



Dr. Starnes Walker

University of Delaware Cybersecurity Initiative—How We Are Partnering with the State of Delaware

The University of Delaware CyberSecurity Initiative was established in 2014 as an integrated learning and research collaboratory. The initiative is a partnership among the State of Delaware, the University of Delaware, federal agencies, and the private sector. As the recognized “corporate capital of America,” Delaware is the ideal place for this initiative. More than a million companies are incorporated in the State, more than 70% of the Fortune 500 companies are headquartered here, and the Delaware Court of Chancery is widely recognized as the nation’s preeminent forum for the resolution of corporate disputes. In addition, the State is ideally positioned midway between the nation’s financial hub, New York City, and the U.S. Government and military capital, Washington, DC. At the University of Delaware, we have established an undergraduate minor in cybersecurity and a master’s in cybersecurity to begin creating a pipeline of graduates skilled in the latest theories and tools required to address cybersecurity problems. We are partnering with a group of respected academic institutions across the country, whose strengths are complementary to ours, on this initiative. Our advisory board brings together top experts from academia, government, industry, and the military, and the initiative builds on our existing partnerships with government labs and the financial services industry. In addition to education and training, we are conducting unbiased cybersecurity research on a broad range of topics with the potential to be shared across the nation’s critical infrastructure sectors and platforms.

Biography

Dr. Walker is the Founding Director of the new University of Delaware Cybersecurity Initiative (UDCSI) and Professor of Electrical & Computer Engineering. The UDCSI has a strategic focus on corporate cybersecurity that addresses present and emerging cyber threats and a special emphasis on the banking/financial, energy, chemical, telecom, and the nation’s critical infrastructure sectors incorporating advances in education and research, as well as training and certification programs for the corporate workforce and Government professionals.

Prior to his present University appointment, Dr. Walker previously served in the senior executive role as the Chief Technology Officer & Technical Director in standing up the U.S. Fleet Cyber Command & U.S. 10th Fleet, U.S. Navy. Earlier Government Senior Executive Service/SES positions include Department of Homeland Security's Director of Research, Department of Navy's Office of Naval Research's Executive Director & Chief Scientist, and standing up the Defense Threat Reduction Agency's (DTRA) as Senior Advisor for Science & Technology. Additionally, he served as Argonne National Laboratory's 1st Associate Laboratory Director-National Security with a career spanning the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, Energy, and the IC. As a former member of the SES, Dr. Walker served as a standing member of the Defense Science & Technology Advisory Group (DSTAG) for the Director-Defense Research & Engineering (DDR&E) in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) along with the S&T Executives of the Services, DIA, DARPA, and MDA. In these positions he developed critical programs and aligned strategic defense, homeland security, and intelligence organizations across the U.S. and around the globe while forging key partnerships with the United Kingdom, Australia, Singapore, Israel, Sweden, the European Union and NATO. Earlier industry posts included Morrison Knudsen's Vice President of Technology and Phillips Petroleum's Corporate Environmental Director & earlier advancing to the senior technical fellow rank as Senior Research Associate focusing on refining/petrochemical plant process operations, magnetic confinement fusion at General Atomics, alternate energy processes, biotechnology with The Salk Institute, and starting as a physicist at the Naval Weapons Center-China Lake.

During his tenure with Government, Dr. Walker led a number of strategic initiatives. These posts include an appointment by the Deputy Secretary of Defense to serve as Chairman-Joint Laboratory Board of the Joint Improvised Explosive Devices Defeat Organization (JIEDDO). Dr. Walker served as a Member of the Executive Steering Group to establish the Joint Technology Office-High Energy Laser (JTO-HEL) Program under the auspices of DoD's Under Secretary-AT&L. Dr. Walker now serves as a standing Member of The Air Force Studies Board and The Intelligence Board (reporting to the AF Chief of Staff and the DNI, respectively) of The National Academies and The Aspen Institute's Homeland Security Group. Dr. Walker is now a Member of Purdue University's Global Affairs Strategic Advisory Council, a Senior Advisor to NNSA's National Security Campus (Kansas City Plant), and earlier as a Member of Oak Ridge National Laboratory's Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) Board. Dr. Walker serves as the founding Chairman of the Engineering Development Board of the Missouri University of Science & Technology (formerly University of Missouri-Rolla) and was a Member-US Air Force Cyber Vision 2025 Senior Expert Review. Earlier, Dr. Walker served as the Science Advisor to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Los Alamos National Laboratory, as well as led the tritium production program at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory. As a Senior Executive Service member in helping to stand-up DTRA, Dr. Walker was the recipient of the distinguished DoD Exceptional Civilian Service Medal. He is a recipient of the R&D 100 Award and widely published in the fields of physics, chemistry, optics, and signal processing with numerous patents issued. He was a Navy Fellow and recipient of three consecutive Naval Weapons Fellowship awards. Dr. Walker is a member of the American Physical Society, American Nuclear Society, and The Cosmos Club.

Dr. Walker holds a B.S., M.S., & Ph.D. degrees in Physics from the University of California and an Honorary Degree in Nuclear Engineering-University of Missouri-Rolla. Active Clearances: TS/SCI, DOE "Q"