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Jose Vazquez is a native of Alexandria, Virginia. A 1982 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy he served twenty years in the United States Navy as a Surface Warfare Officer prior to joining the Federal Government as a civilian in September 2002.

While on active duty in the U.S. Navy Mr. Vazquez's initial sea duty assignments were as a deck officer and engineer onboard a frigate and an aircraft carrier. In 1989 Mr. Vazquez received a Masters of Science degree in Applied Science from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. Following post graduate education he served two department head tours as a Combat Systems Officer. From 1993 to 1995 Mr. Vazquez was assigned as Flag Secretary on the staff of Commander, South Atlantic Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, the staff responsible for planning and executing Unitas deployments circumnavigating South America. His next tour was as Executive Officer of an Aegis cruiser. Following his tour as Executive Officer, Mr. Vazquez was assigned as Chief Staff Officer, Afloat Training Group, Norfolk, Virginia from 1996 to 1997 where he was responsible for training 125 surface ships of the Atlantic Fleet. His last tour on active duty Mr. Vazquez was assigned to the Chief of Naval Operations staff where he served as the Branch Head for Western Hemisphere Affairs overseeing politico-military issues between the United States Navy and the Navies of North and South America.

In 2002 Mr. Vazquez joined the Office of Naval Research and served as the first Director for the Office of Naval Research Global's Latin America office in Santiago, Chile. Mr. Vazquez was selected as Director, Fleet/Forces Division in June 2004 where he coordinated the support provided by 25 Science Advisors to the Fleet/Forces Commanders of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. He also serves as the Director of Tech Solutions, an innovative, transformational business process created by the Chief of Naval Research focused solely on rapidly delivering needed technology to Sailors and Marines.

Mr. Vazquez joined the Department of Homeland Security, Science and Technology Directorate as a Special Assistant the Under Secretary for Science and Technology in September 2006. Mr. Vazquez has been awarded the Legion of Merit and various other personal awards for his active duty and civilian service.