



Kirby Plessas

President & Chief Executive Officer
Plessas Experts Network, Inc.

Kirby Plessas is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Plessas Experts Network, Inc. (PEN), a Woman-Owned and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business specializing in open-source intelligence (OSINT) and undercover cyber operations training. A service-disabled U.S. Army veteran, Kirby brings over 25 years of intelligence and law enforcement training experience to her role as one of the nation's foremost OSINT tradecraft experts.

Kirby began her career in Military Intelligence as an Arabic linguist supporting Department of Defense missions. She continued her federal service as an intelligence professional with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), applying OSINT expertise to support warfighters and other Intelligence Community operations. In 2007, she was selected to help establish an intelligence innovation center focused on advancing OSINT tradecraft, and in 2010, she was formally designated as an OSINT Technical Expert by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Since founding PEN in 2008, Kirby has combined her intelligence background with a passion for teaching, consulting, and technology. Through contracts with the FBI, DEA, Department of Defense, and other federal partners, she has trained more than 25,000 investigators, analysts, and law enforcement professionals nationwide. Her instruction emphasizes hands-on, scenario-driven training in undercover online operations, social media exploitation, dark web investigations, cryptocurrency tracing, and digital evidence collection.

Kirby's expertise has been recognized across diverse professional forums, including SXSW Interactive, the High Technology Crime Investigation Association (HTCIA) Annual Conference, and the International Conference on Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism (ICTOCT). She has served as Vice President of The OSINT Curious Project, advisor to the SANS OSINT Summit and the Osmosis Institute, and advisor to the International Association of Financial Crime Investigators (IAFCI) and committee member of the OSINT Foundation.

Through her leadership at PEN, Kirby continues to advance OSINT tradecraft, helping investigators at every level strengthen their ability to identify, disrupt, and prosecute illicit activity in the online environment.