Victor42 is a small, veteran-owned business that specializes in technology and intelligence services. Mark Hunker, company president and CEO, and Dana “Bobby” Boucher, VP of operations and business development, discussed Victor42’s previous and ongoing successes, and looked ahead to facing future threats.

### Value-added partner

Named after the famed stiletto fighting knife issued to the First Special Service Force in the Second World War, Victor42 was established from NEK Advanced Securities Group in January 2016, following the sale of NEK to Cubic Corporation. “In that sale, our founder, a former Green Beret, retained the important SOF support work the company began after 9/11 and set out to establish Victor42 as a leader in this field, with an emphasis on new and emerging technologies,” Hunker said.

He explained that the company’s three focus areas are Special Operations Support; Intelligence Solutions and Training; and Integrated IT and Management Solutions, with SOF activities comprising approximately 60 percent of the corporate portfolio.

### Training and support

A representative example of these activities involves the company’s US government-funded support to the Iraqi Special Operations Forces (ISOF).

According to Boucher, the ISOF benefited from US SOF training, mentoring and advising until the withdrawal of the bulk of those US forces in 2011. “Following the US withdrawal, the Iraqi Counter Terrorism Service (CTS) continued to be the most relevant force in Iraq to deter, prevent, disrupt, capture and prosecute known terrorists and terrorist organizations,” he said.

“At the request of the government of Iraq, on behalf of the US government, Victor42 provided weapons maintenance support, vehicle and night vision maintenance and weapons training to all Iraqi CTS SOF throughout the counter-ISIS campaign and successful Ramadi, Baji and Mosul counter-attacks,” Boucher confirmed.

“Victor42 conducted professional sustainment training at the appropriate levels and intensities to maintain the ISOF’s mission effectiveness,” he added.

“Victor42 supported the 1st ISOF Brigade with customized tactical training packages [covering] tactical, staff and logistics sustainment training and support of four courses: Selection and Assessment, Commando Qualification, Operators Training (Advanced) and Sniper. In addition, the company provided expert operators... to the 1st ISOF Brigade,” Boucher continued. “We deployed people to Iraq who were embedded with CTS,” he said, adding that the effort continued until US SF operational detachments returned to Northern Iraq in spring 2016.

He further outlined Victor42’s weapons maintenance effort in support of ISOF, whereby the company implemented “a weapons maintenance program, where we could actually fix weapons and parts.”

### Making connections

Current Victor42 support to USSOCOM includes providing All-Source Information Fusion Field Service Engineering Services worldwide, with the company’s field services engineers (FSEs) serving as data analysts and integrators, front-end developers and trainers.

“We jumped on board last year when the government was looking to take a little more control of things,” Hunker said. “They were looking to have their own set of FSEs and representatives. We were able to win that contract competitively last year, and I think we’ve made a significant difference for them, helping to give them more control over their own destiny in that domain.

“Our SOF FSEs... incorporate their military and life experiences to astutely and efficiently analyze the data in front of them to provide accurate and actionable intelligence to execute the mission. Because of this deep experience of testing, evaluating and rolling out new technology solutions throughout the USSOCOM enterprise, our contractors help SOF become more agile in their approach to technology,” Hunker continued.

“They were looking for a value-added partner,” echoed Boucher. “That is definitely what we are. We find ourselves at the nexus of what is in the SOF world today and the new and emerging technologies for the future.”

Agreeing that the nexus marks the balance point between the way things have been done post 9/11 and the way they will need to be done in the future, Hunker observed: “Threats aren’t as direct anymore. They are asymmetric... and unforeseen. We are helping [customers] look at predictive analysis, actionable intelligence and the technologies that are out there for the threats that they are likely to face in the future.”

He said that one of Victor42’s key strengths is “blending the right skilled people with a good process and the right technology... bringing the value of that triangulation theory to get better outcomes. That’s where we are trying to be with USSOCOM.”

Regarding future company plans, Hunker concluded: “Victor42 is waiting on multiple contract awards within the USSOCOM arena focused on intelligence, technology and training. We look forward to expanding our portfolio within USSOCOM, specifically within data analytics, engineering, training and process improvement.”

Vicror42 spoke with Scott R. Gourley.