Featured Colleague

Meet Robert Slaughter
Director of DoD’s Platform One

The Department of Defense’s **Platform One** team is a group of software developers based out of the Air Force that builds and secures technology tools across the military. Platform One pushes DevSecOps, so that security is taken into account early in the software pipeline, speeding up its acquisition and delivery.

Rob Slaughter, the co-founder and Director of Platform One, graduated from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University’s Space Physics program, having commissioned through the university’s ROTC program in 2008. His initial passions were particle physics and advanced propulsion systems. Slaughter continued his technical and academic career at the Air Force Institute of Technology, and received a Master’s and PhD in nuclear physics and computer vision. During this time, he also founded several commercial startups that focused on software solutions and mobile application development, and organized a highly successful Kickstarter campaigns for a mobile application that raised money for charities (selling upwards of $25,000 in t-shirts).

Slaughter has held a number of traditional assignments throughout his 12-year Air Force career, but over the last few years has focused on non-traditional innovation roles. Rob has accomplished a number of notable software and innovation achievements for the USAF having deployed the first AI/ML routines for predictive maintenance for legacy aircraft, was the co-founder of the Space Accelerator program, the initial DevOps lead for the National Space Defense Center, and the co-founder of the software factory SpaceCAMP.

His current passion is people and collaboration. He drives a badge-less, happy go lucky culture at Platform One (including the establishment of Waffle Wednesdays—which never took place on Wednesdays—wherein he cooked waffles for his colleagues). He works within the community to drive vendor agnostic and open source solutions. He fundamentally believes that people work best together, collaborating across services and program offices. He believes in and wants to build a future where the DoD is a global leader in DevSecOps and believes a focus on people and collaboration are the only ways to get there.

**Did you Know?** Platform One has responded to the coronavirus pandemic by being one of the first federal teams to implement a 100% remote (distributed) work-from-anywhere posture. For more information on this, see [https://www.fedscoop.com/dod-air-force-platform-one-remote-telework-covid-19/](https://www.fedscoop.com/dod-air-force-platform-one-remote-telework-covid-19/)
OCTOBER: Agile DC Virtual Summit: https://agileonlinesummit.com/agile-online-summit-2020-keynotes-speakers/

ONGOING:

- PrometheusGO Naval DevSecOps Community of Practice virtual weekly meeting All are welcome to join via Teams, or by phone, Tuesdays 1pm - Dial 571-388-3904, Conference ID 130 035 638
- Agile Coaching Network (ACN) offers free learning webcasts – See https://www.agilealliance.org/agile-coaching-network

Ask an Expert

Question: When will the Interim Policy and Procedures for the Software Acquisition Pathway be replaced with formal policy? Answer: DoDI 5000.87, “Operation of the Software Acquisition Pathway” was signed by Ellen M Lord, USD(A&S) and released on 2 October. See https://www.milsuite.mil/book/docs/DOC-877780 and https://www.esd.whs.mil/DD

Thinking of declaring use of the SW Pathway? Let us know, we can answer your questions: osd.mc-alex.ousd-a-s.mbx.osd-sw-pathway@mail.mil

Software Acquision in the News

Air Force Gen Brown: Accelerate Change or Lose. CSAF Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr. says the AF must change quickly because “our advantage as a nation, as an Air Force, as a joint team, is eroding…” See https://www.airforcemag.com/brown-accelerate-change-or-lose/?fbclid=IwAR0P4rLDHYZBTZa8hWVje5mMYKDLyhgzn39APELP94MQy1mQy7DkLMqhC8


Outreach

Software Acquisition Pathway Roadshow: Sean Brady, DoD Lead for Software Acquisition Policy & Workforce, continued to update communities of interest on the software acquisition pathway and DevSecOps. On Sept 14, he briefed MARCOR leadership with a Senior Executive Panel, an event hosted by Brig General Pasagian, for an audience of a dozen USMC 1-2 star GOs and SES. On Sept 29th, Brady briefed the Professional Services Council. Presentations are posted on the SW Pathway Col: https://www.milsuite.mil/book/docs/DOC-874939 and https://www.milsuite.mil/book/docs/DOC-878393, respectively.

The Next 5 Years of Defense Innovation: A virtual fireside chat with General John E. Hyten, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is open to the public on Sept 21 to discuss DoD leverage of commercial technology to strengthen U.S. national security. Zoom registration required. See https://www.diu.mil/latest/the‐next‐5‐years‐of‐defense‐innovation‐with‐vcjcs‐gen‐john‐hyten and https://youtu.be/p4hwp2DwnyM