**What is innovateAFITC?**

The Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce - TechMGM is proud to present innovateAFITC!

In partnership with the United States Air Force (USAF) this event will be held in conjunction with the Air Force Information Technology and Cyberpower Conference (AFITC) where members of the government, industry, and academia collaborate and network together to discuss the national problems we face today. Diverse, multi-skilled teams will compete by presenting solutions to Air Force and local government, senior leadership and key stakeholders. This competition enables IT professionals and airmen from related career backgrounds in network communications, cybersecurity, software development, design, and STEM to quickly collaborate, form bonds of Wingmanship, and share skills and experience. By tapping into the talent across functional and organizational lines, the USAF can leverage innovation in the community it serves to identify ideas and recruit talent for the enterprise, to explore solutions to drive “Smart Base” initiatives to better enable mission success.

**Partnerships**

The Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce (TechMGM) will be partnering with the sponsors of AFITC (AU, PEO BES and SAF/A6) to make this event a success.

**Students:** As a student seeking a degree or receiving training in a STEM area this is an ideal opportunity to work alongside individuals doing cyber and IT work. Being a part of a collaborative team will allow you to demonstrate your skills and strengths all the while learning from others across diverse technical areas. This event will expose you to the different aspects, challenges and numerous innovative opportunities in cyber and IT career fields.

**Cyber Patriots:** innovateAFITC is in need of mentors and coaches! “Smart City” and “Smart Base” concepts blend technology in the realm of the Internet of Things (IoT), a space where security it a top priority. You’re expertise is crucial to securing the technology of the future.

**USAF Military Members:** In the cyberspace realm of the USAF mission, professional development often requires the exploration of opportunities external to the organization. Such exploration and experimentation with varying technologies employed by the industry is limited within a closed cyberspace environment. In contrast to the normal mission environment, this event will give you the opportunity to bring innovative ideas, develop those ideas using those technologies with a community of professionals, and present those ideas to USAF key leaders.

**Industry:** Whether you’re an integrator, developer, or manager you are in an ideal position to bring value added technology expertise to this event. The latest technology tools and solutions are brought to the Air Force by industry. Industry IT professionals are essential to solving military problems through innovation. This event will give you an opportunity to bring your best of breed technology expertise to the forefront in solving a mission area problem for the Air Force.

**Goals and Objectives**

* Encourage collaboration amongst students, industry, airmen and government IT professionals
* Provide an opportunity for participants to utilize their technical skillsets and apply their expertise across AF mission areas in cybersecurity, network communications and software development
* Increase awareness and recruit for the AF’s Cyberpatriot program
* Mentor students, Cyberpatriot participants and airmen
* Enhance awareness of Smart City Smart Base and explore the technologies to support them
* Welcome newcomers and spark interest in cybersecurity, network communications and software development and design in support of AF mission areas
* Leverage industry expertise and innovative solutions to address AF and local government challenges
* Educate the River Region community on technical opportunities available locally and within the USAF
* Showcase a collaborative working environment for participants to make headway on problems they care about

**Event Theme**

The cyberspace environment continues to increase in scope and complexity. Because of this growth, new problems arise in how to properly leverage and employ these new technologies, and these problems are only compounded with the world becoming more and more dependent technology. City and government inefficiencies continue to multiply in tandem with society’s technological advances.

To address such inefficiencies, “Smart City” initiatives are all a buzz around the world to help enable city and community officials to interact directly with the community and city infrastructure in order to monitor what is happening in the city, assess how it is evolving, and how to enhance a better quality of life.

Singapore for example has its “Smart Nation” initiative, aimed at engaging citizens, industries, research institution and the government to harness internet and communication technology to bolster its communities. Singapore’s Beeline app, for instance, draws on aggregated data to provide a demand-driven service to create new transport routes that meet public needs.

Another example is the city of Boston. The Boston Department of Innovation and Technology helped create a number apps with a wide range of uses, from allowing citizens to report neighborhood issues to the government to helping commuters find on-street parking in the Innovation District.

Be it creating mobile applications for public transportation, developing smart parking garages, leveraging unified cloud messaging systems, consolidating e-911 help centers, or developing innovative ways to promote awareness in the environment, the possibilities are boundless in the discovery and development of IT solutions that enable a better quality of life for a city or community.

Earlier this year the 42nd Air Base Wing (ABW), which runs Maxwel Air Force Base (MAFB), entered into a vendor demonstration agreement with AT&T to test and better understand IoT implementations driving Smart City and Smart Base initiatives. Proof of concept examples include facial recognition and license plate scanning at entry points into MAFB, solar beam/geo-fencing technology to reinforce MAFB’s perimeter defenses on the riverside of the installation where a physical barrier is implausible, and remote monitoring of temperatures inside key buildings on the air base.

The traction “Smart City” initiatives have begun to make has enticed the Department of Defense, State and local governments, and industry to partner and promote this venture in order to leverage each other’s capabilities, maximize efficiencies, and work “smarter”. With the declaration of MAFB and the City of Montgomery as “Smart City” and “Smart Base” pilots, government officials have been actively exploring a number initiatives that will help the community emerge as a model “Smart Community” through public and private partnerships.

**Target Audience**

The target audience for participants is focused around members of the USAF, state and local government, industry, and academia whom are or working towards being practitioners of IT such as:

* Students (High School and College) in STEM
* Cyberpatriot Participants
* Robotics Participants
* Network Operators
* Software Developers
* Database Administrators
* Data Scientists
* IT Managers
* Designers
* Architects
* Security Professionals
* IT Enthusiasts

**Team Eligibility**

* 4-6 person teams, no more, no less
* Each team must consist of members’ representative of the following backgrounds:
  + 1 Student
  + 1 Military Member
  + 1 Industry Professional
* It is advantageous your team composition includes expertise within the network communications, cybersecurity, software development and design areas to effectively address all evaluated areas
* Participant matchmaking for participants without a starting team available
* 15 teams MAX

This event is aimed at engendering military organization comradery with industry partners and the educational community. In addition, industry, academia and military members are encouraged to serve in mentor, coaching and training roles as members of a team.

**Competition Details**

Each team will identify a problem or challenge within an Air Force mission area and will create an innovative technical solution to that problem to present for a panel of judges. As the event draws near, information will be released to aid in the development of the solution as it relates to each of technical areas (cybersecurity, network communications, software development, design). The rubric detailing the criteria for each team’s presentation will be released in phases with the final phase occurring at the event kickoff at 4CDT on Sunday, 27 August at CoWerx46 on 46 Commerce St, Montgomery, AL 36109 and live streamed on (TBD). Each team will have 24hours to create and submit their presentation to the event organizers. USE STORIES FROM EVENT THEME SECTION TO HIGHLIGHT THE TECHNICAL BAR/CRITERIA.

**Registration**

Teams can register online via (MACC-TBD) for $200 a team. Each team must detail which team members are meeting the required criteria. If you are looking for a team, visit the matchmaking link to be paired with other IT experts looking to form a team. Registration will close once 15 teams have successfully registered.

**Workspace**

Beginning on Friday, 25 August at 4CDT there will be designated locations at the Renaissance Hotel and in downtown Montgomery, AL within walking distance where teams can collaborate to work on their presentations. High speed and reliable network access will be provided at all locations; some will be available 24/7.

**Presentation**

Each team will have 6 minutes to present their problem and innovative solution to a panel of judges. The solution may be in the form of slides (PowerPoint) or a live demonstration. The judges will have 2 minutes to ask questions of the presenting team. Judges will be from the following organizations; SAF/A6, PEO BES, AU, State/Local Government and Industry. Presentations will take place in the MPAC at the Renaissance Hotel and will be open to conference attendees.

**Venue Support**

The event will need support in the form of workspace and internet accessibility/bandwidth at and in the community surrounding the Renaissance Hotel for presentations/judging. Preferably, small breakout room space upstairs in the hotel, space on the vendor floor, CoWerx46, Troy University, MACC SBRC. Ideally, there should be enough space to accommodate the number of teams in the competition.

**Communications**

Registration will be hosted by the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce. Event organizers will communicate with participants using SLACK and the registration website.

**Schedule of Events**

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| Date/Time | Event |
| Fri, 25 Aug, 4PM | Electronic Event Kickoff |
| Sun, 27 Aug, 4PM | Event Social |
| Mon, 28 Aug 17, 4PM | Completion Deadline |
| Mon, 28 Aug, 5PM – 8PM | Presentation/Judging |
| Tues, 29 Aug, 5PM | Winner Announcement |
| Wed, 30 Aug | Presentation to AFITC Audience |

**Event Coordinators**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Email | Phone |
| Charisse Stokes | [cstokes@montgomerychamber.com](mailto:cstokes@montgomerychamber.com) | (334)-657-1883 |
| Boyd Stephens | [bstephens@netelysis.com](mailto:bstephens@netelysis.com) | (334)-213-1128 |
| Josh Hinshaw | [joshua.hinshaw@us.af.mil](mailto:joshua.hinshaw@us.af.mil) [ichiban.joto@gmail.com](mailto:ichiban.joto@gmail.com) | (334) 546 – 1278 (334) 416 – 5153 |
| Ken Heitkamp | [Ken.heitkamp@charter.net](mailto:Ken.heitkamp@charter.net) | (334)-224-6425 |
| Warren Lopez (HQ CIO A6) | [Warren.lopez@us.af.mil](mailto:Warren.lopez@us.af.mil) |  |
| Peter Kim (SES HQ/A3C/A6C) |  |  |
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