

Cedrick Lee Ward

Senior Network & Systems Engineer

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SUMMARY

Senior IT Systems Engineer with 15+ years of experience in on-premises infrastructure, virtualization, and secure hybrid environments for the DoD. Expert in VMware vSphere and Cisco networking, with a strong focus on building resilient, high-availability systems in austere conditions. Proficient in managing complex migrations and cloud-managed on-prem assets. Active TS/SCI clearance. Dedicated to mission success through technical excellence and rapid adaptation to new technologies.

SKILLS

Networking: Cisco ASA, Cisco Firepower NGFW, Cisco Catalyst, WLC, CUCM, Cisco ISE, DNS, VPN, VLANs, STP, OSPF, EIGRP, QoS, LAN/WAN, Satellite & Edge Routing, Load Balancing

Virtualization / Cloud / Infrastructure: VMware vSphere, Hyper-V, Nutanix AOS/AHV, Azure Arc, Azure Files, Entra ID, Hybrid Infrastructure, High-Availability Systems, Cloud-Managed On-Prem Assets

Cybersecurity / Compliance: STIG Compliance, Tenable Nessus, ACAS, RHEL Hardening, Vulnerability Remediation, Classified / Unclassified Environments, NIPR/SIPR Operations

Systems / Automation: PowerShell, Windows Server, Linux / RHEL, Active Directory, SCCM, WSUS, System Migrations

Leadership: Team Leadership, Contractor Supervision, Technical Briefings, Infrastructure Readiness, Operational Risk Communication, Multi-Site Coordination, Deployed Operations

EXPERIENCE

Communications Section Chief

May 2006 – Present

U.S. Army Reserve

- Lead communications readiness and technical operations for a 200+ Soldier organization across training and mission environments.
- Manage and mentor personnel responsible for enterprise IT, communications support, operational metrics, and readiness reporting.
- Brief commanders and staff on infrastructure readiness, operational risk, and mission capability.

Outside Plant / Inside Plant Section Chief

May 2025 – Jan 2026

U.S. Army Reserve — Israel

- Led a 10-person team across 5 countries installing 500+ miles of Cat5 and fiber (OSP/ISP), including conduit pulls, manhole access, and ceiling runs using J-hooks and cable trays.
- Oversaw full cabling buildouts from pull to termination — comms closet builds, patch panels, and fiber splicing across multiple deployed sites.
- Coordinated legacy wiring removal and infrastructure upgrades while maintaining communications continuity and documentation to military standards.

Network & Cloud Security Engineer

Sept 2021 – Apr 2025

ECS Federal LLC — U.S.N.S. Mercy Hospital Ship

- Managed enterprise network infrastructure across NIPR/SIPR for a 24/7 shipboard medical facility supporting up to 1,200 personnel, with zero tolerance for downtime.
- Maintained and optimized a Cisco environment: Catalyst 9600 core switches, ASA/Firepower NGFWs, voice routers, 50+ access points, WLCs, and virtual CUCM.
- Deployed and administered Nutanix AOS/AHV clusters for virtualized workloads, including migration of services between physical and virtual environments.
- Led infrastructure hardening with Tenable Nessus, ACAS, and RHEL Satellite; enforced STIG compliance and managed authentication via Cisco ACS/ISE on classified and unclassified networks.

Network Operations Manager

Jun 2020 – May 2021

U.S. Army Reserve — Kuwait Deployment

- Led migration of 600+ switches from Brocade to Cisco across classified and unclassified domains while maintaining continuous operations.
- Supervised 15 contractors and 9 Soldiers supporting daily operations and maintenance of the Network Enterprise Center at Camp Arifjan.
- Managed switching across secure hybrid environments and optimized traffic across complex routing paths under latency and bandwidth constraints.

System Administrator

Sept 2018 – Dec 2018

Acara Solutions

- Executed Linux workstation hardening for classified F-35 program requirements.
- Installed and configured VMware/Hyper-V solutions and managed large Active Directory environments.
- Conducted ACAS scans to support STIG and cybersecurity compliance.

Windows Deployment Supervisor

Jan 2018 – Apr 2018

DXC Technology — Okinawa, Japan

- Led a 20-person team across four DoD bases executing Windows 10 migration, user data recovery, and system restoration for 400 users.
- Briefed DoD stakeholders and senior leadership, delivering modernization objectives ahead of schedule across classified and unclassified environments.

Network Engineer

Jun 2016 – Aug 2017

U.S. Army Reserve — Jordan Deployment

- Managed Cisco switching and Cisco Unified Communications Manager in an austere environment.
- Used Nessus, ACAS, and SCAP tooling to identify vulnerabilities and harden systems to DIACAP and DISA STIG requirements.

Systems Engineer

Apr 2015 – Jun 2016

NCI Information Systems

- Remediated vulnerabilities across enterprise systems using SCCM, WSUS, policy updates, and scripting in large-scale secure environments supporting 300,000+ users and 600,000+ devices.

Linux Systems Engineer

Dec 2012 – Apr 2014

MEDWEB — Afghanistan

- Supported 26 Integrated Healthcare Enterprise sites across multiple domains through remote and onsite technical support.
- Managed and maintained 50+ Red Hat Enterprise Linux servers across Afghanistan and the U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons.
- Trained clinicians and medical staff on radiologic software and hardware platforms.

Network Administrator

Dec 2011 – Jan 2013

U.S. Army Reserve — Afghanistan Deployment

- Oversaw the Composite Health Care System II and administered Active Directory, VoIP, and VTC services.
- Managed hospital communications supporting 50+ joint forces personnel.
- Administered the Medweb telemedicine platform — user accounts and system availability.

Signal Support Technician

Feb 2008 – Apr 2009

U.S. Army Reserve — Iraq Deployment

- Supported the MC4 medical network and served as liaison between DoD and vendor support teams.
- Provisioned and managed NIPR/SIPR network accounts and maintained tactical radio communications.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science, Systems & Cloud Administration — Western Governors University
2024 – 2026

Associate of Science, Applied Business — Mountain View Community College 2015 – 2017

CERTIFICATIONS

CompTIA SecurityX (CASP+) · CompTIA Network+ · CompTIA Linux+ · CompTIA Cloud+ · CompTIA A+ · CompTIA Project+ · ITIL v4 Foundation

In progress: Cisco CCNA · Planned: Cisco CCNP Service Provider (SPRI)