



Progress Through Regional Cooperation In The Alleghenies

State of the Southern Alleghenies APEX Accelerator - June
by James Gerraughty
SAP&DC APEX Accelerator Program Manager



With our new program year (we start 1 APR, no foolin!), we're getting into final reports for the previous year. I'm happy to report that, as of data through 29 FEB 2024, our APEX has:

- Held 42 Outreach events and over 3,300 hours of counseling,
- Assisted 42 new companies with government contracting, and
- Helped 49 companies get ~\$142.6 Million in gov't contracts.

We'll have final numbers by July 2024, but those numbers are better than 2022, and that's even factoring in our longer than normal year in 2023. Something to strive for in 2024, and I think the Southern Alleghenies APEX Accelerator is up to the task!

The 42 outreach events from 2023 are probably going to be eclipsed by the ones already planned for 2024. We have an ongoing DCAA monthly class, a cybersecurity monthly class, an Industrial Base and Sustainment (IBAS) class on 11 JUN 2024, and a PA COSTARS 101 class (also on 11 JUN 2024). All of these classes are free to attend, but you need to register to get the login information. Please review our training opportunities that are coming up in June 2024 and beyond on our [eCenter page](#). Stop back often, as the training events do update regularly!

Finally, if you have ideas for topics, or would like to learn more about something, please drop us a line at (814) 949-6500 or by [email](#). We'd love to hear from you!

CYBERCOM, DARPA Pen Agreement to Speed Up Advanced Cyberwarfare Research By David DiMolfetta, Cybersecurity Reporter, Nextgov/FCW

U.S. Cyber Command and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency signed a binding memorandum this month that carves out pathways needed to expedite research and development of advanced cyberware technologies in the Department of Defense. The agreement, announced by the two Pentagon agencies this week, establishes budgets, roles and governance structures needed to swiftly move cyber technologies "from the laboratory to the cyber battlefield," they said.

The move centers DARPA — the research giant focused on advanced technology for U.S. military capabilities — as the frontrunner entity that provides projects to be loaded into CYBERCOM's software suite. The memorandum follows the 2022 establishment of Constellation, the agreement's cornerstone pilot program focused on transmitting advanced hacking capabilities to American cyberspace combatants. [Continue Reading](#)

Another One Bites the Dust: Incomplete Joint Venture Agreement Fails Once Again By Stephanie Ellis, Attorney, Koprince McCall Pottroff LLC

Once again, an initial awardee has had its award revoked because of a noncompliant joint venture agreement addendum. We see it happen regularly at SmallGovCon. And the decision in Colt-Sunbelt Rentals JV, LLC is yet another data point highlighting that SBA requires strict adherence to the joint venture agreement requirements in 13 C.F.R. § 125.8. Here, an incomplete joint venture agreement and its addendum resulted in a finding of affiliation which resulted in Colt-Sunbelt losing its small business status for the contract at issue.

First, a quick primer on mentor-protégé joint ventures. If a small business and a large business want to create a joint venture to pursue small business set-asides, they must be parties to an SBA approved mentor-protégé agreement (MPA) under 13 C.F.R. § 125.9, and the joint venture agreement must comply with the requirements in 13 C.F.R. § 125.8. This allows the small business and large business to work together as a joint venture while avoiding the danger of affiliation from collaborating as a joint venture. A finding of affiliation will mean the size of the parties will be combined for the procurement. And, as you could guess, affiliation between a small business and a large business for a small business set-aside is not exactly something that you want to happen. Note that, for a socioeconomic set-aside, such as under the 8(a) Program, a joint venture between, for instance, an 8(a) company and a small business must also meet strict joint venture requirements. [Continue Reading](#)

(Accessed 6/05/2024)

DOD Ordered to Evaluate Mobile Device Cybersecurity in 2025 Defense Bill By David DiMolfetta, Cybersecurity Reporter, Nextgov/FCW

The evaluations would include basic tools like virtual private networks that encrypt connections when browsing the web.

The Department of Defense may soon conduct a broad assessment into the cybersecurity of internal mobile devices used by servicemembers and analysts, under a provision of a sweeping must-pass defense policy package due by the end of the year.

Draft text of the 2025 National Defense Authorization Act includes a measure requiring the Secretary of Defense to assess products and services available to DOD that can help the U.S. armed forces and national security entity secure mobile devices used by its hundreds of thousands of staff.

It directs the evaluation to consider anonymizing technologies like dynamic selector rotation, a technical protocol that allows location identifiers like IP addresses to be regularly switched out at certain time intervals to prevent cyberspies from latching onto a specific device. [Continue Reading](#)

(Accessed 6/05/2024)

About US

The Southern Alleghenies APEX Accelerator at SAP&DC is an economic development entity that bridges the gap between supplier and buyer in the government marketplace. The APEX Accelerator stands ready to support businesses in the central PA Alleghenies region in the pursuit to secure contracts with local, state and/or federal government agencies nationwide.

Due to the generous support of our Commonwealth and Federal funding partners, services provided by the APEX Accelerator are free of charge.

Whether you are an experienced contractor or new to the government marketplace, the APEX Accelerator will provide one-on-one counseling utilizing all of the program resources necessary to increase your share of contract awards. We will also coordinate assistance, if needed, with our PA PREP partners.



Contact us today at the Southern Alleghenies APEX Accelerator at SAP&DC to get started!

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