Foreign Military Sales Cybersecurity Assistance Framework

The Foreign Military Sales (FMS) Cybersecurity Assistance (FCA) framework leverages MITRE's cybersecurity expertise to assist partner nations with cyber maturity assessments and with developing an organic cybersecurity capacity.

Assessing Cyber Risks in Interoperable Environments

Connecting partner nation (PN) command and control (C2) networks and systems into bilateral warfighting networks with the United States (US) greatly enhances interoperability, while introducing increased cybersecurtiy risks to both parties. The US government recommends the use of its Risk Management Framework (RMF) to assess these risks.

The RMF provides a comprehensive collection of best practices that can be applied throughout an organization, from the strategic oversight and governance tiers down through the operational and tactical tiers to quantify, assess, and manage cybersecurity risks for an entire organization.

Security frameworks are designed to be applicable to a wide range of missions, environments, and technologies and should not be implemented solely via predetermined checklists incorporated into a compliance-driven methodology. MITRE brings deep and wide-ranging expertise in cybersecurity engineering and assessments to assist with strategic implementation of industry best practices and the RMF.

MITRE's support to a cyber program in USAFRICOM resulted in increased organizational cyber maturity and contributed to the approval of a precedent-setting risk management strategy.

Foreign Military Sales Cybersecurity Assistance Framework

FMS Cybersecurity Assistance Scope

The FMS Cybersecurity Assistance framework was developed in cooperation with the US Defense Security Cooperation Agency and US global combatant commands (GCC) to provide PNs expert technical assistance with a range of cybersecurity topics in a flexible framework that can be adapted to each partner's specific needs. The FCA framework addresses three focus areas:

- Cybersecurity maturity assessments
- Cybersecurity capability development and/or enhancement
- Bilateral (US/PN GCC) cyber risk assessments supporting capability integration

There is overlap between these three focus areas: While initial assistance may be driven by Bilateral Risk Cyber Assessment (BCRA) requirements, those same requirements may uncover policy, procedural, or technical gaps that need to be addressed but are out of scope of the FMS program(s) driving the need for the BCRA. The FCA framework is structured to allow flexible tasking and resourcing to address PN needs in a variety of areas and at all organizational levels.

FCA Tiered Engagement Strategy

Depending on PN and US combatant command needs, MITRE subject matter experts engage and assist at any level of a partner's organization. MITRE uses the following engagment strategy:

Tier 1, National or Ministry of Defense/Organization level: PNs develop capabilities in the areas of cyber strategy and policy development, cyber workforce development, implementation roadmaps, and resource planning.

Tier 2, Mission/Business Process level: PNs identify existing cybersecurity capabilities, systems personnel, facilities, and resourcing commitments.

Tier 3, Platforms/Information System level: PNs identify the missions supported, the data exchanges needed, the technologies used for data exchanges, and the environment and context in which technologies will be deployed.

For information about MITRE's FCA expertise and capabilities, contact fca@mitre.org.
For more information about MITRE, visit mitre.org.

FCA Development Partners

- Defense Security Cooperation Agency
- U.S. Africa Command
- U.S. Central Command

Resources

NIST Special Publication 800-39, Managing Information Security Risk, Organization, Mission, and Information System View

NIST Special Publication 800-53 Rev. 5, Security and Privacy Controls for Information Systems and Organizations

The Committee on National Security Systems (CNSS) Instruction No. 1253, Security Categorization and Control Selection for National Security Systems

MITRE's mission-driven teams are dedicated to solving problems for a safer world. Through our public-private partnerships and federally funded R&D centers, we work across government and in partnership with industry to tackle challenges to the safety, stability, and well-being of our nation.

MITRE | SOLVING PROBLEMS FOR A SAFER WORLD®