NICHOLAS JAMES VIDAL

US Citizen • 6187993850 • vidal@nicholasvidal.tech

OBJECTIVE

Extensive experience in leading comprehensive cybersecurity strategies, operations, and compliance initiatives at the division level. Proficient in NIST and AFI standards, with a track record of enhancing network security and managing significant cybersecurity projects. Skilled in scripting, utilizing top security toolkits, and translating technical information for executive audiences. Eager to drive cybersecurity excellence and safeguard organizational assets with a proactive and informed approach.

EDUCATION

College – Master's degree, Digital Forensics & Cyber Investigation

College – Bachelor's degree, Computer Networks & Cybersecurity

CERTIFICATIONS

- ISC2 Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) (Anticipated April 2025)
- Practical Network Penetration Tester (PNPT) (Anticipated September 2025)
- CompTIA Security +
- CompTIA A +

Work 1, U.S. Air Force, Cannon AFB, NM   August 2023 - Present
Senior Cybersecurity Director

- Leading the strategic development and execution of advanced cybersecurity initiatives across the entire division, integrating cutting-edge cyber operations, managing essential cybersecurity activities, and allocating budgets to maintain excellence in cybersecurity standards organization-wide.
- Offering expert guidance and leadership in cybersecurity as the division's cyber executive, coordinating project milestones, and managing the integration of cyber initiatives across various departments. Accountable for guaranteeing the effective and unified implementation of cybersecurity practices throughout the organization.
- Developing and executing robust cybersecurity strategies and plans to secure and protect the organization's network infrastructure, valued in the multi-million-dollar range. Focusing on network security, risk mitigation, and upholding the highest standards of cybersecurity practices to counter evolving cyber threats.
- Led cybersecurity inspection for IT and Communications Department using NIST SP 800-53, SP 800-37, and AFI 17-130 standards. Developed an inspection checklist based on CM-8 from NIST SP 800-53, ensuring compliance and enhancing security posture.

Work 2, U.S. Air Force, Cannon AFB, NM   August 2021 - August 2023
Cybersecurity Analyst

- Managed 260 classified and unclassified cyber systems, providing robust support for 175 operators and ensuring seamless IT services for 46,000 users spread over 9 bases and 121 Geographically Separated Units.
- Led Defense Cyber Operations and support activities, implementing proactive defenses for the cyber security cyber system weapon system against cyber threats, enhancing system security and resilience.
- Directed a $500K cybersecurity hardware budget, optimizing investments in security enhancements, installations, and maintenance for robust cyber defense.
- Orchestrated the installation and configuration of secure client software for 170 cyberspace operators boosting operational efficiency and security measures.

Work 3, U.S Air Force, Ramstein, Germany   June 2017 to March 2018
Enterprise Communication Operations Lead

- Led the deployment of communication packages across the USAFE Communication Enterprise using SCCM and WDS, ensuring efficient installation and operation of current SDC over a server environment, significantly enhancing system performance and reliability.
- Collaborated with Cisco ISE and virtualization teams to secure and streamline the deployment of critical communication packages, improving network security and operational efficiency across the enterprise.
- Managed the successful expansion and testing of a virtual private network software solution, enabling the organization to support 400,000 simultaneous network connections, bolstering mission-critical communication capabilities

Work 4, U.S. Air Force, Osan AB/Scott AFB/McConnell AFB   August 2006 to June 2017
Senior IT Program Manager
- Led multi-disciplinary teams across various IT domains, including vulnerability management, network protocols, and system security, while serving as Executive Communications (Exec Comm) for the 7th Air Force Division Chiefs. Ensured seamless communication and command and control operations for senior leaders.
- Managed the maintenance and operation of GCCS client systems, leading a team in conducting Retina and ACAS scans for vulnerability management. Spearheaded the expansion of the section to a full flight, enhancing service delivery and system security compliance.
- Supervised the PC maintenance department as Communications Focal Point Supervisor, implementing policies and procedures that improved operational efficiency and service levels. Provided technical training and guidance to end users, enhancing overall system performance.
- Designed, implemented, and maintained SharePoint environments, optimizing system performance and ensuring high availability. Managed SharePoint security, site customization, and integration with other IT systems, providing comprehensive support to various organizations

PROJECTS   **NicholasVidal.tech (https://nicholasvidal.tech)**   January 2024 to Present
- Developed a secure, professional website to showcase projects and build a cybersecurity career pathway resource, reflecting advanced skills in web development and security. The site highlights technical expertise and serves as a platform for mentoring and guiding aspiring cybersecurity professional.

Virtualization on Raspberry Pi   April 2024 to Present
- Successfully installed and configured ESXi on a Raspberry Pi 4B, enabling the device to run multiple virtual machines. This hands-on project involved setting up a hypervisor on ARM architecture, experimenting with cloud computing through Linode, and exploring containerization with Docker, showcasing proficiency in virtualization and cloud technologies.

**TECHNICAL
SKILLS**   **Vulnerability Assessment / Active Directory / Endpoint Security / OpenVas / Security Awareness Training / Patch Management Nmap / Zenmap / Encryption Technologies / Linux/Unix Windows System Administration / Security Policies and Procedures Identity and Access Management (IAM)**