



11TH ANNUAL PEAK CYBER SYMPOSIUM

SPEAKER BIO



Laura (Francis) Harder

Director Of Cyber Operations, Xela |
Enterprise Services Flight Commander, 53d Network
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As an experienced cyber-security leader, Laura Harder has worked across multiple commercial and government agencies in both large and small firms. Laura's career has spanned 21 years of military service in both the Army and the Air Force Reserves and over 18 years of private sector experience. She supports multiple agencies and roles including leading the Northern Colorado ISSA chapter. With a passion for cyber security, Laura has focused her military and civilian career around protecting critical information systems. Currently she is serving as the Director of Cyber for Xela, LLC, and providing subject matter expertise for a major aerospace contractor. As a reservist, she is also serving as a 17S Cyberwarfare officer, responsible for defensive cyber operations (DCO) for the 53rd Network Operations Squadron, as the Enterprise Services Flight Commander, supporting the Air Force Network for 945,000 users worldwide. She provides insight and experience from multiple roles in information security and cybersecurity projects for government agencies, private sector, and Industrial Control Systems (ICS) Supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) environments. Laura's experience includes leading teams through the RMF process for Assessments and Authorizations (A&A), penetration testing, social engineering, phishing exercises, security assessments (software, hardware, application and mobile) and North American Electric Reliability Corporation Critical Infrastructure Protection (NERC CIP) assessments. She has specialized training and experience in ground station satellite communications systems deploying hasty tactical communications systems in austere conditions in support of Defense Support of Civilian Agencies (DSCA) missions using the SIPR/NIPR Access Point (SNAP) package and Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC) systems. She holds multiple certifications in Information Technology certifications including the Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) certification, CompTIA Security +, Scrum Agile Product Owner and Scrum Master Certification, and Microsoft certifications.

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SEPTEMBER 15 – 16, 2021 | DOUBLETREE BY HILTON | COLORADO SPRINGS, CO