Brian Gaines

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Security operations professional with hands-on experience in incident response, threat detection, and security monitoring. Navy veteran with a proven record of technical documentation under pressure and a home lab focused on vulnerability assessment and threat analysis. Currently supervising a 12-person team integrating cyber and physical security operations.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Security Tools & Platforms

- Security monitoring and incident response systems
- SIEM platforms and log analysis
- OpenVAS vulnerability scanning
- pfSense firewall configuration and management
- Kali Linux, Nmap, Wireshark, Metasploit
- Manitou alarm monitoring software
- Physical security systems integration

Technical Competencies

- Incident investigation and root cause analysis
- Threat detection, response, and event triage/escalation
- Vulnerability assessment and remediation
- Familiarity with NIST CSF, MITRE ATT&CK, and CIS Controls
- Linux and Windows operating systems
- Currently learning Python for scripting and automation; C fundamentals
- SQL and Oracle databases

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Security Operations Supervisor

July 2024 – Present

Security Central, Anderson, SC

- Supervise a team of 12 security operators, coordinating real-time incident response and maintaining operational security across 615,000+ customer accounts in a 24/7 monitoring environment
- Triage and investigate security events, determining root cause and escalating threats per established incident response procedures
- Integrate physical and cyber security monitoring, coordinating response across access control, surveillance, and alarm management systems
- Document security incidents with detailed technical analysis; maintain incident logs for compliance review and threat intelligence
- Consulted on an AI-assisted alarm monitoring prototype, providing operational insight to improve threat detection accuracy and reduce false-positive alerts
- Identify endpoint vulnerabilities and system misconfigurations during routine monitoring; escalate critical findings to stakeholders
- Author training documentation and implementation timelines for an ongoing Manitou alarm monitoring software rollout

UX, Web, and Branding Consultant

December 2023 – April 2024

Allyson Brooke, Inc.

- Consulted on web interface, branding, and media strategy, consolidating fragmented web presences into a unified site and driving a 38% increase in traffic
- Developed and implemented a social media strategy that produced a 20% increase in engagement

UX Digital Strategist

May 2022 – July 2023

ISPOR, Lawrenceville, NJ

- Built UX strategy roadmap, led user research initiatives, and designed responsive wireframes for a healthcare professional association

Visiting Assistant Professor

August 2019 – May 2022

Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA

- Taught courses in digital design, communication, and user experience; mentored students in technical research projects

Graduate Research Assistant and Teacher of Record

August 2012 – May 2019

Clemson University

- Conducted research in digital rhetoric, surveillance studies, and information design while completing MA and PhD programs; researcher in Human-Centered Computing Lab
- Taught undergraduate courses in communication, writing, and digital design as graduate teacher of record
- Recipient of the Ernie Mazzatenta Scholarship in Technical Communication and the Thomas E. Douglass Award

Mass Communication Specialist E-5

March 2005 – March 2011

United States Navy

- Managed crisis communications and media operations during critical missions, including the Maersk Alabama (Captain Phillips) rescue operation, demonstrating the ability to perform under pressure
- Produced intelligence photography and information operations in classified environments under strict access-control protocols
- Maintained exceptional attention to detail and adherence to security procedures in high-stakes operational contexts with zero security incidents
- Awards & Qualifications: Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2), Air Warfare Qualification, Surface Warfare Qualification, Meritorious Unit Commendation

PROJECTS

Cybersecurity Home Lab 2024 – Present

Personal Development Project

- Configured pfSense firewall with custom rules, VLANs, and network segmentation for hands-on network security practice
- Performed vulnerability assessments using OpenVAS; documented findings and remediation strategies in formal report format
- Deployed honeypot systems to study attacker behavior and increase attacker dwell time for analysis
- Practiced penetration testing and threat hunting using Kali Linux, Metasploit, and common exploitation frameworks in controlled environments
- Studied physical security bypass techniques in a home lab environment, including locksport, RFID, and NFC

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

AAS, Cybersecurity and Forensics
Tri-County Technical College

CompTIA Security+ Certification
In Progress, Expected Summer 2026

PhD, Rhetoric, Communication and Information Design
Clemson University

MA, Professional Communication
Clemson University

BA, Graphic Design
Anderson University

Secret Security Clearance — U.S. Department of Defense (Inactive)