



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC

1 October 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR AIRMEN OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

FROM: SAF/CIO A6
1800 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1800

SUBJECT: Cybersecurity Awareness Month – October 2015

21st century warfare has quickly extended beyond the traditional domains of air, space, land, and sea. Cyberspace has emerged as the latest domain. From fuel pumps on the flight line, GPS links on weapons platforms, to the computer on your desk - every system that operates in and through cyberspace represents a vulnerability to the domain. So how do we protect the data, systems, and people who rely on cyberspace?

YOU are the first line of defense! Every time you log onto a system, retrieve data from a device, click on a link, or save a file, you must practice cyber hygiene: strong passwords, consistent cybersecurity practices, and unwavering vigilance against “phishing” attempts. Nobody is immune to cyberattack attempts. Since December 2013, there have been no fewer than seven major breaches affecting nearly 430 million records (i.e., social security numbers, health records, names, birthdates, addresses, etc.). In a recent report from the Defense Cyber Crime Center, 76% of cyberattacks in 2014 were attributed to phishing attempts (attachments and links from unknown sources).

Other studies have shown 85% of previous network intrusions could have been prevented with basic defense or hygiene. Doing your part not only helps secure the domain and the missions reliant on cyberspace, but also “reduces the noise” thus improving the ability for our Cyberspace Operators to find the sophisticated and stealthy threats.

The USAF must continue to adopt and promote a culture of cybersecurity. As we focus on cybersecurity this month, help establish and enforce this mindset for yourself and your workplace. Use this as an opportunity to improve cyber hygiene and defense well beyond this month so we can continue to support and defend our great nation across every domain.

Please join me in doing your part to secure the cyberspace domain, to provide mission assurance across the Air Force in support of the Joint fight.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William J. Bender".

WILLIAM J. BENDER, Lt Gen, USAF
Chief, Information Dominance and
Chief Information Officer