



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR UNIVERSITY (AETC)**



Dear Attendee,

It is my honor and privilege to welcome you to the 2017 Air Force Information, Technology, and Cyberpower Conference (AFITC).

For many years, this conference has promoted a national dialogue between the US Air Force, commercial businesses, academia and civil society to generate a “whole of nation” strategy aimed at overcoming challenges and the ambiguities of an increasingly digital world.

The 2017 AFITC will continue this important discussion. There is no doubt that America is faced with a national emergency in cyberspace. US national security, economic vitality, financial stability and foreign policy are being eroded. Increasingly prevalent severe malicious cyber activities are being directed against the Department of Defense, US Government, private-sector, critical infrastructure, academia, and civil society. An information-age solution is needed. Promoting a private-public dialogue is integral to build a new paradigm in which digital platforms are secure, and the nation is defended. Building these bridges between government and the private sector is essential for victory!

Therefore, I would like to personally thank all the keynote speakers, seminar presenters, volunteers, vendors, and AFITC committee members for their efforts in making this conference a tremendous success. Also, a special thanks to the city of Montgomery for being an integral partner in our nation’s defense and the staff of the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Spa for their support, service and exceptional facilities.

Finally, I would like to thank each of you for taking the time out of your hectic schedules to be here. We need to work as a team to identify the problems, discover the solutions, and design the strategies in order to present information recommendations to our nation’s decision makers. This is only the beginning! The future is now... a digital age Air Force!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Kwest".

STEVEN L. KWAST

Lieutenant General, USAF

Commander and President, Air University