

# A Reflection on My Experience at ACSAC

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I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the ACSAC Student Conferenceship Award, which enabled me to attend the conference and fully participate in its technical sessions, training programs, and networking activities. As a researcher, the opportunity to present my work, engage with the global security community, and acquire new technical skills was invaluable. This conference marked an important moment in my academic journey, providing me not only with recognition but also with practical tools and professional connections that will support my future career.

During the conference, I participated in the Tracer FIRE training, which was one of the most valuable components of my experience. Through this training, I learned a range of forensic tools and techniques that can be applied to solving real-world forensic challenges. In particular, I gained hands-on experience with tools such as Kibana and Elasticsearch for log analysis and investigation, as well as broader workflows for digital forensics and incident response. These skills will be directly beneficial to my future research and teaching in cybersecurity. The training also provided an excellent opportunity for collaboration, as I worked as part of a team and interacted with researchers from different institutions and countries. Engaging with participants from around the world allowed me to exchange ideas, learn diverse approaches to cybersecurity research, and establish new professional connections.

On the academic front, the conference represented a significant milestone for me. I was honored to receive the ACSAC Distinguished Paper Award for my work. This recognition from the research community was deeply encouraging and further motivated me to pursue high-impact research. In addition, I attended numerous technical talks and poster sessions, where I learned about advanced techniques and emerging research directions explored by other groups. These sessions broadened my perspective on the current state of the art and inspired new research ideas.

I also had the opportunity to meet and speak with several leading researchers in the security community. These interactions provided valuable insights into current challenges, future research trends, and professional development within the field.

Finally, I would like to mention the excellent venue and social program. As this was my first time visiting Hawaii, the inspiring setting and high-quality accommodations contributed to a welcoming and productive conference atmosphere. A particular highlight was the banquet on Wednesday evening, which featured traditional Hawaiian dance performances. Many attendees I spoke with commented that it was one of the most memorable conference banquets they had experienced.

In conclusion, attending ACSAC was a highly enriching experience. I returned to my studies with a prestigious research award, a strengthened set of forensic skills, an expanded professional network, and renewed inspiration. Thank you once again for your generous support in making this experience possible.