# US AIR FORCE AWARDS PRAESES A TACFI CONTRACT TO EXPAND THE USE OF PRAESES' SITUATIONAL AWARENESS AND COMMON OPERATING PICTURE SOFTWARE IN ICBM OPERATIONS CENTERS

Air Force Global Strike Command will utilize actionable data enabled via Praeses' software to enhance and modernize security operations for Nuclear Deterrence Operations.

**(July 12, 2022)** Through the use of the Tactical Funds Increase (TacFI) Program, the US Air Force has awarded a contract to Praeses to expand the use of Praeses' Watchtower™ system at all three ICBM missile wings which operate under Air Force Global Strike Command whose headquarters is located on Barksdale AFB. Watchtower is a cross-domain and cross-organization data sharing technology developed by Praeses through the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program with support from the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) and Air Force Global Strike Command. After the successful deployment at all missile wings, Watchtower will become a Program of Record with sustainment provided by the Minuteman III System Program Office at the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center.

Watchtower's expansion will serve a critical role in improving efficiencies, communication, and situational awareness in the ICBM operations centers by securely integrating data from disparate, siloed unclassified and classified systems, many of which were not originally designed to share data with other systems. Watchtower solves the challenge for the Air Force of being able to compile data and report on the status and the environment surrounding hundreds of missile facilities spread out over 29,000 square miles. Watchtower enables real-time decision support by bringing together disparate data elements including maintenance, weather, wildfire data, communication status, location, road conditions, security, and tracking into one Common Operating Picture. The installation is underway and will be fully implemented at all three ICBM missile wings by the spring of 2023.

Watchtower is an implementation of Praeses' Rook Platform™, which is a data fusion and visualization tool. The Rook Platform™ unifies data from many sources across multiple networks regardless of data standards and requires no modification to existing systems. Rook's key capabilities include:

- DATA CONSOLIDATION – ingests data using powerful tools from multiple heterogeneous sources
- DATA MANAGEMENT – fuses data in new and interesting ways
- DATA VISUALIZATION - provides highly-configurable visualization engine
- DATA ACCESS CONTROL – grants access to users in an infinitely customizable manner
- DATA SHARING – allows single location access from multiple, previously inaccessible systems

"Implementing Watchtower at Minot and F.E Warren Air Force Bases allows us to reach a critical milestone as we transfer the project from a SBIR contract to an Air Force Program of Record," says J.D. Hunsicker, Vice President of Government Programs at Praeses. "Successfully bridging a program from a small businesses' solution to a government need across the acquisition 'valley of death' to reach the maturity required for operational sustainment is a rare feat. We are proud to expand the longstanding partnership with the Air Force by continuing to deliver innovation, value, and critical mission support to the warfighter keeping our nation safe."

To learn more about Praeses, Watchtower, the Rook Platform™ and how it can benefit your organization – whether governmental or in the private sector, visit https://praeses.com/government-programs/, https://praeses.com/rookplatform/, or contact our Vice President of Government Programs, J.D. Hunsicker at james.hunsicker@Praeses.com.

*For nearly 40 years, Praeses has provided critical software solutions in a flexible and agile manner to commercial and government customers. Praeses combines innovation with industry and technology expertise to understand the needs of our customers and offer solutions that deliver more value than they cost.*

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