MATTHEW R. HOWARD

CYBERSECURITY & INFORMATION ASSURANCE | ISSO ● GRC/RMF ● SECURITY OPERATIONS

San Antonio, TX | linkedin.com/in/mhowardcybersecurity | mhoward14.github.io/cyber-portfolio

U.S. Citizen | Retired U.S. Air Force, 21 years of service

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Cybersecurity and information assurance professional with a 3.9-GPA M.S. and 21 years of U.S. Air Force service across DoD, NATO, and joint-command environments. Brings applied knowledge and experience in NIST RMF, GRC, vulnerability management, cloud security, zero trust, incident response, and security architecture, reinforced by more than six years of additional-duty ISSO and information-assurance responsibilities. Translates requirements into prioritized remediation, audit-ready documentation, and clear leadership decisions. Led teams of up to 25 and protected more than $8.2B in mission assets.

TARGET ROLES AND CORE QUALIFICATIONS

Target roles: ISSO | GRC/RMF Analyst | Cybersecurity / Information Assurance Specialist | Vulnerability Management | SOC / Security Analyst | Security Program Support

Governance and mission security: NIST SP 800-37/53/137/207, RMF, POA&M, SSP support, control mapping, audit readiness, continuous monitoring, CUI, COMSEC, classified environments, policy and SOP development

Platforms and security tools: Splunk / Splunk ES, Nessus, Tenable, Wazuh, CrowdStrike Falcon, Zscaler, Azure, Entra ID, Okta, Active Directory, Key Vault, Microsoft 365, SharePoint, Jira; eMASS and Xacta (training exposure)

Systems, networking, and development: Windows, Windows Server, Linux, macOS; LAN/WAN, VPN, switching/routing; Jamf MDM; JavaScript/TypeScript, Angular, Node.js, Python, HTML/CSS, MongoDB, REST APIs

Certifications: CompTIA Security+ CE | CySA+ CE | PenTest+ CE | ISC2 Certified in Cybersecurity (CC)

EDUCATION AND APPLIED CYBERSECURITY

Master of Science, Cybersecurity and Information Assurance - GPA 3.9 **May 2026**

Western Governors University | Graduate projects completed in academic and simulated environments

- Cybersecurity Capstone: Designed a security transformation for a simulated 500-user federal agency spanning governance, risk, IAM, zero-trust segmentation, Splunk ES monitoring, incident response, and phased implementation.
- GRC / ISSO Project — Dean's Excellence Award: Mapped controls to NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 5, FISMA, and PCI DSS; prioritized 28 risks; developed a POA&M; and designed continuous monitoring aligned with NIST SP 800-137.
- Security Operations, Penetration Testing, and Cloud / Network Security: Analyzed logs and packet captures, developed a controlled NIST SP 800-115 testing methodology, designed Azure RBAC and Key Vault protections, and assessed 20+ vulnerabilities using CVSS and NIST SP 800-30.

Bachelor of Science, Web Development | Bellevue University | 2020

Bachelor of Science, Web/Multimedia | University of Maryland | 2016

Associate of Applied Science, Information Management | Community College of the Air Force | 2015

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Information Security Manager / IT Knowledge Management Section Chief **Mar 2021 – Jul 2023**

U.S. Air Force - HQ Air Education and Training Command, Directorate of Intelligence | JBSA-Randolph, TX

- Conducted security inspections across 4 bases, 13 squadrons, and 272,000 square feet; documented 27 findings, authored 6 reports, and coordinated remediation, averting a training stoppage for 20,000 students.
- Managed a secure-facility access-control system, reviewed security documentation for temporary secure working areas, and validated physical-security requirements for a secure training-facility renovation.
- Led annual security data calls across 5 bases and 35 squadrons, consolidating accreditation and compliance information for higher-headquarters reporting.
- Reviewed performance work statements and DD Form 254 requirements for classified contracts; trained personnel on classified-information handling and destruction under DoDM 5200.01; coordinated with Security Forces and AFOSI.

Cyber Systems Technician II, DoD SkillBridge (while on active duty) **Jan 2023 – Mar 2023**

Namauu Technological and Industrial | San Antonio, TX

- Monitored endpoint and network-security alerts across 200+ devices using CrowdStrike Falcon EDR and Zscaler Zero Trust; documented incidents and response actions in Jira Service Management.
- Supported Jamf MDM deployment and resolved workstation, VPN, and LAN/WAN issues in a DoD contractor environment.

Security and Compliance Manager / IT Knowledge Management Section Chief **Feb 2017 – Feb 2021**

U.S. Air Force - North American Aerospace Defense Command | Peterson AFB, CO

- Resolved inherited COMSEC deficiencies, restored full accountability of cryptographic keying material, implemented repeatable verification procedures, and earned an Excellent rating on the follow-on inspection.
- Managed compliance records, classified-system documentation, access rosters, and 48 security groups across NIPR and SIPR environments for a joint and bi-national workforce.
- Led a security-incident inquiry, documented corrective actions, coordinated training for 18 personnel, and authored secure-operating SOPs for 5 interagency partners.
- Administered the NORAD Deputy Commander's front-office security program and Joint Staff-level correspondence; coordinated 28 secure VTCs with Canadian Armed Forces senior leadership.

Unit Security Manager / Document Control Officer / Knowledge Operations Section Chief **Jan 2013 – Feb 2017**

U.S. Air Force - NATO AWACS E-3A Component | Geilenkirchen, Germany

- Managed information media and document security for NATO's $5.3B E-3A AWACS fleet, maintaining accountability for 8,000+ classified items across 29 document-control cells and 4 locations; trained 23 officers and standardized inspections with a 26-point checklist.
- Reviewed 108,000 classified records, removed 90,000 obsolete items, and directed secure destruction of 110 hard drives and 4,000 mission-media tapes.
- Approved and allocated 106 assets within a $350K budget with zero discrepancies; coordinated a SIPRNet Virtual Desktop Infrastructure upgrade that improved system functionality by 500%.
- Supervised 4 technicians supporting SIPRNet Local Registration Authority operations, troubleshooting and closing out 871 token actions; directed a $15K training program for a 4-member mission defense team protecting a $91M network.
- Expedited 8 router upgrades to boost VTC bandwidth and integrated coalition network access for 128 users in 5 nations.

Knowledge Operations NCOIC / Additional-Duty ISSO **Aug 2009 – Jan 2013**

U.S. Air Force - 361st Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group | Hurlburt Field, FL

- Supported authorization activities with the base ISSM, system owners, and security personnel; maintained inventories and security documentation, contributed to SSP content, and mapped 48 information systems.
- Created and managed POA&M items for inspection deficiencies, assigned milestones and owners, validated corrective-action status, and tracked remediation through closure.
- Coordinated installation of 7 classified-network workstations, expanding secure network access for group staff.

Information Manager / Client Systems Administrator / Additional-Duty ISSO **Aug 2006 – Aug 2009**

U.S. Air Force - 693rd Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group | Ramstein AB, Germany

- Supported approximately 500 systems across four locations, resolving 500+ network problems and maintaining a 98% readiness rating; reviewed access rosters, account permissions, security logs, and configurations.
- Directed IT support for a grants-system changeover linking a $16M program across 60 personnel at 4 international sites; developed remote access to a critical system that enabled $9M in science and technology investments.
- Revamped the main server's backup system and migrated science and technology data off failing servers, achieving 100% data recovery with zero downtime or data loss, including restoring 12 GB of mission-critical data.
- Led a 4-member team through an office renovation and new-network launch, protecting $250K in assets and cutting downtime by 50%; purchased and installed equipment for 16 technical staff.

Earlier U.S. Air Force Service: 2002–2006 | Information management, records governance, and user support

INDEPENDENT CYBERSECURITY PORTFOLIO AND DEVSECOPS

- Built eight interactive, unit-tested Angular security tools (ATT&CK attack paths, cloud configuration, IR simulation, RMF tracking, framework crosswalk, Zero Trust, payment security, and secure CI/CD), each mapped to its governing standard.
- Hardened the GitHub Pages CI/CD pipeline with SHA-pinned third-party Actions, deny-by-default permissions, and separate read-only build and deploy-only (Pages/OIDC) privileges.