



## **Case Study: USAF HI Cloud Acceleration & Transformation Support (HICATS)**

**Summary:** Shee Atiká Federal (SHF) helped the U.S. Air Force accelerate secure cloud adoption while sustaining Risk Management Framework (RMF) compliance and Authorization to Operate (ATO) across fast-moving, hybrid environments delivering real-time risk visibility, cleaner audits, and resilient mission operations.

### **The Challenge**

HICATS needed to modernize at speed without sacrificing security: multiple applications and databases moving to cloud, evolving **Security Technical Implementation Guides (STIG)** requirements, continuous releases, and rising threats all under strict **RMF** oversight and ATO sustainment.

### **Our Approach**

**Security leadership embedded:** SHF's **Information System Security Managers/Officers (ISSM/ISSO)** led a continuous authorization operating model planning, documenting, and validating security controls to **achieve and maintain ATO** with minimal operational disruption.

**Shift-left assurance:** We integrated security early in the lifecycle, adding automated checkpoints and repeatable evidence collection to streamline audits and reduce rework.

**Targeted testing at scale:** Comprehensive cybersecurity testing combined **static/dynamic code analysis, database vulnerability scanning, and application/system assessments** aligned to **STIGs** and **Open Web Application Security Project (OWASP)** standards.

**Continuous monitoring:** An **Information Security Continuous Monitoring (ISCM)** strategy delivered near real-time threat awareness correlating signals, prioritizing findings, and driving risk-based remediation that sustains RMF compliance.



### What We Delivered

- **ATO achieved and sustained** across cloud and on-prem baselines with documented inheritance and clear control accountability.
- **Cleaner audits, faster cycles:** Automated evidence, Plans of Action and Milestones (POA&M) hygiene, and standardized artifacts reduced audit friction and accelerated releases.
- **Actionable risk posture:** Continuous monitoring and prioritized remediation cut exposure windows and improved meantime to respond.
- **Operational continuity:** Security enhancements deployed without interrupting mission systems or delivery timelines.

### Capabilities Applied

- RMF strategy, control implementation, and continuous authorization
- ISCM design and operations (cloud, hybrid, on-prem)
- Secure Software Development Lifecycle (SDLC) with **Static/Dynamic Application Security Testing (S/DAST)**, Database (DB) scanning, app/system assessments
- Compliance alignment: **STIGs, OWASP**
- ATO documentation, evidence automation, and POA&M management
- Incident response runbooks and readiness exercises

**Result:** A resilient, audit-ready security program that keeps pace with modernization enabling USAF teams to deliver capability faster, with confidence.

*Let's fortify your mission together.*