Bill Lawrence
Vice President and Chief Security Officer

As NERC's vice president and chief security officer, Bill Lawrence is responsible for the oversight of the Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC) and for directing security risk assessment and mitigation initiatives to protect critical electricity infrastructure across North America. He also leads coordination efforts with government agencies and stakeholders on cyber and physical security matters, including analysis, response, and sharing of critical sector information.

Prior to joining NERC, Lawrence had a distinguished career in the U.S. Navy where he served as a pilot of F-14 Tomcats and F/A-18F Super Hornets. He also served as the deputy director in the Character Development and Training Division at the U.S. Naval Academy, where he taught courses in Ethics and Cyber Security. In 2012, after over 20 years of faithful service, Commander Lawrence honorably retired from the U.S. Navy. His awards include four Air Medals, three Navy Commendation Medals, and various unit and campaign awards.

In July of 2012, Lawrence began his career in critical infrastructure protection by joining NERC as a project manager. Since then, he has been promoted to senior manager, associate director, director, and senior director, with increasing spans of responsibility. Directly prior to becoming vice president and chief security officer, Lawrence served as the director of the E-ISAC, leading over 26 staff while executing a long-term strategic growth plan. Since taking over the program in 2012, Lawrence has led and grown the biennial Grid Security Exercise (GridEx) into the largest exercise of its kind in the world, delivering lessons learned to drive significant industry and government action to improve security and resilience initiatives between each exercise. Since 2012, he has planned and led NERC's premiere security engagement event, the annual Grid Security Conference (GridSecCon) series while growing attendance to over 500 cyber and physical security professionals. He has received four spot awards for performance.

Lawrence has a bachelor's degree in Computer Science from the U.S. Naval Academy, a master's degree in International Relations from Auburn Montgomery, and a master's degree in Military Operational Art and Science from the Air Command and Staff College. He also has a Project Management Professional certification and several cyber security certifications.