

Christopher (Chris) Bartz
Partner, Potomac Ridge Consulting, LLC
chris.bartz@potomacridgeconsulting.com
(757) 633-6624

Chris Bartz retired on June 1st, 2025 as a U.S. Coast Guard Rear Admiral (upper half) with 35 years of distinguished military service. Before retiring, he served as Deputy Chief Information Officer for the Department of Homeland Security and Chief Information Officer for the Coast Guard. He also held the role of Director of Training and Exercises (J7) at U.S. Cyber Command, where he developed joint training and readiness standards and led large-scale cyber defense exercises involving active duty and reserve forces, partner nations, U.S. government agencies, and private industry.

Throughout his career, Chris held key leadership positions that advanced the Coast Guard's use of technology to enhance maritime operations. As the Service's Chief Information Security Officer, he established policies and procedures to strengthen cybersecurity across the enterprise. As Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard's Operations Systems Center, he oversaw software development for 55 enterprise applications and managed the Service's enterprise data center. In his role as Chief of C4 and IT Capabilities, he led the development and management of information system requirements for afloat, aviation, and shore-based assets.

In addition to his technology leadership, Chris spent many years in operational assignments. A seasoned Coast Guard aviator, he accumulated more than 3,300 hours of helicopter flight time and conducted 127 search and rescue missions, saving or assisting 54 people. He also served nearly three years on sea duty and played key roles in the federal responses to Hurricane Katrina and the Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of America. Chris concluded his flying career as the 27th Ancient Albatross, a title awarded to the Coast Guard's longest-serving active-duty aviator.

Chris holds a Bachelor of Science in Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and a Master of Science in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Alabama. He also earned a Certificate in Enterprise Architecture from the National Defense University, is certified as a DHS Level 3 Program Manager, and currently holds the Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) credential.