

**Washington, DC** - This morning, the San Antonio Congressional Delegation met with Air Force Major General William Lord to discuss the Air Force's plans to select a new permanent cyber command facility location. The facility will be responsible for defending the nation against security and infrastructure threats via cyberspace. Currently, the Air Force is operating out of a provisional command center, the Air Force Cyber Command (Provisional) or AFCYBER (P), based out of Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana. The provisional center, overseen by Major General Lord, utilizes personnel and resources from existing cyber command projects across the country, including those in San Antonio.

“Our meeting provided a valuable opportunity to reiterate the obvious: San Antonio is an ideal site for the Air Force's permanent cyber command facility,” **said Congressman Charlie Gonzalez (TX-20).**

“I'm pleased that San Antonio personnel are already playing a significant role in the operations of the provisional command center, and through this process, I'm confident that the Air Force will recognize the unparalleled resources our community would offer a permanent facility,” he added.

“San Antonio is the ideal location for the permanent Air Force Cyber Command. Our city has a highly-skilled workforce, a diverse economy, and existing research and business resources, such as UTSA CIAS, Southwest Research Institute, and the Texas Research Park. We will continue working in a bi-partisan fashion to urge the Air Force to bring its Command facility to our city,” **said Congressman Lamar Smith (TX-21).**

“As Chairman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness, and Response, I understand the necessity of creating a permanent post for the Air Force's Cyber Command Center, and San Antonio is an appropriate location. The various technological and educational institutions based in the San Antonio area will be excellent resources for a facility. Today's meeting with the San Antonio Congressional Delegation and Air Force Major General William Lord proved valuable for this effort,” **Congressman Cuellar (TX-28) noted.**

“The robust cyber-security research community in San Antonio has transformed the Alamo City into a national leader on the subject,” **said Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23).** “Our unified San Antonio Congressional delegation met with the Air Force today to assure them there is no better location than the Alamo City for the permanent Air Force Cyber Command Center. In addition to the abundant military and research resources in our community, our delegation has experience in creating and sustaining cyber-security programs, so successfully demonstrated by the preeminent Dark Screen program, a partnership between UTSA and the Department of Defense-Lackland.”

The Air Force expects to announce the site selection for their permanent facility in early 2008.

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