

N.D. REC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & CYBERSECURITY CONFERENCE

MAY 6-7, 2025

NDAREC Headquarters | 3201 Nygren Drive NW | Mandan, N.D.

TUESDAY, MAY 6

8-9 a.m.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOUNDATIONS AND ETHICS

Lynette Borjeson Painter, PhD, professor of cybersecurity, Bismarck State College

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools have become increasingly more common in the workplace. Many challenges exist in using AI tools including concerns of data privacy, both for the user, the data and the people the data represents.

This presentation will address foundational AI vocabulary, appropriate workplace use, using generative AI tools, and analyzing ethical considerations when using AI tools with a focus on personal data privacy.

9-10:30 a.m.

SECURING THE HEARTLAND: PRACTICAL ICS SECURITY FOR RESOURCEFUL RURAL ELECTRIC CO-OPS

Michael Slack, director of cyber programs, Norwich University Applied Research Institutes (NUARI)

Is your budget for ICS/OT security in line with what you're asked to do? Join us for an engaging session tailored to empower rural electric cooperatives with practical strategies for securing their industrial control systems (ICS). This presentation will delve into fundamentals of cybersecurity, emphasizing how to leverage common information technology (IT) and cybersecurity practices and tools to enhance resiliency, detection and response activities. Attendees will gain actionable insights to bolster their ICS security, even when operating with limited resources. Discover how to make the most of your budget while effectively safeguarding your critical infrastructure.

10:30-10:45 a.m.

REFRESHMENT BREAK

10:45 a.m.

CYBERSECURITY CAPABILITIES OVERVIEW: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO CONTROL SYSTEMS CYBERSECURITY

Jason Maughan, senior cybersecurity portfolio manager; **Jake Gentle**, portfolio manager and supervisor for secure and resilient renewables and grid integration; and **Rita Foster**, infrastructure security strategic advisor - Idaho National Laboratory

In our increasingly connected world, cybersecurity is crucial to every aspect of American life, from energy and healthcare to financial transactions. With the surge in cyber attacks on critical infrastructure by nation-state hackers, the U.S. urgently requires a skilled cybersecurity workforce equipped with advanced tools to protect their systems while detecting and responding to threats. Idaho National Laboratory (INL) has long been on the forefront, leveraging its cyber physical domain expertise to partner with organizations dedicated to safeguarding U.S. critical infrastructure. Together, we develop, test and refine solutions, methodologies, and specialized in-person and on-demand training

courses. This presentation will showcase some of these collaborative efforts and introduce attendees to valuable resources they can use to enhance their organization's defenses against both current and future cyber threats. Join us to discover how you can fortify your cybersecurity strategies and stay ahead of adversaries.

12-12:45 p.m.

LUNCH

12:45-4:30 p.m.

GREAT IDEAS HAPPEN HERE! ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

This time on the agenda is dedicated to creating a collaborative space for knowledge exchange, building connections and problem-solving with your peers. It's also a great opportunity to "admire and acquire" ideas and best practices.

5-6 p.m.

AXE THROWING AND NETWORKING WITH YOUR PEERS - SPONSORED BY HIGH POINT NETWORKS

Laughing Sun Brewing Company, 1023 East Front Ave., Bismarck

6-7 p.m.

DINNER - SPONSORED BY HIGH POINT NETWORKS LAUGHING SUN BREWING COMPANY

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

8-9 a.m.

GPS, WAR AND POWER GRID STABILITY: LESSONS FROM THE UKRAINE

Joe Marshall, senior IoT security strategist, Cisco Talos Intelligence Group

In the winter of 2022-2023, electronic warfare was interfering with power grid and civilian critical infrastructure. The Ukrainians were GPS jamming to defeat guided munitions aimed at them, with unintended consequences of interrupting power grid operations. This is that story, and what was done to hack and innovate a custom and unique solution to help keep the lights on.

9-9:15 a.m.

REFRESHMENT BREAK

9:30-10:30 a.m.

NORTH DAKOTA STATE AND LOCAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER OVERVIEW AND THREAT LANDSCAPE

Kirk Hagel, chief of operations/intel supervisor, N.D. State and Local Intelligence Center

Kirk's presentation will cover the purpose, function and capabilities of the N.D. State and Local Intelligence Center (NDSLIC), along with associated threats towards the electrical sector.

10:30-11:30 a.m.

RANSOMWARE AND THE DIGITAL PANDEMIC — UNDERSTANDING THE THREAT TO POWER RELIABILITY AND CYBER INSIGHTS

John Nagel, president of CyberNet Security, and chief security officer, BEK Communications

As cyber criminals increasingly target the energy sector, ransomware attacks on the electrical grid have become a pressing concern. This session will explore how these attacks can disrupt power delivery, the methods attackers use — such as phishing and exploiting outdated systems — and the potential consequences for communities. Attendees will gain insights into the importance of cybersecurity measures to protect our critical infrastructure.

MEET THE GUEST PRESENTERS



Lynette Borjeson Painter teaches in artificial intelligence and cybersecurity programs at Bismarck State College. Her educational background includes a PhD in Education, a graduate certificate in Cybersecurity Technology and a Master's degree in Management with a focus on Information Technology.

She holds several certifications, including Microsoft's AI-900, ISC2 CC, CIW Database Design

Specialist, and CIW Internet Webmaster Specialist. Lynette also speaks at state, regional and national conferences on artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and cybersecurity-adjacent topics.



Michael Slack serves as the director of cyber programs at Norwich University Applied Research Institutes (NUARI). He brings decades of boots-on-the-ground and executive experience to provide practical, relevant problem-solving solutions.

His experience in information technology operations, architecture and cybersecurity for healthcare and clinical research complement his service as the senior data network engineer with the U.S. Army Reserve. He has extensive cybersecurity experience in operational and leadership positions.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Minnesota, a Master of Science in Information Assurance from Norwich University, and a master's in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College. Michael earned the Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) certification and six Global Information Assurance Certification (GIAC) certifications, amongst others.



Jason Maughan is a senior cybersecurity portfolio manager at Idaho National Laboratory. He holds a master's degree in computer engineering and information assurance from Iowa State University, and brings more than 15 years of experience in the cybersecurity domain.

Throughout his career, Jason has been instrumental in fortifying U.S. critical infrastructure products and systems against vulnerabilities and leading responses to sophisticated attacks. With a specialized focus on operational technology, Jason is a proven leader in assembling and guiding exceptional teams to address the complex challenges affecting the nation's ability to protect critical systems in an increasingly dynamic threat landscape.



Jake Gentle is a portfolio manager and supervisor for Idaho National Laboratory's (INL) secure and resilient renewables and grid integration portfolio. He also serves as INL's Laboratory Relationship Manager to the U.S. Department of Energy's Wind Energy Technologies Office.

As a portfolio manager and staff supervisor, Jake leads teams through the development of technology and providing technical oversight

by coordinating state-of-the-art and innovative solutions for the Department of Energy. Jake currently serves as co-chair for the Smart Electric Power Alliance Cybersecurity Working Group. Since 2009, he has led multiple programs focused on the secure integration of clean energy technologies.



Rita Foster is the Infrastructure Security Strategic Advisor for Idaho National Laboratory. She's internationally recognized for innovative research in control system cybersecurity for critical infrastructure. She currently leads award-winning research and development teams in automatic binary analysis of firmware/malware, and cyber-threat mitigation trade-offs.

Rita has briefed numerous committees in the U.S. Senate and House, appointed by cabinet-level secretaries to serve on advisory councils, and is frequently called on to provide analysis on emerging threats to infrastructure.

She's managed multi-discipline teams of control system engineers, network engineers, cybersecurity researchers, machine learning, data scientists and subject-matter experts for infrastructure security. Rita's experience includes 23 years building control systems and communication networks including life safety double and triple redundant systems.



Joe Marshall is a senior IoT security strategist with Cisco Talos Intelligence Group, one of the largest commercial threat intelligence teams in the world. Joe specializes in industrial control systems (ICS), critical infrastructure protection, and IoT device security. Joe has worked with public and private industry around the world to help secure critical ICS and IoT assets from threats both mundane and exotic. He resides in Baltimore, Maryland, where he can be found knee deep in banjos, threat research, and helping keep the Internet safe.



Kirk Hagel is entering his 25th year of civil service, currently with the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services - Protection Section Chief. Previously, he was assigned to the North Dakota State and Local Intelligence Center and served as a law enforcement officer.

Kirk continues to provide communications, coordination, collaboration and assistance to public and private organizations and government agencies. This includes at the local, state, federal and tribal levels with overall threat, hazard and risk awareness.

Kirk graduated from Bismarck State College, North Dakota State University, and completed the Federal Bureau of Investigation's "Center for Strategic Thinking & Education in Public Safety" (C-STEPS) course.



John Nagel is president of CyberNet Security and chief security officer for BEK Communications. His extensive experience in strategic-minded technology and business development has led him to several senior positions in Fortune 500 companies. With more than 30 years of experience, his expertise includes venture capital, funding and developing Internet start-ups, software product development, e-commerce, and global business experience. Most recently, TechND

honored him with the 2024 North Dakota Technology Champion Award.

John serves on the board of directors for the Technology Council of North Dakota, ISACA ND, Computers and Office Technology for Bismarck State College.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

For your convenience, online registration is available at <https://www.ndarec.com/ndarec-education-programs>. The registration deadline is April 21. Your cooperative will be billed back for the cost of the meals and refreshment breaks. No advance payment is necessary.

For NDAREC members with a 2025 prepaid education plan, there is no registration fee/person and no limit on the number of registrations for your cooperative. For members who do not have a prepaid education plan, the registration fee is \$200/person. No advance payment is necessary. NDAREC will send an invoice for the registration fee (if applicable) following the conference.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS AT THE COMFORT INN & SUITES, 1516 27TH ST. NORTH, MANDAN

For your convenience, we've reserved a block of sleeping rooms for May 5 and 6 at the Comfort Inn & Suites, Mandan. The reserved room block is under "NDAREC IT-Cybersecurity Conference."

The room rate is \$109/night. The release date for the reserved room block is April 18. After this date, the reserved block of rooms will be released for general booking.

To make your room reservation, please use the link below.

<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/VT97Q9>

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS AND OTHER ACCOMMODATIONS

Please notify Pamela Clark-Stein via email at pstein@ndarec.com of any dietary restrictions such as food allergies, gluten-free options and other special accommodations needed for those attending the conference. A minimum of 48 hours' advance notice is requested.

BILLINGS & CANCELLATIONS

If you need to cancel a registration, please contact Pamela Clark-Stein at least 48 hours in advance of the conference. In the event of a no show, your cooperative will be billed for charges to cover the cost of meals and refreshment breaks.