

Biographical Information

J. Michael Daniel, President, Cyber Threat Alliance

Michael Daniel

Michael Daniel currently serves as the President of the Cyber Threat Alliance (CTA). CTA works to improve the cybersecurity of our global digital ecosystem by enabling real-time, high-quality cyber threat information sharing among companies and organizations in the cybersecurity field. Its members currently include nine of the largest cybersecurity firms in the world. Michael has been with CTA since February 2017.

Prior to CTA, Michael served as Special Assistant to the President and Cybersecurity Coordinator on the National Security Council Staff. He held this position from June 2012 to January 2017. In this role, Michael led the development of national cybersecurity strategy and policy, and he oversaw implementation of those policies. Michael also ensured that the federal government effectively partnered with the private sector, non-governmental organizations, other branches and levels of government, and other nations.

In this role, Michael focused on executing a three-part cyber strategy: raising the level of our cyber defenses in the public and private sectors over both the short and the long-term; deterring and disrupting malicious cyber activity aimed at the U.S. or its allies; and, improving our ability to respond to and recover from cyber incidents when they occur. During his time in this position, Michael helped develop over half a dozen Presidential guidance documents and worked with Congressional members and staff to pass cybersecurity legislation. He chaired three interagency policy groups, such as the Cyber Response Group. Michael regularly interacted with private industry across multiple sectors and state and local governments in order to convey White House priorities, receive feedback, and promote public-private cooperation and collaboration. Michael played a lead role in crafting the government's response to cyber incidents, such the attack on Sony Pictures Entertainment, the intrusion into the Office of Personnel Management, and the Russian efforts to meddle in our electoral process. He played an integral role in driving the integration of cyber capabilities into the broader set of capabilities that can be brought to bear to achieve our strategic interests. Michael also had extensive international engagement in this role, helping to negotiate the cyber commitments with China and implementing the cyber confidence building measures with Russia; he also met with allies and partners on a regular basis, both in DC and abroad, in order to drive greater coordination on cybersecurity policy and operations.

Prior to coming to the National Security Council Staff, Michael served for 17 years with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). From September 2001 to June 2012, he served as the Chief of the Intelligence Branch, National Security Division, in a career Senior Executive Service position. This branch oversees the Intelligence Community (IC) and other classified Department of Defense programs. In this position, Michael played a key role in shaping intelligence budgets, improving the management of the IC, and resolving major IC policy issues. Within OMB, Michael also served as an examiner in the National Security Division's Front Office supporting the Deputy Associate Director and in the Operations branch reviewing Navy and Marine Corps operational activities and overseas military operations such as Bosnia and Kosovo.

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Originally from Atlanta, Michael received a Bachelor's in Public Policy from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University. Subsequently, he obtained a Master's in Public Policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard with a focus on International Affairs and Security. Michael also obtained a Master of Science in National Resource Strategy from the National Defense University's Industrial College of the Armed Forces in 2001.

Outside of work, Michael and his wife Karen are raising two rambunctious boys, James and Joshua. For over 10 years, Michael worked with a non-profit called Hands on DC, which works to improve DC public schools and provide college scholarships for DC public school students. Michael attends St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Washington DC and studies martial arts in the Chishin Ryu style with Dai Nippon Botoku Kai, a Norfolk-based karate association.