Mark Malinowski
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Cybersecurity and IT Program Manager | Risk & Compliance | Operations Management

Cybersecurity leader with 20 years of experience directing enterprise cybersecurity operations, risk governance, and program execution across complex Department of Defense environments. Most recently led seven technical teams and 80+ personnel supporting federal cybersecurity operations. Proven ability to recover stalled authorization efforts, drive large-scale vulnerability remediation programs, adjudicate operational risk, and translate mission priorities into executable plans. Delivers regular cybersecurity posture and risk briefings to senior government leadership. Holds a Master of Science in Cybersecurity.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

IT Program Manager **10/2026 – Present**
Defense Contractor, Colorado Springs, CO

- Manages IT program delivery, schedules, and stakeholder coordination for a federal customer.

Cybersecurity Operations Controller **02/2026 – 10/2026**
Defense Contractor, Colorado Springs, CO

- Led seven technical teams and 80+ personnel supporting federal cybersecurity operations across endpoint security, security monitoring, vulnerability management, compliance, network boundary protection, and security architecture.
- Recovered a stalled independent security review that threatened system approval. Led root-cause analysis, aligned reviewers, engineers, and approving officials, and secured multiple approvals to operate.
- Led organization-wide vulnerability remediation, delivering weekly progress updates to senior customer leadership that drove resolution of 3,000+ vulnerabilities.
- Served as the enterprise Cybersecurity Maintenance Authority, adjudicating all scheduled and unscheduled maintenance and assessing operational risk and mitigation strategies to protect mission systems.
- Delivered daily and biweekly briefings to the customer's chief information officer and senior government staff on security posture, incident status, risk, and priority tasks.
- Drafted and advised on a teaming partner's first company AI policy, turning broad Defense Department AI guidance into practical policy.

Senior IT Manager **07/2025 – 02/2026**
Defense Contractor, Colorado Springs, CO

- Conducted a gap analysis against NIST 800-171 and CMMC Level 2 requirements, turning complex controls into practical security improvements that led to successful CMMC Level 2 certification.
- Provided hands-on administration of hybrid Azure and Microsoft Entra ID environments, including Active Directory and Microsoft 365, for 200+ geographically dispersed users.
- Designed and implemented single sign-on (SSO) for Adobe, Freshdesk, and Cisco Meraki, reducing password-reset tickets by 30%.

U.S. Navy, Retired Senior Chief (Information Systems Technician) **2005 – 2025**

Senior Technical Advisor, IT Operations **01/2024 – 06/2025**

- Led cross-department initiatives and introduced performance tracking that improved operational processes and workforce morale, with measurable gains in 28 of 29 climate survey categories.
- Identified a critical skills gap and built a skills baseline and standard procedures for key technical roles, reducing inefficiencies by 20%.
- Led development of technical specifications and secured multimillion-dollar funding for IT equipment, enabling voice, video, and data solutions for senior government and military leaders.
- Brought cybersecurity workforce certification compliance to 100%, including developing and running security training materials.

- Developed, revised, and enforced command information security policies and procedures, and defined security responsibilities across joint personnel as a senior enlisted leader.

Director, IT Current Operations **10/2021 – 12/2023**

- Managed multiple accredited networks and facilities, implementing and maintaining required security controls and overseeing security requirements for vendor equipment and services.
- Led a team of 12 IT professionals supporting 40+ senior leader engagements worldwide, providing cybersecurity advice, communications security, system administration, digital identity certificates, mobile device management, and Cisco phone systems.
- Developed cybersecurity and physical security procedures for senior leader support, including 185 congressional hearings.
- Budgeted and allocated $2M in government funds over two fiscal years under strict procurement rules for technology upgrades.
- Conducted trend analysis for three network enclaves, ensuring 99.9% up-time for senior leadership.

Chief, Future Operations Communications Planning **06/2017 – 09/2021**

- Developed physical and information security risk assessments for deployable operations to support accreditation decisions, and validated security requirements during site surveys and planning.
- Deployed and led a help desk for 700+ users, covering system hardening, account and permissions management, Active Directory, and Group Policy.
- Conducted operational planning for a large-scale overseas transition, managing information systems and server operations and completing the migration safely and on schedule.

Operations Manager, Fleet Network Operations **06/2014 – 05/2017**

- Led network operations for three enclaves to security configuration standards (STIGs) and briefed executive leadership daily, improving efficiency by 15% and cutting downtime by 10%.

PROJECTS

Ubuntu Security Hardening Lab (in progress) | github.com/malinoms/ubuntu-stig-hardening-lab – Raised an Ubuntu 24.04 server's compliance with security configuration standards (STIGs) from 51.38% to 75.3% so far; continuing toward full compliance, then automating the fixes with Ansible.

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

Master of Science in Cybersecurity | Information Security/Information Assurance | Excelsior University
Bachelor of Professional Studies in Technology Management | Excelsior University
Associate in Applied Science in Technical Studies | Excelsior University (formerly Excelsior College)

Certified Information Security Manager (CISM) | DoD 8140/DoD 8570 IAM III | ISACA
Certified Network Security and Vulnerability Technician | U.S. Navy Education and Training Command
Security+ CE | DoD 8140/DoD 8570 IAT II Certified | CompTIA
ITIL 4 Foundation | Axelos
Microsoft Certified: Security, Compliance, and Identity Fundamentals | Microsoft
Certified Scrum Master (CSM) | Star 6 Sigma Global Academy
Lean Six Sigma Black Belt | Star 6 Sigma Global Academy

CORE SKILLS

NIST 800-171 | CMMC Level 2 | Risk Management | Vulnerability Management | Incident Response | Change Management | Single Sign-On (SSO) | Microsoft Entra ID | Active Directory | Microsoft 365