

Jeffrey M. Thomas



Strategic technical leader with 20+ years in defense intelligence and software development, driving mission-critical, evolvable solutions for the Department of War. Skilled in aligning IT strategy with operational goals, managing cross-functional teams, and implementing secure, user-centered systems in high-stakes environments.

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Work Experience

Rise8

Mar 2026

Technology Director

- Directed architecture and technical execution for government modernization initiatives, helping teams deliver secure, scalable digital services using lean product thinking, cloud-native patterns, and modern engineering practices.
- Worked across leadership, product, and delivery teams to reduce technical risk, accelerate delivery, and translate complex mission and compliance constraints into practical implementation roadmaps.
- Supporting the company's path toward CMMC Level 2 readiness by helping align technical architecture, engineering practices, and delivery processes with required security and compliance expectations.

Naval Information Warfare Center Pacific

Oct 2025 - Mar 2026

AI & Emerging Technology Pilot Lead

- Serving as Product Owner for the Navy's enterprise API platform pilot, Central Data Exchange (CDX), shaping scope, backlog, and delivery outcomes to accelerate platform adoption and measurable mission value.
- Leading transition and delivery coordination for the Vannevar Labs ARCHER pilot as it moves from DIU to NAVWAR PMW-120 under OPNAV N2/N6 sponsorship, aligning stakeholders, resourcing, and deployment pathways to operationalize OSINT C5ISRT capabilities.
- Driving the PEO Digital AI@FlankSpeed pilot, including delivery of a CUI Categorizer application on top of Flank Speed, translating user workflows into shippable increments while navigating enterprise constraints and security requirements.

Jun 2023 - Oct 2025

Technical Director

- Led Tier 1 Program of Record (PoR) modernization, transforming intelligence with MARS integration across 400+ systems globally, enabling real-time insights and establishing an AI-ready infrastructure for rapid decision-making at critical defense sites.
- Forged high-level collaboration with Joint Staff (J2/J3), OUSD I&S, and OPNAV N2/N6, driving policy, doctrine, and TTP advancements that enhanced intelligence support for command and control (C2) across DoD and IC, accelerating mission-critical decisions.

Feb 2017 - Jun 2023

Principal Engineer

- Architected and led the development of the Force Disposition Tracker (FDT), a web application using TypeScript, React, Java, Kubernetes, and AWS for real-time enemy threat tracking and intelligence dissemination.
- Shaped and advanced core practices for the DoD's Kessel Run initiative, championing DevOps, Agile, and Design Thinking across the Intelligence Community.
- Managed a platform engineering team, enabling product teams to continuously deliver secure, user-approved software at scale, and facilitated the first production deployment on C2S for Pacific Air Forces.
- Directed intelligence and targeting mission portfolios, establishing vision, recruiting top talent, and mentoring to foster a culture of empowerment and mission success.

Aug 2015 - Dec 2016

Assistant Program Manager

- Led engineering for the US Navy's IAM solution, overseeing research, procurement, and development to support millions of users.

Aug 2014 - Feb 2017

Lead Engineer

- Provided strategic oversight on multi-million-dollar contract reviews, ensuring mission-critical alignment and compliance for DoD and IC initiatives.
- Architected scalable integration solutions for distributed DoD systems, advancing interoperability and enabling independent evolution across complex architectures.
- Led the migration to a microservices-based architecture, optimizing for decentralized agility and central governance to streamline system operations.
- Applied strategic architectural principles to build adaptable, resilient solutions that met evolving mission requirements and enhanced system flexibility.
- Advocated mobile-first and progressive enhancement strategies, boosting accessibility across devices and embedding a DevOps-driven, continuous delivery approach.

Northrop Grumman

Oct 2012 - Aug 2014

Chief Architect

- Advised the Architecture Review Team, directly engaging with Agile product teams and steering IR&D efforts for GCCS-J modernization.
- Acted as a technical evangelist and SME, collaborating with stakeholders to set strategic targets and address both near- and long-term technical challenges.
- Led the GCCS-I³ Architecture Team, including subcontractors, while serving as a strategic consultant for government clients.
- Drove business development by identifying growth opportunities, conducting research, and drafting proposals for major government contracts.

Jan 2007 - Oct 2012

Software Architect

- Defined architectural vision and transition plans, produced models, specifications, and validated architecture against requirements, ensuring alignment throughout development.
- Researched and integrated emerging technologies, educating both staff and clients and building prototypes to demonstrate innovative solutions.
- Assessed architectural impacts on existing software, aiding smooth technology transitions into the software baseline.

Apr 2004 - Jan 2007

Software Engineer

- Created Analyst Workshop Web, an AJAX-based application for Intelligence Analysts using JavaScript, Dojo toolkit, Struts, and Velocity templates, implementing the MVC pattern and Web standards.
- Developed Java-based features for Intelligence Shop (Java Swing client) and Intelligence Shop Middle Tier (server-side EJB, JMS, JNDI on WebLogic and JBoss).
- Built advanced search capabilities in Intelligence Shop Office, a VBA-driven Microsoft Excel plugin, integrating with XML, SOAP, and web services.
- Developed REST and SOAP-based web APIs, using XML, JSON, Apache Axis, and XMLBeans to support diverse applications with hypermedia-aware functionality.

Business Technology Center

Apr 2003 - Apr 2004

Network Engineer

- Managed network operations, ensuring seamless administration and security of the statewide ATM network, SSHEnet, supporting over 100,000 users.
- Strengthened network security by implementing and maintaining Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS) and honeypots to proactively monitor and protect infrastructure.
- Developed and enforced network security policies, enhancing overall cyber security posture across the network.

Feb 2002 - Apr 2003

Systems Engineer

- Delivered system administration and cybersecurity support across Windows, Linux, and UNIX platforms, ensuring operational integrity.
- Deployed and maintained critical security applications, including Black Ice, Sophos Antivirus, and Norton Ghost, to safeguard network and client/server environments.

Education

U.S. Naval War College

Mar 2025 - Present

JPME Phase I

Graduate-level program focused on joint warfighting, strategy, national security decision-making, and operational planning. Designed to develop critical thinking, interagency collaboration, and a comprehensive understanding of the joint force in support of modern military operations.

West Chester University of Pennsylvania

Aug 1999 - May 2003

Bachelor of Science (B.S.), Computer Science

Minor in Web Technology; active member of the Computer Science Club, contributing to collaborative projects and technical events.

Certifications

Google

Jul 2025 - Present

Generative AI Leader

Certified expertise in building and leading GenAI solutions using Google Cloud tools. Focuses on prompt engineering, model tuning, and responsible AI practices across enterprise use cases.

Microsoft

Jul 2025 - Present

Azure AI Fundamentals

Foundational certification covering core AI concepts and Microsoft Azure services used to build, manage, and deploy AI solutions responsibly and effectively.

AWS

Jun 2025 - Present

Certified AI Practitioner

Validated ability to identify appropriate AWS AI/ML services, apply machine learning concepts, and implement end-to-end AI/ML workflows across real-world applications.

AWS

Jul 2024 - Present

Certified Solutions Architect - Associate

Certified expertise in designing and deploying scalable, highly available, and secure systems on AWS, with a deep understanding of AWS services and cloud architecture.

AWS

May 2024 - Present

Certified Cloud Practitioner

Certified foundational knowledge of AWS, demonstrating cloud fluency and the ability to identify essential AWS services for setting up cloud projects.

HFI

Jan 2018 - Present

Certified Usability Analyst

Certified foundational expertise in User Experience (UX), demonstrating readiness to apply UX principles to real design projects.

CompTIA

Jun 2016 - Present

Security+

Certification validating core IT security skills and knowledge required for performing essential security functions in a professional setting.

Cisco

Feb 2004 - Feb 2007

Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA)

Validates foundational knowledge in networking, including IP connectivity, network access, security fundamentals, and automation. Demonstrates the ability to install, configure, operate, and troubleshoot small to medium-sized networks.

Honors

Active TS/SCI Clearance

Cleared for Top Secret (TS) information with Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI) access over two decades. Trusted to handle and protect highly sensitive intelligence with the highest level of security and integrity.

Authorized Transfer Agent

Designated as NAVWAR SCI Authorized Transfer Agent (ATA) for secure data transfers on JWICS, ensuring IT resource protection and data integrity to support critical intelligence operations.

Awards

Navy Civilian Service Achievement Medal

Recognized by the Secretary of the Navy for exceptional performance and sustained support to the Navy's mission, highlighting dedication to excellence and significant contributions that enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of naval operations.

Scientist to Sea

Chosen as one of thirteen individuals across the Department of the Navy for the Scientist to Sea program with the U.S. Navy Pacific Fleet, gaining firsthand experience aboard the USS Germantown (LSD 42) to observe operations and identify areas for technological and procedural improvements to better support warfighters.

Ten Year Length of Service (LOS) Award

Recognized for a decade of dedicated service, highlighting unwavering commitment to Northrop Grumman's mission and significant contributions to advancing aerospace and defense technologies.

Northrop Grumman Award of Excellence

Recognized for nine consecutive years for outstanding performance and contributions across multiple projects, along with a security award for enhancing the organization's security posture.

Conferences

DoDIIS Worldwide

Presented the Integrated Imagery & Intelligence (I³) modernization at DoDIIS Worldwide 2017, showcasing the use of cross-functional teams, UX tradecraft, cloud-native apps, and an open ecosystem to enhance situational awareness for warfighters.

Integrated Imagery & Intelligence (I³) Quarterly Conferences

Presented on technical and functional aspects of the Integrated Imagery & Intelligence (I³) program at nationwide quarterly sessions, facilitating discussions on program status, feedback, engineering collaboration, warfighter engagement, and strategic planning.

Skills

Technical Leadership

Solution Architecture
Strategic IT Planning
Wardley Mapping
Vendor & Contract Management
Budgeting & Financial Oversight
Cross-Functional Team Leadership
Digital Transformation
Portfolio Management

Cloud & DevOps

AWS
Kubernetes
Docker
CI/CD
Serverless Architecture
DevOps Practices
Data Engineering
AI/ML Solutions

Programming Languages

JavaScript/TypeScript
HTML & CSS
Java
SQL
Bash

Web & Application Development

React
Next.js
Tailwind CSS
Node.js
Microservices
REST APIs

Systems Engineering

Event Sourcing & Streaming
Fault Tolerance & High Availability
Decentralized & Distributed Systems
Design
API Gateway & Traffic Management
Data Partitioning & Consistency Models
Asynchronous Messaging & Queues
Monitoring, Observability & Latency
Optimization

Methodologies & Mindsets

Agile Methodologies (XP, Scrum, Kanban)
Lean Product Management
User-Centered Design (UCD)
Roadmapping & OKRs
Stakeholder Engagement
Domain-Driven Design (DDD)
Value Stream Mapping
Event Storming

Cybersecurity & Compliance

Risk Management Framework (RMF)
Zero Trust Architecture
Security Technical Implementation
Guides (STIGs)
Identity and Access Management (IAM)
Intrusion Detection and Prevention
Systems (IDPS)

Defense & Intelligence Expertise

Command and Control (C2)
Foundational Military Intelligence
Operational Readiness & Disposition
All-Source Multi-Domain Sourcing
Intelligence Reporting & Dissemination
Intelligence Collection Management
Threat Assessment & Analysis
Requirements, Policy, and Governance

Hobbies

[Guitar](#) [Photography](#) [Hiking](#) [Blogging](#)

Projects

Portfolio Website Mar 2023 - Present	<i>Software Engineer</i> Personal portfolio website designed to showcase a diverse skill set in software development, UX, and defense intelligence, featuring responsive design, blog posts on industry trends, and project highlights. Built as a platform for continuous experimentation with modern frameworks and tools, this site reflects a commitment to growth and innovation in web development.
Integrated Imagery and Intelligence (I³) Apr 2004 - Present	<i>Technical Director</i> Developed a suite of all-source intelligence lifecycle capabilities for Order of Battle (OB) and Force Disposition, integrating multiple Intelligence Tactical Decision Aids (iTDA) to enhance situational awareness and provide a Common Intelligence Picture (CIP) for the Common Operational Picture (COP). I ³ enables rapid, near-real-time intelligence fusion and data-sharing across national, theater, and tactical units, supporting critical Command and Control (C2) decision-making for warfighters and commanders.
Global Command and Control System - Joint (GCCS-J) Apr 2004 - Present	<i>Chief Architect</i> Developed by DISA, GCCS-J is a foundational Command and Control (C2) platform that provides a unified, near-real-time view of the battlespace for joint and multinational operations. By integrating data from multiple sources, GCCS-J enhances decision-making capabilities, enabling warfighters to effectively plan, execute, and manage military operations. As an essential component in the Combined Joint All-Domain Command and Control (CJADC2) framework, it ensures seamless interoperability across domains, empowering commanders with the situational awareness needed for coordinated and responsive action.
Force Disposition Tracker (FDT) May 2017 - Oct 2024	<i>Principal Engineer</i> Developed a web application to track enemy force disposition within a given area of operations, providing a modern Common Intelligence Picture (CIP) that accelerates decision-making across all levels of Command and Control (C2). FDT supports comprehensive Situational Awareness (SA), planning, execution, and assessment, and represents the modernization of the Integrated Imagery and Intelligence (I ³) tools within the Intelligence Support to Command and Control (ISC2) domain.
Kessel Run (KR) Oct 2016 - Oct 2024	<i>Chief Technology Officer</i> Contributed to the foundational phase of Kessel Run, an Air Force initiative aimed at revolutionizing software development and delivery through Agile, DevOps, and Lean practices. This joint effort, led by the AFLCMC and DIUx, focuses on rapidly modernizing the Air Operations Center (AOC) and Targeting capabilities to deliver innovative solutions to warfighters, bypassing traditional government constraints.

Platform and DevOps Tooling

Oct 2018 - Jan 2022

Product Manager

Developed a Kubernetes-based runtime platform with a suite of DevOps tools and CI/CD pipelines to streamline the path to production on JWICS. This platform enabled secure, continuous software delivery, enhancing productivity and reducing operational risks for product teams while ensuring mission-critical applications reached warfighters efficiently.

**Joint Command & Control
Architecture Core Team (Joint
C2 ACT)**

Aug 2014 - Sep 2015

Software Architect

Provided systems engineering support for the Joint C2 Reference Architecture (RA) under DISA's PEO-C2C, facilitating the transition and compliance of the Joint C2 Family of Systems (FoS). This work strengthened alignment with the Joint C2 RA, advancing cohesive command and control capabilities across coalition systems.

**Joint Command & Control
Common User Interface
(JC2CUI)**

Dec 2014

Software Engineer

Developed a web-based interface providing a unified entry point for warfighters to access Command and Control (C2) capabilities, leveraging Ozone Widget Framework (OWF) for a customizable, mission-scalable experience. JC2CUI offered a discoverable marketplace of C2 and enterprise capabilities, optimized through cloud computing and collaboration services to meet diverse operational needs.

**Command and Control Rapid
Prototype Continuum (C2RPC)**

Aug 2012

Software Engineer

Led initiatives combining emerging science and technology with advanced prototypes to address operational-level maritime needs across multiple fleet commands. C2RPC acted as an incubator for innovative concepts, producing capabilities transitioned to PEO C4I and other Command and Control (C2) programs of record, advancing maritime command and control effectiveness.

**Net-Enabled Command
Capability (NECC)**

May 2009

Software Engineer

Designed as the DoD's primary Command and Control Capability (C2C), NECC aimed to deliver a net-centric environment for strategic, operational, and tactical access across the DoD, intended to replace GCCS. Although the program was ultimately canceled in 2009, NECC laid foundational concepts for future C2 capabilities.

**State System of Higher
Education (SSHEnet) Network**

Feb 2002 - Apr 2004

Systems Engineer

A state-of-the-art private network supporting Pennsylvania's state-owned universities, SSHEnet serves over 100,000 students, faculty, staff, and community networks. Managed by the Business Technology Center (BTC), SSHEnet provides IP-based services, including Internet-2 access and videoconferencing, utilizing broadband technology to enhance connectivity and support educational innovation.