



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


28 JUL 2021

Welcome Cyber and IT Leaders!

It is my honor and privilege to welcome you to the 2021 Air Force Information Technology and Cyberpower (AFITC) Conference. Air University, with our partners from the Program Executive Office for Business and Enterprise Systems, the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce, and MGMWERX, are excited to host AFITC 2021. Over the past 34 years AFITC has brought together the best and brightest minds from the Total Force, industry, and academia to analyze and action solutions to our nation's most vexing national defense problems. Last year, AFITC 2020 was a fully virtual event. For 2021 we are excited to host the first Hybrid AFITC, offering virtual and in-person experiences.

With the theme of "Strategic Competition: Accelerating Change in the Digital Domain," it is our goal to forge a path for future cyber strategies and initiatives that will help maintain our nation's strategic advantage in this critical domain. Ideally, this conference will generate the "whole of nation" strategies and processes aimed at overcoming challenges and ambiguities of an increasingly digital world. We need your new ideas, critical thoughts, and valued inputs as we work together to combat the sophisticated cyber threats present today...and tomorrow.

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 and MGMWERX 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 informed recommendations to our nation's decision makers. Our work efforts here will pave the way for accelerating change in the digital domain.


JAMES B. MECKER
Lieutenant General, USAF
Commander and President