



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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SSG to head IT Commodity Council

MAXWELL AFB, GUNTER ANNEX, Ala—The Air Force Chief Information Officer and the Air Force's Deputy Assistant Secretary (Contracting) have jointly selected the Standards Systems Group to head up the new Air Force Information Technology Commodity Council (AFITCC).

"SSG is the ideal place to form the nucleus of the Air Force's IT Commodity Council," Mr. Ken Heitkamp, the newly appointed director of the IT Commodity Council, said. "The IT, integration, standardization and enterprise-wide mission support for the Air Force are found here at SSG."

Commodity Councils are an industry-proven technique to better leverage and manage commodity purchases. The AFITCC includes representatives from across the Air Force Major Command and Air Staff. This AFITCC will develop Air Force-wide strategies for buying and managing information technology products. Once the strategies are approved and contracts are in place, Air Force users will maintain the decentralized flexibility to order what they need, when they need it through AFWay.

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“An Air Force IT Commodity Council will greatly benefit the Air Force,” said Mr. John Gilligan, the Air Force Chief Information Officer. “By bringing together a group of experts from across the Air Force to establish IT procurement strategies we can focus on our enterprise needs, reduce the unit cost of goods/services and ensure we're spending our IT dollars wisely.”

“The Air Force currently buys IT at the organization level and does not take full advantage of the overall buying power of the Air Force,” added Mr. Charlie Williams, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Contracting). “The strategies the Commodity Council develops will allow the Air Force to make better use of acquisition resources and fully leverage the buying power of the Air Force. The lessons learned and best practices of this council will be carried forward to other commodity councils that will be established by the Air Force for other commodities.”

The Commodity Council will stand-up in mid-June and will operate on a daily basis using collaboration tools through the Air Force Portal and virtual meetings. The group will first focus on desktop and laptop computers and then IT peripherals. Buying strategies will eventually be formed for everything dealing with commercial IT.

The Standard Systems Group provides and sustains combat support information systems for the Air Force and Department of Defense. The group procures leading edge information technology products used by virtually every organization on Air Force military bases worldwide.