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Demystifying Quantum

MANDATES, CAPABILITIES, AND WARFIGHTER READINESS

Tuesday, November 17, 2026

8 AM EST
1 HR

Registration & Networking

Enjoy some breakfast and networking with your peers before the program begins at 9am!

9 AM EST
5 MINS

Opening Remarks

Set the stage on why quantum is an urgent operational topic for naval and expeditionary leaders today.

9:05 AM EST
50 MINS

Demystifying Quantum - Reality, Mandates, & Infrastructure



Cameron Chehreh
Federal CTO
IonQ



Peter Ford
Director, National Security Solutions
Dell Federal National Security Group



Dr. Paul Parazzoli
Public Sector Lead for Business Development, IBM Quantum
IBM



Aaron Heffron
President for Insights and Strategy
GovExec

This session delivers a grounded, plain-language overview of quantum technologies, separating industry hype from operational realities. It breaks down the three primary pillars—Quantum Computing, Quantum Sensing, and Quantum Networking—explaining their foundational mechanics and how they differ from classical architectures.

9:55 AM EST
15 MINS

Coffee Break

10:10 AM EST
50 MINS

From Classical to Quantum: Preparing for What's Next



Captain Derek Dye
Acting Branch Head for the Integrated Information Warfare (IW) Fires Branch (OPNAV N99W)
Office of the Director of Information Warfare (N99), Department of the Navy



Bryan Lopez
Chief Information Officer and Director of Emerging Technologies
Department of the Navy



Jack Sears, Jr.
Vice President
Government Business Solutions



Aaron Heffron
President for Insights and Strategy
GovExec

This panel will explore how quantum technologies are shaping cybersecurity, government modernization, and next-generation computing. The discussion will connect near-term priorities with emerging opportunities, highlighting how organizations can prepare for increasing complexity while identifying practical applications for quantum technology today.

11 AM EST
5 MINS

Closing Remarks

Thank you for joining us!