

Contact

www.linkedin.com/in/drcys
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Top Skills

Computer Security
Information Security
Policy

Languages

English

Certifications

CISSP
CompTIA A+

Publications

Case Study: Integration of
Cybersecurity Content into Juris
Doctor Curriculum

The Challenges of Cybersecurity
Education: A Case Study of Kosovo

Letters to My Brown Girls: 4-Phases
to a Liberated Life after Childhood
Sexual Abuse

Studying the Challenges and Factors
Encouraging Girls in Cybersecurity:
A Case Study

Dr. Cynthia Sutherland

Award-winning Global, Cybersecurity Leader
Washington DC-Baltimore Area

Summary

Over 25yrs of IT with 16 focused on cybersecurity, I've learned the key to a successful career is to know thyself. I bring growth and maturity to any organization because I know the value I bring to any mission I secure. As a Global Cybersecurity Leader, my passion is your mission.

Experience

Amazon Web Services (AWS)

2 years 3 months

U.S. Public Sector Lead (Security Assurance)

August 2023 - Present (2 months)

Create and implement robust security assurance initiatives tailored to address intricate challenges faced by U.S. Public Sector customers. These challenges, characterized by their extensive cross-organizational, architectural, and global implications, demand a comprehensive and strategic approach. By developing and executing these programs, organizations can confidently safeguard their critical assets and systems, ensuring a resilient and secure operational landscape in the face of evolving threats.

Emerging Industries Lead (Security Assurance)

July 2021 - August 2023 (2 years 2 months)

Develop and execute security assurance programs for customer's significant, complex challenges that have broad cross-organizational, architectural, and global impact.

FEMA

Chief Information Security Officer

June 2020 - July 2021 (1 year 2 months)

As the first senior executive to serve as CISO, I served as a change agent to reduce complexity in cybersecurity services and collaborate with FEMA, DHS stakeholders, and mission partners to:

Direct and lead realignment of OCISO's cybersecurity force structure and processes while addressing cybersecurity cultural challenges and a significant workforce shortage and still reengineer 90% of FEMA cybersecurity processes for policy development, verification and validation, security authorization, and risk assessment, and management. Resulted in:

- o Improved FEMA's cybersecurity-risk accountability by 65% and increased accuracy in FISMA reporting metrics by 12%.

- o Increased visibility of FEMA's digital footprint by 36% and hardened the cybersecurity posture during migration to a multi-cloud environment.

- o Redesigned supply chain risk management procedures to integrate and enforce cybersecurity requirements in the:

 - Acquisition of call center services for FEMA's largest contract in history (COVID Funeral Assistance Program which received more than 154,500 funeral assistance applications and awarded more than \$2.1 million in the first 4 months)

 - Execution of President Biden's goal to distribute 100 million vaccinations to the American public during his first 100 days in office. (DHS/FEMA vaccinated over 220 million during President Biden's first 100 days in office)

Led prioritization and reprioritization of cybersecurity resources through concurrent efforts for remediation of 2 critical cybersecurity vulnerabilities, 24x7 system monitoring during multiple hurricanes, fires, and immigration efforts, and National Security events, and a DHS-audit of FEMA's Cybersecurity Service Provider services. FEMA received accreditation as a DHS Cybersecurity Service Provider for the 1st time in FEMA history.

The George Washington University

Adjunct Professor

August 2019 - June 2020 (11 months)

Instructional Design and Teaching for Cybersecurity within Master Business Administration.

The Joint Staff

Chief Information Security Officer

December 2014 - June 2020 (5 years 7 months)

Represented Joint Chiefs of Staff and 10 Combatant Commands as the: Senior Warfighter Mission Area Lead for Cybersecurity Risk Management Governance; and the Senior Cybersecurity Policy Developer to Department of Defense (DoD) for Federal, National, and International laws, policies,

regulations, and standards for Cloud, Industrial Control Systems (ICS), Insider Threat, Incident Response, and Supply Chain Risk Management

Served as the Global Chair and U.S. Representative to a multinational security accreditation board for secure interoperability between DoD and foreign partners. Developed short- and long-range strategic, operational, and tactical plans that were aligned with Department of Defense (DoD) and national goals to protect the nation's military from threats. Continually promoted the concept of cybersecurity as an integral part of daily activities and not a special program. Built consensus with international partners around the need for modernizing technologies—particularly the need for cybersecurity across multiple militaries, governments, and perspectives. Ultimately influenced 3 additional countries to adopt a mutual cybersecurity framework and guided implementation of cybersecurity for 26 new global sites, 105 new global initiatives, and 2 joint live-fire exercises for joint military operations.

Re-envisioned and led strategic reform efforts to integrate cybersecurity into tactical communications networks. Ensured the strategy was aligned with the President's cybersecurity agenda and overcame initial resistance from Commanders' concerns that a unified approach would undermine their mission. Created the vision that cybersecurity is everybody's business and ensured that the proper administrative infrastructure—policies, procedures, and the like—supported the vision and followed it up with actions, not just words. Outreach from Commanders increased by 80% demonstrating a remarkable culture change from grudging acceptance to proactive engagement.

Office of the Secretary of Defense

Cyber Operations Branch Chief

September 2013 - December 2014 (1 year 4 months)

Envisioned, designed, and led implementation of innovative technologies, policies, and procedures for core cybersecurity services in alignment with Department of Defense (DoD) priorities. Led a transformation in the Washington Headquarters Services (WHS) through the development and sponsorship of a Network Stabilization Project Plan for stabilizing environment and improving security posture while still meeting the unique requirements of multiple customers including acquisitions, law enforcement, and legal in both classified and unclassified environments. Project plan included improving asset accountability, reducing privileged accounts, conducting network and host firewall rule cleanup, active directory restructuring, and

network tool synchronization to increase and harden environment and improve performance from endpoint to perimeter. Produced a ripple effect in change in organization's culture towards cybersecurity and cyber defenses throughout Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) and WHS components.

Led a diverse team of 24 planned and assigned work in a matrixed environment. Provided coaching, mentoring, and feedback. Ensured the workplace valued differences; worked to reduce conflicts and build a high performing team.

Drove quantifiable results by leveraging expertise in Information Technology (IT) from across the Agency. Reduced the digital footprint of network by 35% and increased defensive cyber operations coverage by 90%. Developed and implemented a senior leader executive dashboard reflecting the WHS Security Posture in real time. Improved operational efficiency by 30% and eliminated overlapping and duplicative enterprise security services. Successfully mitigated 95% of vulnerabilities within 3 months. Reduced federal compliance (Federal Information Security Modernization Act – FISMA) reporting time by 20%

True Information Assurance

Principal Cybersecurity Advisor

January 2012 - September 2013 (1 year 9 months)

Washington DC-Baltimore Area

Designed, built, and led development of cybersecurity programs for federal clients' I.T. and O.T systems. Specialized in Company Acquisitions, Mergers, and Reorganizations.

TriSec Solutions LLC

Cybersecurity Program Manager

June 2009 - January 2012 (2 years 8 months)

Washington DC-Baltimore Area

Designed, built, and led development of cybersecurity programs for federal clients' I.T. and O.T systems. Specialized in Company Acquisitions, Mergers, and Reorganizations.

U.S. Army and Army National Guard

Network Operations Specialist

November 1999 - January 2008 (8 years 3 months)

Education

Capitol Technology University

Doctorate, Cybersecurity · (2016 - 2018)

Capitol Technology University

Master of Science - MS, Computer and Information Systems Security/
Information Assurance · (January 2005 - May 2007)

Limestone University

Bachelor of Science - BS, Management Information Systems and
Services · (2003 - 2004)