# CIO Newsletter

## Special points of interest:

- Learn some intricacies of IT Enterprise Architecture.

- Is Digital Transformation right or wrong for AFIMSC?

- Discover the AFIMSC Data Fabric.

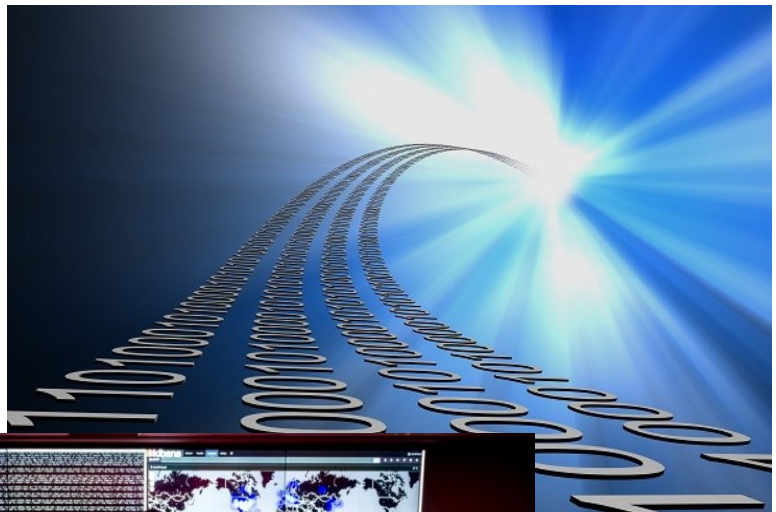- How does the EITRB ensure best bang for the buck?

# IMSC CIO Highlights

We have much happening in AFIMSC IT. Our Knowledge Management program is working on an enterprise event calendar and working with all PSU, Directorates and Detachments to implement knowledge management and become more effective. We recently performed an AFIMSC SharePoint audit identifying a number of sites with broken links, outdated information and running on older versions of SharePoint that ends next year. We are reaching out to the Enterprise to validate audit information, eliminate broken links and optimize SharePoint capabilities. We are moving 29 authoritative databases to AF approved libraries such as SAF/CO VAULTIS and SAF/A4 BLADE. AFIMSC directly supports mission accomplishment through these connected databases allowing our mission partners to obtain and use the most current information for mission decisions. Additionally, a continuing effort is to move information from desktop spreadsheets where the data is not readily available to online databases providing authoritative information to AF level decision makers. To ensure mission effectiveness, we are working with our AFIMSC partners to move systems and applications from on-site locations to the Cloud environment. This provides an "as needed, where needed" capability for critical mission support and effectiveness. Finally, we validate system security accreditations, monthly AF Cyber Surety audits to ensure our IT capabilities are accredited. In IT Portfolio Management, we are working with AFMC portfolio managers and PSU/Directorate OPRs to ensure Information Technology Information Processing System (ITIPS) information is accurate. Those efforts ensure mission funding requirements are correctly identified. Your IT portfolio manager also ensures systems have lifecycle and data management plans reducing IT risk to AFIMSC.

# From the Portfolio Corner...

In this issue we are going to focus on architecture, Enterprise Architecture (EA), Enterprise IT Architecture to be specific.

More than 80% of organizations do not execute their business strategies. It is estimated that in over 70% of these cases it was not a problem with the strategy itself, but ineffective execution. Enterprise Architecture is a well-defined practice for conducting enterprise analysis, design, planning, and implementation, using a holistic approach at all times, for the successful development and execution of strategy. Enterprise Architecture applies architecture principles and practices to guide organizations through the business, information, process, and technology changes necessary to execute their strategies. These practices utilize the various aspects of an enterprise to identify, motivate, and achieve these changes. [excerpts from "A Common Perspective on EA" by FEAPO]

In the Department of Defense (DoD), the development of an architecture for a system is called the DoD Architecture Framework (DoDAF). DoDAF is the overarching, comprehensive framework and conceptual model enabling the development of architectures for DoD systems. The DoDAF serves as one of the principal pillars supporting the DoD Chief Information Officer (CIO) in his responsibilities for the development and maintenance of architectures required under the Clinger-Cohen Act. [excerpt from Acqnotes]

DoD Components are expected to conform to DoDAF to the maximum extent possible in development of architectures within the Department. Conformance ensures that reuse of information, architecture artifacts, models, and viewpoints can be shared with common understanding. Conformance is expected in both the classified and unclassified communi-



ties, and further guidance will be forthcoming on specific processes and procedures for the classified architecture development efforts in the Department. DoDAF conformance is achieved when (1) the data in a described architecture is defined according to the DM2 concepts, associations, and attributes; and (2) the architectural data is capable of transfer in accordance with the PES. [excerpt from DoD CIO]

> "Architecture applies architecture principles and practices to guide organizations…"

# Digital Transformation

The Department of the Air Force recognizes the potential for better informed decision through more effective use of data collected by the Department. For years, the Air Force collected information in silos that saved and processed information about specific areas of interest. That data was not generally shared



across the many information silos, limiting decisions to only the available information in that silo.

Modern computing environments allow the Department to break down the silo walls and look at information more holistically. The shared data environment allows new ways to connect and view data that previously were not possible. The result is a more complete picture of decision impacts that span multiple sets of information and provide insights across functional areas not previously available to decision makers.

AFIMSC continues to press forward with efforts to move applications and data into cloud environments. Benefits include better visibility of decision impact across all functional areas, projection of decisions to future years and mission capabilities. For example, cross-functional transparency allows decision makers to see how the delay or reduction of FY 22 IT funding impacts remote computing capabilities critical to new business requirements like base of the future.

Digitally transforming AFIMSC to operate at the "speed of relevance" requires a transparent and holistic approach to decision making. The Air Force and AFIMSC continue efforts to transform the way the Department does business by leveraging cloud data capabilities. The efforts today will ensure the Air Force ability to defend against any adversary tomorrow.

# Data Fabric

The AFIMSC Data Office has been working with each Center, SAF/CO and HAF/A4 to update the status of all data sets previously identified.  These data sets make up our part of the Air Force Data Fabric.  Most of the data sets will reside in the Visible, Accessible, Understood, Linked, Trustworthy, Interoperable, Secure (VAULTIS) or HAF/ A4 Basing and

Decision Advantage. It serves Air Force executive leaders and operational management, tactical logisticians, civil engineers, defenders, and airmen from other various backgrounds. The users must assess assets and status, identify issues, and analyze roo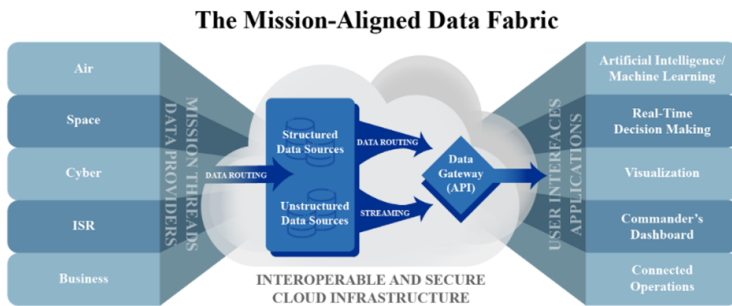t causes to ensure continued mission support. They must be able to quickly leverage data on demand in near real time to maintain the decision advantage edge.

AFIMSC's focus is to make the data available to decision-makers and those using data analytical tools.  These tools are able to analyze, process and present



The Mission-Aligned Data Fabric

Intelligent Data Fabric Foundational Elements: Governance, Policy, Standards

Logistics Analytics Data Environment (BLADE) cloud environments.

VAULTIS provides multi-tenant and multi-instance "as a service" capabilities. The environment allows tenants to perform data-related experimental, investigative, prototyping, and proof-of-concept activities in a secure environment. Every new tenant gets access to their own data storage, data transport services, and Zeppelin by default. Users are able to request access to additional applications, tenant environments, and new data sources using the ServiceNow-hosted front end.

BLADE offers a centralized data analytics solution to Air Force data users to enable

the data in a meaningful way.  Before the use of these tools, personnel would take months analyzing data to process and present it to those decision-makers.  With the proper tools, those same people can present the information in a matter of hours or days.  Not only that, when a crisis situation occurs, decisions can be made on available data within minutes.  The need is to ensure that the data available is current and reliable.

The AFIMSC Data Office is working with SAF/CN, HAF/A4 and all of the AFIMSC Centers to catalog the data.  The challenge is to identify what data is essential and needed to be ingested into the cloud systems.  It is essential that all data providers work to get their data sets ready for evaluation and possible ingestion.

"Before the use of these tools, personnel would take months analyzing data to process and present it…"

"Innovation is the ballgame of the 21st century and countries either lead or get left behind" SecDef Lloyd Austin III

# IT Resourcing

We are executing funds and preparing unfunded requirements for the end of the fiscal year. AFIMSC's mission sets are growing as is our spending on IT requirements. The Enterprise IT Requirements Board (EITRB) has been tasked to ensure we are getting the best value and are consolidating requirements. In the current financial environment, we all have the responsibility to ensure we

are being good stewards. If you have an IT requirement and would like assistance on finding a solution, please let us know. Our efforts focus on ensuring AFIMSC SharePoint capabilities are effective and cost efficient. We are happy to review and provide assistance. Lastly as a reminder, the EITRB must review all IT requirements prior to executing or obligating funds.

# AFIMSC CIO

**The Office of the Chief Information Officer leads a cross-functional IT Team to provide affordable, effective, and sustained warfighter support through adaptive, agile, and innovative solutions. The AFIMSC CIO and staff members head the Commander's initiative for Enterprise IT to function as a "unified" center through cross-functional processes and procedures.**