

Dallas Gallegos

Staff Cloud Engineer – Cloud Platforms

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SUMMARY

Cloud platform engineer with four years of experience building secure software development environments for defense research and engineering programs. Brings hands-on AWS delivery across **Amazon EKS**, Kubernetes, Helm, Terraform, Ansible, Jenkins, GitLab CI/CD, Python, CloudWatch, Prometheus, Grafana, and Splunk. Active **DoD Secret Clearance**, **Special Access Program** access, **U.S. citizenship**, and CompTIA Security+ support mission work requiring disciplined security controls. Builds repeatable cloud services from software, hardware, and security requirements, then improves reliability through automation, monitoring, controlled releases, and clear documentation. Raleigh-based and ready for daily on-site collaboration with multidisciplinary teams solving demanding problems across physical sciences, defense, civil, health, software, simulation, and testing programs.

EXPERIENCE

Staff Cloud Engineer – Cloud Platforms

Northstar Mission Technologies 📅 May 2024 - Present 📍 Raleigh, NC

Owns AWS platform patterns for secure development and test environments serving defense research application teams. Leads architecture decisions, automation standards, release controls, observability, incident learning, and cross-functional delivery with **hardware engineers**, software engineers, and **security specialists**. Provides dependable cloud foundations for controlled mission schedules and audit-ready operations.

- Owned **AWS** platform patterns across segregated development and test accounts, giving 11 defense research teams consistent services and clearer security boundaries.
- Standardized Amazon EKS clusters, **Helm** releases, IAM boundaries, and private networking through Terraform and Ansible, replacing manual setup with repeatable infrastructure.
- Rebuilt Jenkins and GitLab **CI/CD** workflows with **Python** validation, container scanning, artifact promotion, and approval gates, supporting controlled software releases.
- Partnered with hardware, software, and security engineers to resolve integration constraints, document architecture decisions, and keep cloud delivery aligned with mission schedules.
- Connected CloudWatch, Prometheus, Grafana, and Splunk dashboards for cluster health, deployment status, resource use, and security events, improving release-window visibility.
- Led troubleshooting and post-incident reviews for failed deployments, turning recurring findings into runbooks, automated checks, and prioritized backlog work.

Cloud Infrastructure Engineer

Blue Mesa Analytics Group 📅 June 2022 - April 2024 📍 Durham, NC

Delivered AWS infrastructure for simulation and systems-analysis applications across development and integration environments. Converted technical requirements into Terraform modules, Ansible playbooks, Kubernetes configurations, CI/CD workflows, validation utilities, and operating guidance. Supported reliable maintenance cycles through practical automation, monitoring, and traceable communication with program and security stakeholders.

- Delivered AWS infrastructure for **simulation** and systems-analysis applications by translating environment requirements into **Terraform** modules, Ansible playbooks, and documented deployment procedures.
- Maintained **Kubernetes** and Amazon EKS workloads through Helm chart updates, namespace controls, image configuration, and resource tuning across development and integration environments.
- Built Jenkins and GitLab pipelines for **Java**, **Go**, and Python services, adding tests, container builds, repository checks, and promotion steps for consistent releases.
- Wrote Python utilities that validated cloud configuration and collected deployment metadata, reducing repetitive checks during **software maintenance** activities.
- Implemented CloudWatch alerts plus Prometheus and Grafana dashboards for availability, node capacity, and pipeline failures, giving developers actionable feedback before demonstrations.
- Prepared architecture notes, operating guides, and technical briefings for program leads and security reviewers, preserving traceability from requirements through verification.

PROJECTS

Secure Research Cloud Factory 📅 2025

Built a reference delivery model for isolated AWS research environments using Terraform, Ansible, Amazon EKS, Helm, IAM, and private networking. Work centered on why secure access and repeatable delivery matter: researchers gain dependable tools without weakening mission boundaries. Automated checks and operating guides supported faster team adoption.

Mission Pipeline Reliability Initiative 📅 2024

Created a release workflow for Java, Go, and Python services with Jenkins, GitLab CI/CD, Python validation, container scanning, artifact promotion, and approval gates. Purpose stayed clear: give engineering teams confidence in every change. Monitoring through CloudWatch, Prometheus, Grafana, and Splunk helped teams act before failures affected demonstrations.

LEADERSHIP & AWARDS

- Recognized by program leadership for dependable AWS platform delivery across defense research teams.
- Received peer recognition for converting recurring deployment failures into practical runbooks and automated checks.
- Selected to brief security reviewers and program leads on cloud architecture, verification evidence, and release controls.

EDUCATION

Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science

North Carolina State University 🎓 GPA: 3.7 📅 2022 📍 Raleigh, NC

***Coursework:** Cloud computing, Operating systems, Computer networks, Software engineering, Information security*

CERTIFICATIONS

- CompTIA Security+ 📅 2023
- AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner 📅 2023

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Cloud Platforms:** AWS, Azure, Amazon EKS
- **Container Platforms:** Kubernetes, Docker, OpenShift
- **Container Packaging:** Helm, Amazon ECS, OCI images
- **CI/CD Systems:** Jenkins, GitLab CI/CD, Argo
- **Infrastructure Automation:** Terraform, Ansible, SaltStack
- **Programming Languages:** Python, Go, Java
- **Monitoring Tools:** AWS CloudWatch, Prometheus, Grafana
- **Security Analytics:** Splunk, IAM, container scanning
- **Networking:** Private networking, VPC, security groups
- **Operating Systems:** Linux, shell scripting, system administration
- **Security Standards:** DoD 8570, IAT Level II, Security+
- **Delivery Methods:** Infrastructure as code, artifact promotion, approval gates

SKILLS

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|--------------|----------------|--------------|------------------------|
| • AWS | • Terraform | • Amazon EKS | • Grafana |
| • Azure | • Ansible | • Helm | • Splunk |
| • Python | • Jenkins | • CloudWatch | • DoD Secret Clearance |
| • Kubernetes | • GitLab CI/CD | • Prometheus | |

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Member, Association for Computing Machinery, supporting continued learning in cloud engineering and software systems.
- Member, Cloud Native Computing Foundation community, following Kubernetes operations and container platform practices.

LANGUAGES

- English (Native)
- Spanish (Intermediate)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

REFERENCES

AVAILABLE ON REQUEST