Dr. Daniel J. Ragsdale

Principal Director for Cyber
Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering)

As the Principal Director for Cyber, Dr Ragsdale is responsible for coordinating cyber modernization efforts across the Department of Defense. His specific responsibilities involve the establishment of policies, as well as supervision and portfolio management of all DoD cyber modernization programs and activities, to include: research and engineering, technology development, prototyping, experimentation, test and evaluation, and capability transition. He is also responsible for making recommendations concerning the allocation of resources and alignment of efforts across the DoD.

Before his return to DoD service in early 2019, Dr. Ragsdale was the founding director of the Texas A&M Cybersecurity Center and Professor of Practice in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering. In the Director role, Dr. Ragsdale was responsible for leading, coordinating, and facilitating cybersecurity research and educational activities across the University. Dr. Ragsdale had previously served as a Program Manager in the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). In that capacity, he successfully led and managed a $175M research and development portfolio of classified and unclassified cybersecurity and educational and behavioral science programs.

Prior to joining DARPA, Colonel (retired) Ragsdale served 30 years in the U.S. Army in a wide array of operational, educational, and research and development roles. His deployments included Operations Urgent Fury (Grenada), Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) and Iraqi Freedom (Iraq). Dr. Ragsdale served nearly 15 years at the United States Military Academy, West Point, in a variety of teaching and research roles. He culminated his Army service as the Vice Dean for Education, the Principal Deputy to the Dean of the Academic Board, West Point's Chief Academic Officer.

Dr. Ragsdale is a 1981 graduate from the US Military Academy. He has earned a Master of Science degree, in Computer Science, from the Naval Postgraduate School and a Ph.D., in Computer Science, from Texas A&M University.

Dr. Ragsdale is a recipient of the Colloquium for Information System Security Education (CISSE) Founder's Medal, the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) Outstanding Service Award, the Federal Information Systems Security Education Association (FISSEA) Educator of the Year Award, the Texas A&M Engineering Genesis Award for Multidisciplinary Research, and the US Military Academy Apgar Award for Excellence in Teaching. Among his military awards and decorations are the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service, the Legion of Merit, six Meritorious Service Medals and the Bronze Star.

Dr. Ragsdale and Cynthia, his wife of thirty-eight years, raised three children, each of whom are officers currently serving in the Armed Forces; one in the Army, one in the Air Force, and one in the Navy.