

2018 ACSC Annual Conference

On November 8th, we held our Annual Conference, [ACSC 2018: CONNECT](#). Nearly 200 professionals in the New England cyber community were in attendance along with a fantastic line up of keynote speakers and panelists talking about aspects of collaborative defense, workforce development, and public policy. Thank you to the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston for hosting the conference and our sponsors, .406 Ventures, Brown University, CyberArk, Everbridge, Federal Reserve Bank, Foley Hoag, Rapid7 and Thermo Fisher Scientific.



First Annual Klein Awards Recipients (L to R): Rear Admiral Mike Brown, Katie Stebbins, Sean Travis. Also pictured Michael Figueroa.

Fall Happenings

We held a successful first iteration of our Collaborative Defense Simulation exercises in September as well as our monthly Cyber Tuesday roundtable events. We also attended the Massachusetts Cybersecurity Forum hosted by the Mass Cyber Center where ACSC Board Members Mike Brown and John McKenna along with Michael Figueroa presented on “Collaborative Defense: Increasing Cybersecurity Resiliency.”

In addition to events, we welcomed [Chris Zannetos](#), Co-Founder and CEO of Covered Security, to the ACSC Board of Directors and look forward to his guidance as we continue building upon our successful foundation at the ACSC.

Collaborative Defense

Earlier this year, Mass Insight Global Partnerships produced a report for the ACSC with support from McKinsey & Co. on [Collaborative Cyber Defense](#) which outlines five areas of opportunity:

- Cybersecurity Governance Requires C-Suite Leadership
- Information Sharing: Expanding, but Barriers Remain
- Third-Party Security Evaluations: A Collaborative Opportunity
- Workforce Development: A Major Challenge and Collaborative Opportunity
- Simulations: An Increasingly Important Training Opportunity

The final area on simulations supports the ACSC position that holding cross-industry exercises can deliver significant value to our member organizations. We would like to thank the DHS National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD) and Under Secretary Chris Krebs for supporting the design and execution of our first Collaborative Defense Simulation, ACSC Board members Mike Brown and John McKenna for leading the initiative and ACSC members Robbie Meitler (Liberty Mutual) and Brett Paradis

(National Grid) as planning advisors. The combined expertise helped as create a realistic scenario with a regional focus. The ACSC was pleased to present detailed findings at the conference, which will be followed by a full report to be distributed to ACSC members soon.

CyberStories

Our latest CyberStories continue our focus on women in cyber with profiles on Alyssa Feola, Cybersecurity Advisor for the U.S. Air Force, and Laura Sachar, General Partner with StarVest Partners. To read more CyberStories, we invite you to check out our growing [library](#).



Alyssa Feola, CISSP
Cybersecurity Advisor
U.S. Air Force



Laura Sachar
General Partner
StarVest Partners

“(In a prior role) their lack of acceptance of me wasn’t about my gender or age, but was a function of the team not liking the infosec person. The job was to challenge them to make sure their work was adequate, so I think they didn’t actually want someone that skilled in the position. We need to do more to educate and bring awareness to technology teams about the importance of cybersecurity.”

“I started StarVest Partners in 1998. I had the passion for starting a venture capital firm and I had a vision of where the world was going so I was able to put that all together. The opportunity was there, I just needed to see it and take it. By starting my own fund, I was in a position to make the investment choices. I saw it as the most direct path to being able to execute on my vision and bring together the right partners.”

Please visit our website, www.acscenter.org or follow us on Twitter @ACSCorg to read the latest on what the ACSC is thinking and hearing within the New England security community and beyond.