butler, Jonathan Sarty, Joshua Kahue, Leslie Franck,** and **Ryan Hagan**
- Tireless Documentation Teams Members: **Lynda Martin, Perla Merida, Sherry Kneitz**
- Diligent QA Team Members: **Jennifer Neish, Nicole Sherry, Andrea Wood, Cheryl Ault, Sharon Deakins**
- Brilliant Core Team Members: **Alex Libby, Trey Lesslie, John Grau, Dan Acquah**

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Don't forget to let your Quality team know about all the good things going on at TekSynap by submitting your Kudos on the ***Employee Portal***.
Help us recognize our employee contributions in the monthly Newsletter.

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## Swag on the Go

**Arthur Guilani** is putting his TekSynap swag to good use!

"When people ask what kind of bike that is, I tell them it's just a standard bike and I'm from the future!"

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Please share your travel stories and pictures with us! You can submit your anniversary, adventure or international work travel photos via ***TekSnaps*** t0 be featured in the newsletter.
Instructions on how to use TekSnaps can be found ***here.***

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# TekPets

Meet Snoopy! He is my 5-month-old Border Collie puppy. He loves to go on long hikes and is always ready for a swim (or a car ride – he goes everywhere with me). He has unsurprisingly adjusted to the farm life very well, earning himself the "chicken tender" title. When he's not full of energy, he loves to snuggle up and watch movies. He never fails to make me smile!

**Kay Craig**

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Feature your pets in the next newsletter!
Send pictures of your companions on *TekSnaps* located on the employee portal page.
Learn how to use TekSynaps, *here*.

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## TekSynap Gives Back

TekSynap sponsored the Golfing Fore Scholarships event hosted by the University South Foundation. The foundation supports the University of Arizona College of Applied Science and Technology Cyber Operations Program in Sierra Vista.  Pictured: **Lisa McCann, Jessica Gatmen, Steve Gruden,** and **Ron Rivera**.



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# Certification Corner

**Dillyan Abarca**
Security+

**Logan Edens**
Nokia Network Routing Specialist I

**Sarah Law**
Splunk Core Certified Power User

**Nolan LaDuke**

ServiceNow - Certified Application Developer

**Sarah Keiper**
SAFe6 Agilist

# Employee Learning Program

Employees are encouraged to use the Employee Learning Program (ELP) Benefit. *Click Here* to access the form.

If you have earned a new certification, please add it to your ADP profile. Remember to include the effective date.

**ADP > Myself > My Information > Profile**
And email a copy to *HR@teksynap.com*

**Updating your certifications in ADP will help us identify you for career advancement opportunities.**

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# Open Positions

**DTRA**
Helpdesk Specialist II (Reston)
Systems Administrator IV(Active Directory)
Senior Systems Admin (ABQ)
Cyber Forensics Analyst
Network Engineer Lead
NOSC Admin
VTC Administrator

**NGA**
Jr Helpdesk Specialist

**AFRL PRsISM**
Senior Systems Administrator (ABQ)

**AFNCR**
Senior VMware Engineer
Senior Network Administrator
SharePoint Administrator
SCOM Engineer

**Vanguard**
Systems Engineer
Software Engineer
Software Developer

**New Orleans, LA**
Lead Business Analyst
Sr Solution Sr Architect
Configuration Mgmt & Data Specialist II
SR System Architect

**Fort Bragg**
Content Manager

**Enterprise Storage – Battle Creek, MI; Columbus, OH; Dayton, OH; Fort Belvoir, VA; New Cumberland, PA; Ogden, UT; Philadelphia, PA or Richmond, VA**
Systems Engineer (SAN Switch)

**DLA EDIS – Battle Creek, MI; Columbus, OH; Dayton, OH; Fort Belvoir, VA; New Cumberland, PA; Ogden, UT; Philadelphia, PA or Richmond, VA**
Database Administrator

**DLA Telecommunications Installation Enterprise Support – New Cumberland, PA**
Telecommunications Specialist

**ESD II – Ft. Belvoir, VA; Battle Creek, MI; Tracy, CA or Columbus, OH**
Computer Operator

**ATF:**
Sr Firewall Administrator
Firewall Administrator

**DFC ITOPS**
IT Operations Team Lead
Sr IT Tech, IT Technician IV

**DOJ PPAMS**
Sr ISO Analyst

**VA NSOC/NEDIIS:**
WAN Network System Engineer (Albany, NY)
WAN Network System Engineer (Washington, DC/Martinsburg, WV)

**NRC BPA MAS:**
Software Engineer III

**NRC SNCC:**
Sr Active Directory Administrator
Splunk SIEM Application Engineer
Network Engineer II

**VA NextGen WOC**
Sr Wireless Operations Center Engineer
Telecommunications

Please email your referral resumes to *careers@teksynap.com* to receive up to $5,000.

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# Did you know Cigna covers Nutritional Counseling?

Nutritional counseling means that a registered dietitian helps you learn about a healthy eating plan. This plan and other suggestions fit your or your family's needs.
A healthy eating plan will consider:
- Height and weight. Growth trends over time give the most useful information.
- Family history and current conditions, such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, type 2 diabetes, or pregnancy.
- Level of physical activity or exercise.
- Appetite and food likes and dislikes.
- Lifestyle, culture, and how foods are prepared and offered.
- Locally available foods.

If you are interested in learning more, check out providers near you on *MyCigna*.

# Update Your 401(k) Beneficiaries

You can make updates to your 401(k) Plan's beneficiaries online. To begin, use your TekSynap SSO to log onto your ADP Employee & Managers account on the *employee portal*, and proceed to **Myself > Benefits > Retirement Savings**.

Once in the MyKPlan, select the **Manage My Beneficiaries** option from under the **My Account** tab.

For more detailed information, please *click here*.



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## Q1 2023 Quality Objectives on Display
We all play a role in meeting our corporate quality objectives.
To see how we're doing, *click here*.



## Introducing TekSynap's ServiceNow Foreign Travel Tracker

Business travel has enhanced many portions of our corporation. The safety and security of employees while traveling abroad is a vital concern to keep in mind during any travel to foreign countries. When planning future travel, it is imperative to consider how our employees' safety will be affected during the details of their travel itinerary. Collecting all the necessary information for travel destinations while maintaining awareness of possible hazards, local crime, and conflict or political situations can influence the planning of a business trip. Although most of our travel will already be scheduled pertaining to your destination, accommodations, and transportation there are still important elements to consider when keeping our employees safe.

TekSynap is currently working on phasing in our **_ServiceNow Foreign Travel Tracker_** as well. All employees will need to log into the travel tracker (linked above) before their travel to complete the required information. If you have not logged into this system before, you will need to register your information for your profile. Along with the ServiceNow Tracker, it is recommended to also report the **_Department of State program STEP website_**. This system allows U.S. Citizens and nationals traveling and living abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or consulate.

If you have any questions pertaining to the Service Now and STEP information, please contact the **_security team_**.



Congratulations to **5 employees** for reaching 5 years with TekSynap this month!

Your $5,000 vacation is right around the corner

## Anniversaries

### Twelve Years
Dicken Tsoi
Donald James

### Nine Years
Warren McQueen

### Seven Years
Darrel Mikoski

### Five Years
Michelle Norris
Charles Nesbitt
Matthew Jewett
Drew Harper

### Four Years
Ralph Egbert
William Updyke
Bernard Crawford
John Stanley

## Welcome, New Employees!

Bruce Yeager
Cassandra Barroso
Jason Sanders
Walter Hamlett
Bryson Paulo
Leandro Rodriguez
Dylan Howard
Brian Hase
Royston Roach
Robert Danvers
Antonio Mitchell
Farhad Jabarkhil
Arthur Guilani
Elena Daly
Lisa Brown
Michael Goddard
Emmanuel Nouebissi
Brent Florey
Russell Withers
William Rodeffer
Benjamin Robinson

Michael Gallagher
Michael Cox
Melvin Scott

### Three Years
Daniel Kofi
Fernando Dietrich
Jose Saenz
Adam Heys

### Two Years
Steven Lipps
Drake Lower
Mark Cook
Chandler Robinson
Gabriel Bowden
Caleb Rimato
Jarek Arellano
Allen Williams
Dillyan Abarca
Daniel Fuentes
Allyn Letourneau
Anthony Linan
McKinley Stephens

### One Year
Alan Lowell
Isaiah Thomas
Yoonis Abdulle
Skyler White
Zachary Rinker
Quincy Mays
James Spiridopoulos
Christopher Cockrell
Curtiss Lasserre
Barry Miller
John Joyce
Issac Garcia
Alexander Shindyapin
LaTasha Johnson
Garrick Yahnke

Robert Wyant
Abraham Abera
Dovel Gilmore
Emmanuel Asigbetse
Cayla Greer
Edgar Scholl
Logan Badorf
Joseph McGee
Torry Booker
Arash Surosh
Delonte Clipper
Aaron Schmidt
Shane Washko
Candice Belasco
Brendan Deliee
Patrick Triplett
Christopher Nichols
Dineshia Alexander
John Nolan
James Galluzzo
Julio Mejia
David Betancourt
Jon Garrett
Sara Chan
Kevin Oehme
Richard Wu
Varun Basani
Brandon Parker
Lawanya Chopra
Caitlyn Corbosiero
Niles Garcia
Ezra Enchill
Phi Lee
Ty Peebles

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