

# Denise Ferniza

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## Collaboration | Leadership | Innovation | Communication

An accomplished IT technical leader with expertise in cybersecurity and operational management to include human resources, logistics, medical, maintenance, legal, and finance departments. Has a distinguished career and awarded in managerial excellence in leadership as a Program Manager overseeing 7 major offshore projects and 170 major projects which included collaboration and coordination with local, state, and federal entities to ensure the movement of over \$600M of equipment and 1,200 personnel in three states, as well as Germany, Afghanistan, Kuwait, and Iraq.

Natural communicator and influential leader with strong interpersonal skills and the ability to mentor, motivate, and develop strong teams, and business stakeholders throughout the organization. Sixteen years of extensive experience collaborating with various agents to include Federal identifies NSA, FAA, Customs & Border Patrol, Department of Defense, Inspector General, Equal Opportunity; State identities OSHA, Transportation Agencies (Rail, Sea, Air, Line Haul), State Safety Inspectors.

### Skills & Expertise

- Portfolio Management
- Project Management
- Issue/Risk Mitigation & Management
- Development (SDLC) Management
- ITIL Management
- Implementation Management
- Cloud Setup & Implementation (SaaS, PaaS, IaaS)
- DoD Certified Ethical Hacker Course
- IT and Network Security Risk Management
- IT and Network Risk Management
- Operating Systems Hardening and Security
- IT Security Countermeasures
- Data Quality & Data Analysis
- IT Architecture
- Strategic Planning
- Strategy Development
- Financial Management
- Team Leadership & Development
- Training Development & Management
- Managing Cross-Functional Team
- Resource Management
- Performance Management
- Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)
- Active Top Secret SCI clearance
- Special Security Officer (SSO) and Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilities Expertise

### Management / IT Highlights

Managed 6 IT Teams with 34 personnel within 1 ½ years to implement US Army system of record which replaced nine separate legacy systems to one system DCGS-A.

- Enabled the collection of 53 million intelligence reports to one system increasing accessibility, analytics, and usability of information by all echelons of users
- Implementation and integration allowed for cross talk across 600 different data sources across one platform
- Prompt and complete implementation allowed for simpler cross talk among agencies including but not limited to Marines, Navy, Airforce, NSA, and FBI.

Extensive work experience in IT and cyber security beginning in 2003. Core competencies of work included:

- Reviewing material fielding plans and integrated logistics support plans for new intelligence systems
- Coordinated and complied with Federal guidance ensuring all IT managers and personnel remained educated on cyber security.
- Developing and implementing strategies and roadmaps to build security monitoring, including incident response reports, threat intelligence, and security engineering functions.
- Oversaw growth and training of teams to four teams with 24x7 operational capacity and advanced maturity.
- Grouped and deployed over 500 network sensors throughout career in US Army utilizing SIEM, EDR, NSM, Netflow, and other critical security technology. Network uncompromised during tenure.

## Professional Experience

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WTI, Alexandria, VA

February 2020 – Current

### **Taxonomy and Ontology Project Manager**

- Serve as liaison between Air Force Headquarters and other recognized ontology efforts such as Basic Formal Ontology, Common Core Ontology, NIEM, JAIC, and ISO
- Created comprehensive framework for further data ontology building
- Educated, briefed, and involved key shareholders in collaboration efforts to better serve data ontology efforts
- Utilized Protégé to build refiners, tags, and property guidelines for further ontology builds
- Lead team of six people including backend and frontend developers as well as data analysts to further ontological efforts in order to build the foundation for further exploration into utilizing data ontology for Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
- Managing collaboration of team of 50 data scientists, computer scientists, and ontologists in a taxonomy and ontology working group to address domain, mid, and top-level domain ontology implementation across the Air Force

US ARMY, FORT BRAGG

September 2015 – January 2020

### **VP Operations – HHC 525 MI BDE**

- Managed division's Human Resources, Logistics, Cybersecurity (CIRT), IT, Medical, Security, and Maintenance departments with a budget in excess of \$25M annually.
- Oversaw and was accountable for overseeing the execution of 7 majors projects and 170 standards projects which included coordination with local, state, and federal entities to ensure the movement of over \$600M of equipment and 500 personnel in three states, as well as Germany, Afghanistan, and Iraq.
- Oversaw transition from multiple legacy systems for logistics and IT to new ERP systems that allowed for an increase of operational ratings by 7%.
- Supervised and coached seven managers in training, development, and improving operations.
- Implemented and managed the divisions crossover from antiquated paper and software systems to an IaaS agile cloud based digital training management system and that allowed for the CEO and COO to have real time updates on projects, personnel, training, and management.
- Responsible for reviewing, providing feedback, and approving authorizations, glidepaths, and projects for the IT, Cyber Security, HR, Logistics, and Maintenance Departments.
- Reorganized departments to increase reach and efficiency resulting in greater department cohesion and crosstalk.
- Responsible for analyzing and approving risk assessment matrixes to ensure compliance with policies, local, state, federal laws, and ensuring safe working conditions including.
- Equipment and personnel losses dropped by 45% during the first year, with slight improvements yearly after.
- Reviewed all evaluations for 200 personnel for submission to DoD Human Resources.
- Responsible for training plans, development and implementation of division, U.S. Army and DoD training guidance.
- First women to be selected for this position in organization's history above others with longevity due to high levels of organization and competence.
- Coordinated organizations first seaport operations in over 40 years, which involved coordination and collaboration between the U.S. Army, U.S. Coast Guard, and U.S. Air Force in order to test the hardening of Military System against Cyber Attacks.
- Responsible for organizational talent management among managers and personnel.

US ARMY, FORT HUACHUCA

October 2012 - September 2015

### **IT/CYBERSECURITY DIRECTOR– B Co. 305 MI BN**

- Manage project teams across portfolio of \$14M for required deliveries primarily dealing with training over 1200 personnel on Information Technology Systems, Cybersecurity certifications, human intelligence, and analytics. Which allowed for CIRT to be ready to execute duties upon assignment to next company.
- Coordinated and ensured compliance from personal for nationally recommended certifications enabling 400 personnel to be COMPTIA SEC+/NET+ Certified, and 10 section managers to be C|EH and CISSP certified.
- Led and coordinated regular status calls with multiple program teams.

- Recognized by managing director of Fort Huachuca, AZ for outstanding management and leadership skills.
- Supervised and coached 6 managers on conflict resolution, risk mitigation, and development.
- Responsible for reviewing and submitting risk assessment matrixes to ensure risks were at acceptable levels.
- Zero personnel or equipment losses during tenure.
- Responsible for overseeing diverse projects that encompassed physical fitness, soldier skills, IT architecture, IT system hardening, Cybersecurity, and equal employment opportunities.
- Oversaw merging of two divisions into one in to maximize personnel resources while simultaneously reducing \$15M dollars from operation costs
- Coordinated with DoD logistics to ensure \$75M of military equipment was successfully transferred between divisions with no loss or damage of equipment or money.
- Responsible for overseeing housing program which consisted of over 700 living quarters, along with maintenance operations, and movement of personnel to and from Arizona.
- Created policies, and procedures to ensure continuity of training and lessons learned across the organization.
- Supervised the Sexual Harassment Assault Response and Prevention program (SHARP) in order to foster a healthy work environment and meet guidelines directed by DoD.

US ARMY, Fort Campbell

July 2011 - October 2012

**IT & CYBERSECURITY MANAGER - B Co. 4BCT**

- Lead high complexity hardware and software integration projects for Military Intelligence IT systems and CIRTs.
- Managed project teams across portfolio of \$32M for required deliveries primarily with system upgrades, Security Operations Center upgrades, CIRT operations, and IT lifecycle operations.
- Led and coordinated regular status calls with multiple project teams to align project goals and analyze implications of proposed network changes to hardening and Cybersecurity of S/TS systems.
- Defined project implementation process best suited to project and advised IT and Cybersecurity manager of potential threats and resolutions to Military Intelligence Systems.
- Routinely meet with stakeholders to advise and update project statuses primarily in regards to Cybersecurity SOPs, Cybersecurity User Training, Cybersecurity Incident Response and Report.
- Review and revise process and procedures of key performance indicators. Effectively implemented changes.
- Responsible for creating and submitting risk assessment matrixes to ensure risk mitigation measures were properly implemented, zero personnel or equipment loss during tenure.

US ARMY, Paktika Province, Afghanistan

May 2010 -July 2011

**CYBERSECURITY MANAGER/ FET LEAD – 1/506 4**

- 42 projects including simultaneous management of five with staff and material value exceeding \$32M.
- Led coordination efforts of multiple military units and local vendors/contractors to develop a common understanding for each project's security, labor, and logistic requirements.
- Worked directly for COO to establish female engagement teams (FET) in Afghanistan.
- Trained 7 managers to conduct FET operations and managed them through 80 projects.
- Wrote policies and procedure manuals on proper implementation of FET into supporting departments, and civilian agencies.
- Responsible for creating and submitting risk assessment matrixes to ensure risk mitigation measures were properly implemented, zero loss of personnel or equipment due to negligence during tenure.
- Responsible for overseeing fabrication, engineering, testing, and implementation of new equipment to users valued at \$4M.
- Created first Female Engagement Team in Afghanistan, responsible for writing and implementing all training, policies, and procedures for division which were adopted by the U.S. Army due to significant success during projects.
- Established cross training and team enhancement policies to utilize major skillsets and talent management during FET projects which allowed for increased hardening of information security and cybersecurity networks/applications.

## Education and Training

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- BBA Information Technology Management – American Military University
- US Army Advanced Leadership and Management Course
- Information Technology Maintenance and Integration - Advanced Skills Course
- US Army Senior Leader's Program
- Certificate in IT Infrastructure Security
- Active TS/SCI
- Operational and Deliberate Risk Management
- Commanders Safety Course
- Intelligence Oversight Awareness
- DoD Certified Ethical Hacker Course
- IT and Network Security Risk Management
- IT and Network Risk Management
- Operating Systems Hardening and Security
- IT Security Countermeasures
- Equal Opportunity Instructor
- Sexual Harassment and Assault Prevention (SHARP) Instructor
- Small Group and Classroom Instructor Training
- Resiliency and Conflict Resolution

## Technologies

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- Databases: digital training management system, HR interactive Personnel Electronic Records Management System (iPERMS). SQL, Oracle, IPPS-A
- Operating Systems:
  - Windows, 2005, 2008, 2008R2, 7, & 8, 10
  - Linux Ubuntu, Fedora, & Red Hat Linux Server
- Systems:
  - ArcGIS, MFWS, Ozone Widget Framework (OWF), Query Tree (QT), SharePoint Portal, IaaS, SaaS, and PaaS
- Cyber Security Tools
  - nMAP, Snort, Wireshark, Kali Linux, sqlmap, Metasploit, aircrack-ng
- Meta-Data Tools/Language
  - Protégé, SPRQL, OWL, ISO, W3C, RDF, RDFS