



**SteelCloud**

## Protecting Warfighters with Rapidly Deployed, SECURE SYSTEMS

**CHALLENGE:** Improving delivery time of C2ISR systems to the front lines.

For those who support the mission of our Armed Forces, there is no greater objective than to protect the warfighters on the front lines. This is especially critical when it comes to the Command & Control, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C2ISR) systems used to collect, process, disseminate and defend our national secrets. Getting new systems, updates and patches implemented in a timely manner is critical to protecting a mission bad actors want so desperately to penetrate.

The Air Force's C2ISR cybersecurity team was working long hours and weekends applying Security Technical Implementation Guides (STIGs) to harden the hardware and software of reconnaissance and weapons systems like the U-2, Predator, Reaper and Joint STARS. The technologies are constantly changing, and it is essential that these assets be updated rapidly so warfighters have secure, cutting-edge weapons and technologies at their disposal. Going through the STIG compliance process manually meant critical security updates might take two weeks to a month to be implemented. With adversaries trying to infiltrate our technologies at every turn, the Air Force's C2ISR group was constantly looking for ways to speed up the delivery of safe, secure tools to the front lines.

**SOLUTION:** Implementing the DoD's most proven and preferred compliance automation solution.

With speed and security on his mind, one of the Air Force's Information Assurance and System's Engineers ran into a SteelCloud employee at a conference who walked him through a demo of ConfigOS. ConfigOS is the leading tool for automating STIG compliance.

SteelCloud showed the Air Force how ConfigOS scans and remediates STIGs in as little as an hour—a process that was currently taking them up to a month. Because STIGs break things, ConfigOS has a rollback capability that makes it easy to restore your systems while you analyze the breaks. It collects compliance reporting data. And it can be used to consistently apply STIGs at multiple sites around the world. The Air Force was on board with ConfigOS and SteelCloud implemented it immediately.

## **OUTCOMES:** Delivering secure C2ISR systems to the front lines faster.

The first time the Air Force ran ConfigOS on their systems, they were shocked. The work that previously took 2-4 weeks was completed in just two days. As a result, the team was sure ConfigOS was giving false positives. It was too good to be true. But further investigation revealed that the results they got were real.

The team also tested the rollback feature and found that, rather than research hundreds of STIGs one-by-one to find the broken one, they could apply multiple STIGs to their rollback data at once to eliminate suspects in batches. This feature, alone, saved countless, mind-numbing hours for the team. In fact, they found ConfigOS did the heavy lifting at each phase of the compliance process, from downloading STIG updates and determining which STIGs apply to scanning, remediation and reporting. They could even customize their STIG settings and exceptions.

The Air Force's objective was complete. ConfigOS shaved weeks off their delivery schedule, saved the program money, delivered error-free results, relieved compliance headaches and gave the team their evenings and weekends back.



**U.S. AIR FORCE**

*“Security is paramount when it comes to the military. As a Marine veteran and cybersecurity professional, nothing is more important in my job than protecting our warfighters and making sure we deliver safe and secure products to the front lines. I could talk all day about how SteelCloud’s automation helps us do that faster and more accurately than ever before.”*

*Ashful Williams, Air Force ISSM, C2ISR*