



UNDER SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

MAR 22 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR ALMAJCOM COMMANDERS
AUTHORIZING OFFICIALS

SUBJECT: Fast-Track Authorization to Operate (ATO)

- References: (a) DoDI 8510.01, Risk Management Framework (RMF) for DoD Information Technology (IT), Change 2, 28 Jul 2017
(b) AFI 17-101_AFGM2018-01, Risk Management Framework (RMF) for Air Force Information Technology (IT), 30 May 2018

Recognizing that the implementation to-date of the Authorization to Operate (ATO) approval process in the Air Force has not kept pace with the latest cyber threats and adhere to an antiquated checklist/compliance-based behavior vice outcomes. We have developed and I hereby authorize an alternative path to an ATO called "*Fast Track ATO*."

The *Fast-Track* process gives Authorizing Officials (AOs) the discretion to make an authorization decision based on review of the combination of a Cybersecurity Baseline, an Assessment (e.g. Penetration Test), and an Information Systems Continuous Monitoring Strategy. AOs are expected to make operationally informed risk decisions by working closely with information system owners and warfighters to find the appropriate balance between rapid deployment and appropriate level of risk assessment. Applications for *Fast Track* include software developed for secured cloud infrastructure, but AOs may consider other applications as well. Systems not prepared to endure a strong penetration test are not good candidates for *Fast-Track*.

The attached *Fast-Track ATO* policy includes the implementation guidance memo with a process overview and other supporting materials. Direct any questions to the Deputy Chief Information Security Officer, usaf.pentagon.saf-cio-a6.mbx.a6z-workflow@mail.mil or DSN 312-260-2560.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew P. Donovan".

Matthew P. Donovan

Attachment:
Fast Track ATO Policy