

John M. Seel

'01 B.S., magna cum laude
Computer Science
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John Seel enrolled as an undergraduate at Tech after his discharge from the U.S. Army. While in the Army, he was a former paratrooper, and supervised joint service personnel as acting senior ground intelligence analyst during the Bosnian and Kosovo conflicts. Upon receiving a B.S., magna cum laude, in Computer Science at Tech, John continued his education, earning a master's degree in Systems Engineering at George Mason University, and a doctorate Systems Engineering from The George Washington University. He also graduated cumma sum laude in Czeck and Slovak Languages from the U.S. Army Defense Language Institute in Monterey, Calif.

In his current position with the U.S. Navy, John is responsible for ensuring technical rigor in the development, deployment and sustainment of systems protecting national strategic assets. He assumed these duties after serving two tours in the U.S. Office of the Secretary of Defense Emerging Capabilities Division (ECD), and at the Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgreen Division. While at the ECD, John's team was responsible for finding, developing and fielding prototypes with military utility. At Dahlgreen, His team developed numerous cutting edge capabilities and prototype systems in less than 24 months from project initiation to delivery that provided military advantage for U.S. troops. John was previously selected as a member of a team drafting Critical Infrastructure Protection documentation for the White House, which identified future vulnerabilities to U.S. critical infrastructure.

John credits the staff and faculty of the Department of Computer Science at Tennessee Tech with helping him acclimate to college life after his initial military service. In his award acceptance speech John said that the professors at Tech set the bar high, but were always there to ask questions and lend their guidance.

“It's a lesson in simple leadership – striving to do your best, encouraging others, and being there when needed, but one that is missing frequently in the world,” he said. “It's a lesson

that Tech does well.”