



# 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PEAK CYBER SYMPOSIUM

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## SPEAKER BIO



Michael "Mike" Crandall  
Founder & CEO  
Digital Beachhead

Mike Crandall is the founder and current CEO of Digital Beachhead, a Veterans Administration certified Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) that provides Cyber Security, Information Technology and Professional Services headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Mike is a graduate of Western Governors University with a BS in Information Technology Security as well as an MBA of Information Technology Management.

Mike began his career in the United States Air Force (USAF) serving 12 years in Europe where he was a leader in designing, securing, and managing the emerging technology of networks. His ground-breaking team developed the USAF "Barrier Reef" defense in depth concept introducing the idea of creating Demilitarized Zones (DMZs) within a network. Also, during his time in Europe, Mike helped champion, design, and implement the USAF first ever Network Security and Operations Center (NOSC) at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. These principles were adopted USAF wide and eventually by the entire Department of Defense.

Upon his return to the US and while stationed at Schriever Air Force Base in Colorado, Mike was responsible for the operations and security of the \$50 Billion Air Force Satellite Control Network to include connected networks such as GPS, Weather and Missile Defense systems.

Mike was named the 50<sup>th</sup> Space Wing Information Assurance Professional of the Year for a record 6 years in a row from 2005 until 2010 when he retired. Mike has deployed several times during his 20-year military career starting with the first Gulf War and ending with his last deployment in 2008 to Afghanistan. Mike retired from the USAF in 2010.

After his retirement from the military Mike went to work for a government contracting firm as their Director of Operations. He was responsible for \$300+ Million in contracts around the globe with hundreds of employees under his purview. After 5 years at this company Mike moved on to create his dream company Digital Beachhead.

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SEPTEMBER 9 - 10, 2026 | COLORADO SPRINGS, CO



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The term Digital Beachhead was coined by Mike in 2005 on a Military Performance Report and later used in 2008 by United States Deputy Secretary of Defense William J. Lynn III in reference to an intrusion into Department of Defense Information Systems. Unlike traditional Beachheads” which have a specific point of presence the “Digital Beachhead” is everywhere Information Technology exists. The company has grown from start up to opening offices in Bolivar, Tennessee; Las Vegas, Nevada; and London Ontario, Canada. Mike continues to develop and grow his company providing Virtual Chief Information Security Officer (vCISO) services to Federal, State, and local Governments as well as small and mid-size organizations. Digital Beachhead most recently became an Authorized Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) Third Party Assessment Organization (C3PAO) which provides CMMC assessments to the Defense Industry Base (DIB).

Mike’s greatest achievement is his family with wife Kathryn, his children Andrew and Cassandra along with Cashew the cockatiel and dogs Solina and Sarge.

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