STRENGTHS

Pipeline Improvement
Reworked a slow GitLab flow with caching and parallel tests; teammates gained quicker feedback and release conversations became more focused.

Calm Incident Triage
During a difficult cloud outage, traced certificate and load-balancer clues in order; responders found a clear fix and customer confidence returned.

Secure Cloud Delivery
Applied protected branches, release gates, and TLS checks on mission systems; security partners trusted delivery records during review.

Practical Mentoring
Four engineers received hands-on guidance during real releases, and peers began seeking advice on branching, rollback, and Linux issues.

Clear Stakeholder Briefing
Turned infrastructure risk into plain choices for architects and customers; decisions came faster, with fewer surprises during deployment windows.

SKILLS

DevOps | DevSecOps | AWS Services | Kubernetes | GitLab CI/CD | Infrastructure as Code | CloudFormation | Terraform | Linux Administration

Nicolas Watkins

DevOps Cloud Engineer

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SUMMARY

DevOps Cloud Engineer with six years of experience building secure delivery platforms, automating infrastructure, and operating AWS environments for mission-focused technology programs. Active TS/SCI clearance, willingness to take a polygraph exam, B.S. in **Computer Engineering**, and **CompTIA Security+** certification support work involving classified systems. Delivered repeatable AWS, Kubernetes, Linux, Terraform, Helm, and **CloudFormation** implementations across development, integration, test, and production environments. Rebuilt **GitLab CI/CD** workflows with caching, artifacts, parallel testing, regression testing, monitoring, release controls, and rollback paths. Partners effectively with cloud architects, software engineers, security teams, customers, and technical stakeholders, bringing calm troubleshooting and clear communication to infrastructure, network, container, and delivery issues.

EXPERIENCE

Senior DevOps Cloud Engineer

Ironclad Federal Technologies August 2022 - Present Columbus, OH

Owns delivery infrastructure for a classified mission platform across AWS, Kubernetes, Linux, Terraform, Helm, Elasticsearch, and GEOAxIS services. Guides four engineers, advises cloud architects and customer stakeholders, and connects secure release decisions with platform reliability, mission continuity, and audit-ready operations.

- Rebuilt **GitLab CI/CD** workflows in **.gitlab-ci.yml** with dependency caching, reusable artifacts, and parallel build and regression-test stages, shortening feedback cycles while preserving release gates.
- Standardized Terraform modules, Helm charts, and configuration patterns for **container services**, giving application teams repeatable promotion paths across development, integration, and production.
- Automated AWS provisioning and maintenance with Bash, Python, and Boto3 for IAM-aware storage, compute, tagging, and environment validation, reducing manual release-window work.
- Established Elasticsearch monitoring and operational dashboards for GEOAxIS-enabled services, giving responders faster context during failed deployments, network faults, and service health events.
- Mentored four engineers on Git **branching**, tagging, merging, **release management**, TLS validation, incident analysis, and secure infrastructure practices while briefing stakeholders on delivery risk.
- Owned **AWS** EC2, S3, VPC, ELB, CloudFormation, Kubernetes, and Linux environments, balancing availability, security, scalability, and classified mission requirements.

DevOps Engineer

Redwood Defense Solutions July 2021 - July 2022 Dayton, OH

Delivered AWS infrastructure and secure software delivery for modernization programs. Supported customer environments through cloud provisioning, Kubernetes integration, GitLab release control, Linux troubleshooting, network validation, and coordination with software and security teams.

- Delivered AWS infrastructure with **EC2**, **VPC** subnets, security groups, S3 storage, ELB routing, and CloudFormation stacks through reviewed changes, improving repeatability across customer environments.
- Integrated **Kubernetes** workloads into a **DevSecOps** pipeline with Helm packaging, environment-specific values, image scanning checkpoints, and controlled promotion between test and production clusters.
- Designed **GitLab CI/CD** build, test, and deploy workflows with protected branches, release tags, artifacts, and rollback procedures, giving teams steadier release execution.
- Wrote Python, Bash, and Boto3 utilities for server readiness checks, DNS verification, log collection, and cloud-account validation during deployment windows.
- Investigated Linux, Kubernetes, **Elasticsearch**, and commercial monitoring incidents in public-

Bash Scripting | Python Scripting

Boto3 Automation

CI/CD Optimization

Regression Testing

Release Management

LANGUAGES

English — Native

Spanish — Intermediate

MY CAREER

- Senior DevOps Cloud Engineer at Ironclad Federal Technologies (4 Years)
- DevOps Engineer at Redwood Defense Solutions (1 Years)
- Systems Engineer at Blue Ridge Analytics Group (1 Years)
- Cloud Infrastructure Intern at Midwest State University Research Computing Lab (4 Months)

cloud environments, isolating certificate, load-balancing, resource, and configuration faults.

- Documented TLS settings, network flows, change records, and operational runbooks with software engineers and security personnel, supporting audit-ready delivery practices.

Systems Engineer

Blue Ridge Analytics Group | June 2020 - June 2021 | Cincinnati, OH

Maintained Linux servers, virtual machines, network services, and storage for development and customer integration environments. Converted recurring infrastructure work into repeatable code and documentation, helping engineers create, validate, and recover environments with less dependence on manual setup.

- Converted server and network setup steps into **Terraform** and Bash procedures, making virtual machine and environment creation more predictable for engineering teams.
- Supported Git branching, **merging**, **tagging**, and release coordination for services moving through test and staging environments, keeping changes traceable.
- Configured **DNS** records, load-balancer rules, and TLS certificates under senior review, then validated connectivity with command-line diagnostics and service-level tests.
- Built **Python** scripts that collected deployment logs and compared configuration state across VMs, giving incident responders clearer evidence during release troubleshooting.
- Maintained **Linux** hosts, network services, and storage components for internal and customer integration workloads, addressing capacity and configuration concerns before handoff.
- Authored system diagrams and recovery documentation that helped developers and support personnel follow consistent escalation paths during service interruptions.

Cloud Infrastructure Intern

Midwest State University Research Computing Lab | January 2020 - May 2020 | Cincinnati, OH

Supported a supervised cloud infrastructure lab focused on repeatable AWS provisioning, Linux validation, GitLab CI/CD, container deployment, and network testing. Produced working demonstrations and clear technical records for faculty advisors and graduate research users.

- Built a supervised AWS lab environment with EC2, **S3**, VPC, and CloudFormation, demonstrating isolated compute, storage, and network provisioning for a research prototype.
- Created **Bash** and Python utilities for Linux host checks, service startup validation, and repeatable test-data movement between lab instances and S3 buckets.
- Developed a **GitLab CI/CD** pipeline that ran unit tests, stored **artifacts**, and deployed a containerized sample service to a Kubernetes sandbox.
- Packaged the sample service with **Helm** and recorded deployment results, failure modes, and rollback steps in a technical lab report.
- Tested DNS resolution, **TLS** certificates, and basic load-balancing behavior across a three-node virtual environment using documented validation procedures.
- Presented prototype results and troubleshooting findings to faculty advisors and eight lab peers, earning approval for inclusion in an infrastructure demonstration library.

PROJECTS

Mission Delivery Pipeline Modernization | 2024

Replaced slow, linear release work with a GitLab CI/CD model using caching, artifacts, parallelized tests, protected branches, and controlled promotions. AWS and Kubernetes integration gave delivery teams clearer evidence before production release.

GEOAxIS Operations Signal Center | 2023

Useful monitoring begins with questions responders can answer quickly. Built an Elasticsearch-centered view for GEOAxIS-enabled services, connecting deployment events, Linux health checks, network faults, and TLS findings into practical triage evidence.

LEADERSHIP & AWARDS

- College of Engineering Academic Achievement Award, University of Cincinnati, 2020
- Outstanding Infrastructure Lab Presentation, Midwest State University Research Computing Lab, 2020
- Dean's List, University of Cincinnati, Fall 2019 and Spring 2020

EDUCATION

B.S. in Computer Engineering

University of Cincinnati GPA: 3.7 2020 Cincinnati, OH

Coursework: *Computer Networks, Operating Systems, Cloud Computing, Secure Software Engineering, Distributed Systems*

CERTIFICATIONS

- CompTIA Security+ 2023
- AWS Certified Solutions Architect - Associate 2024

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **AWS Services:** EC2, S3, VPC, ELB, CloudFormation
- **Container Platforms:** Kubernetes, Docker, Helm
- **Infrastructure as Code:** Terraform, CloudFormation, reusable modules
- **CI/CD Platforms:** GitLab CI/CD, .gitlab-ci.yml, release pipelines
- **Version Control:** Git branching, Git tagging, Git merging
- **Scripting Languages:** Bash, Python, Boto3
- **Operating Systems:** Linux, Linux servers, virtual machines
- **Network Services:** DNS, load balancing, TLS
- **Observability Tools:** Elasticsearch, monitoring dashboards, log collection
- **Delivery Methods:** DevSecOps, regression testing, rollback procedures
- **Cloud Provisioning:** Networking, storage, virtual networks
- **Security Practices:** Image scanning, protected branches, release gates

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Cloud Infrastructure Lab Peer Mentor, Midwest State University Research Computing Lab, 2020
- Linux and Open Source Study Group Coordinator, University of Cincinnati, 2019 - 2020
- Engineering Capstone Technical Presenter, University of Cincinnati, 2020

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Work Status : Authorized to work in United States. No sponsorship required.

REFERENCES

AVAILABLE ON REQUEST