

ERIK CASS

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Clearance: Former TS/SCI (inactive), eligible for reinstatement **Veteran:** U.S. Air Force (1993-1997)

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Defense cloud and security engineer, RMF authorization practitioner, and compliance-automation builder with more than 25 years in IT and cybersecurity, including over two decades in defense cloud and compliance-driven engineering. With over a decade of AWS engineering, I have laid the foundational cloud engineering for both the classified and unclassified Cloud Computing Environments (CCEs) at Air Force Special Operations Command, through Information Impact Level 6 (IL6); have developed Risk Management Framework (RMF) authorization packages end-to-end in eMASS and earned an Authority to Operate under a designated Authorizing Official; and built NIST SP 800-53-aligned security automation, OSCAL tooling, and applied-AI document analysis. This sits at an intersection of growing demand: as security and compliance shift from paper to engineered, machine-readable artifacts, the field increasingly needs a single practitioner who can write it, operationalize it, and prove it by authoring the controls and authorization, engineering the systems and automation that satisfy them, and substantiate compliance with evidence and AI-assisted analysis.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Business Leadership & DoD Acquisition	Founder and operator of an independent consulting practice (4+ years), spanning P&L, business development, and end-to-end client delivery; program management of government technology programs; participation in formal DoD engineering and acquisition reviews (PDR, CDR, COA analysis); leadership and stakeholder briefing.
Cloud & Security Engineering	AWS Commercial and GovCloud architecture (nearly 10 years); IL2-IL6 environments; hardened-image (AMI) pipelines; Infrastructure as Code; DevSecOps / CI-CD; IAM / PKI; centralized security audit logging and monitoring; enterprise networking and virtualization; disaster recovery and high availability.
Security Monitoring & Compliance Automation	Centralized, NIST-aligned audit logging and monitoring on OpenSearch with AWS Config, Security Hub, GuardDuty, and Inspector; system-architecture-to-OSCAL control mapping; compliance automation tooling.
RMF & Authorization	RMF process (NIST SP 800-37); end-to-end SSP and control-implementation authoring; eMASS package development to ATO; NIST SP 800-53 control implementation; assessment/POA&M workflow; OSCAL; FedRAMP concepts.
Applied AI	Large-language-model application to compliance and document analysis, including control-narrative extraction into source-grounded, confidence-scored structured assertions.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Palladium Innovations, LLC - Managing Member 2022-Present

AWS architecture, cybersecurity, and compliance-driven engineering for government and mission-focused customers.

- Developed a complete RMF authorization package end-to-end in eMASS for the Exhibit Arts Fulfillment System, an eCommerce system developed to support the DPFSSO Marketing and Fulfillment Services contract and authorized by the Defense Human Resources Activity (DHRA); authored the control implementation statements, assembled the System Security Plan and supporting artifacts, and earned the system's initial Authority to Operate (2023), sustaining the package through the program's conclusion in 2026.
- Built centralized, NIST SP 800-53-aligned audit logging and monitoring on OpenSearch, integrating AWS Config, Security Hub, GuardDuty, and Inspector for continuous security and compliance visibility.
- Developed OSCAL tooling and a system-architecture-to-OSCAL control-mapping capability that links system design to NIST SP 800-53 controls; published open-source OSCAL work including *fedramp-cr26-oscal* (machine-readable OSCAL artifacts and 800-53 Rev 5 mappings for the FedRAMP CR26 preview).
- Drove a commercial software vendor's SOC 2 attestation and FedRAMP authorization efforts, including control implementation, evidence collection, and audit readiness.

Northwest Florida State College - Adjunct Professor 2023-Present

- Instruct undergraduate IT and computer science coursework and mentor students entering the field; courses taught include Introduction to Programming, Introduction to Computer Science, CompTIA A+ (hardware), and CompTIA Tech+ (part-time; does not conflict with primary employment at Palladium).

GDIT / ARMA Global - Program Manager 2020-2023

- Managed an Architecture and Network Engineering program supporting special operations science and technology initiatives, spanning multiple subject areas including engineering assessments, evaluation of commercial low-Earth-orbit satellite connectivity (Starlink), assessment of ground satellite terminals and related communications architectures, and more.

GDIT / ARMA Global - Principal Systems Engineer / Senior Cloud Architect 2012-2020

- Laid the foundational engineering for both the classified and unclassified Cloud Computing Environments (CCEs) at Air Force Special Operations Command, in direct support of the command's Chief Technology Officer (CTO) as principal customer - among AFSOC's earliest AWS deployments, spanning unclassified through IL6 classified environments.
- Built repeatable, hardened-AMI deployment pipelines and Infrastructure-as-Code methodologies for secure cloud delivery.
- Participated in formal DoD engineering and acquisition activities, including Preliminary and Critical Design Reviews (PDR/CDR) and Course-of-Action (COA) analysis.
- Adapted secure collaboration technologies (Wickr, BigBlueButton) for cloud-based mission environments; routinely briefed leadership on technical and architectural decisions.

Intecon - Principal Systems Engineer 2009-2012

- Supported Air Operations Center weapon systems and mission applications in secure operational environments; implemented vulnerability management, system hardening, and disaster recovery.

Earlier Roles - Systems Administrator / Engineer / Instructor 1997-2009

- Designed and maintained enterprise networks, supported VMware virtualization, built automation solutions, and delivered technical instruction across operational environments.

SELECTED PROJECTS

- **fedramp-cr26-oscal** (maintainer) - generates unofficial, machine-readable OSCAL artifacts (XML/JSON/YAML), profile shells, and NIST SP 800-53 Rev 5 mappings for the FedRAMP CR26 preview; dependency-free Node.js github.com/Palladium-Innovations/fedramp-cr26-oscal
- **velsa-ce** (maintainer) - production-grade, source-available event-management platform (PHP 8.5 / Laravel, React) offered as a Palladium product; demonstrates full-stack engineering and product delivery. github.com/velsa-hq/velsa-ce

EDUCATION	CERTIFICATIONS
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- **M.S., Management of Information Systems, *Cum Laude***, (2026) - Florida State University
- **B.S., Computer Science**, (2018) - Florida State University
- **A.S., Culinary Arts, *Magna Cum Laude*** (2021) - Northwest Florida State College
- **A.A.**, (2013) - Northwest Florida State College

MILITARY SERVICE

- **U.S. Air Force**, Tactical Aircraft Maintenance (AFSC 2A351A), F-111 - active duty 1993-1997

- CompTIA CASP+ / SecurityX, Advanced Security Practitioner (expired)
- CompTIA A+ (lifetime certification)
- LINBIT Certified Engineer
- Additional coursework and certifications across AWS, Microsoft, VMware, Red Hat, and CompTIA platforms

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Spanish (working proficiency)
- Extensive government-contracting and mission-focused experience
- Shipley-based proposal and capture development