



Air Force Cybersecurity and Information Security
Frequently Asked Questions
– Updated 22 Sep 2020

**QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE Air Force
SBIR/STTR Help Desk at usaf.team@afsbirsttr.us**

Frequently Asked Question	Response
Do I need an ATO?	<p>Yes. To operate in the Department of the Air Force (DAF) every Information Technology (IT) must obtain an Authority to Operate using the Risk Management Framework (RMF) assessment.</p> <p>Take a look at this short document, which describes the process. AFI 17-130, Cybersecurity Program Management, 13 February 2020</p>
What is the first step to getting an ATO?	<p>To achieve cybersecurity objectives the DAF project manager/sponsor for a system in development should consult with the applicable cybersecurity office.</p> <p>To best prepare for an Authorization, an example Decision Briefing “Small Business Cybersecurity and Information Security” is provided for use as a template. It covers the basic areas an Authorization Official will need to understand on the requests.</p>
How do I prove I used DevSecOps?	<p>DevSecOps is a culture and process that covers three areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Infrastructure – the HW/SW/Tools machinery that applications are built on 2. Process – the concept of operations, the mechanisms of use, including continuous monitoring, access controls, account management, incident response, etc. 3. People – the people that use the process to access the infrastructure to build the applications <p>To prove you are doing DevSecOps you would need to outline the three areas above, how things are done, how things change, and how you address cyber security as part of the development and use of the application. See the previous FAQ regarding ATOs and the Decision Briefing template.</p>
Do I need to be FedRamp certified?	<p>Fed Ramp and the DAF IT ATO process are not the same thing. For work in the DAF, IT Authorization is required. Fed Ramp certifications may be used as data for the IT Authorization (via reciprocity) however, one should consult with their program and ATO Authorizing Official up-front to ensure they are on the right path. In general SaaS do not need to be Fed Ramp Certified, however SaaS require an Air Force ATO.</p>
Can my Air Force customer give me their Unclassified data?	<p>The applicable cybersecurity office will guide you in this matter. Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) must be protected. See this document for an explanation. https://media.defense.gov/2019/Jul/25/2002162077/-1/-1/1/DODIG-2019-105.PDF</p>