

# Veterans within Advanced Air<sup>RM</sup> Mobility

2023 Edition



The purpose of the ‘Veterans within Advanced Air Mobility’ annual publication is to honor military veterans worldwide for their contributions to the emerging aviation field of Advanced Air Mobility including eVTOLs, drones, vertiports, UAS Traffic Management, policy, advocacy, and more.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Military service to any nation for at least 2 full years by 11/2023
- Open to Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard across all branches
- If retired, separated, or medically released: Honorable discharge
- Current members of the AAM Institute Board of Directors are ineligible:
  - o Special Thanks to Jeenho Hahm, Charles Stein, and Dan Sloat for their selfless contributions to our non-profit research center programs and for leveraging their unique military experiences and training to benefit the AAM ecosystem overall.

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**“Service members often work with cutting-edge technology in defense of their nation. Their insights and ingenuity have proven invaluable to Advanced Air Mobility. For Veteran’s Day 2023, we are launching this effort to acknowledge their sacrifices and pay tribute to their impact on the future of aviation.”**

—Dan Sloat  
Founder & President  
Advanced Air Mobility Institute



Note: A separate report, ‘First Responders within Advanced Air Mobility,’ will be published by 5/2024 to recognize our brave public safety personnel.

## Featured Organizations



General Aviation  
Manufacturers Association

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## Lead Corporate Sponsor

### Volatus Infrastructure & Energy Solutions

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VI&E Solutions is one of the world's leading electric mobility infrastructure firms, providing turnkey solutions for Advanced Air Mobility eVTOL operations. We produce universal, multi-modal charging stations, off-grid energy generation, and vertiport landing infrastructure that is accessible, efficient, and affordable.



*Where the Future Lands Today*

## Don Berchoff



Col (USAF-ret) Don Berchoff is the CEO of TruWeather Solutions. With four decades of experience in weather, aviation, and logistics, Don stands as a pioneering figure in the field of aviation weather. His depth of experience and pedigree is seldom encountered servicing the aviation community, and more specifically, the emerging Advanced Air Mobility industry. Don is focused on addressing the most significant weather challenge in the aviation community, reducing low altitude micro-weather uncertainty and the identification of hard-to-detect weather hazards that will impact drone and electric Vertical Takeoff and Landing (eVTOL) vehicles, especially in urban areas. His 24-year military career informs his efforts to seek out the best weather science and technology, aligned with practical operational

implications, for the Advanced Air Mobility industry. A world expert in complex weather and operations systems, Don is influencing and leading the development of new international aviation weather standards. He has set the stage for a new public/private business model to accelerate the transformation of the weather industry by driving better micro-weather and micro-climate measurements and predictions into society. All at a time when the world has become ever more sensitive to weather and climate changes.

Don earned a BS in Meteorology with Honors from State University of New York College, an MS in Procurement & Acquisition Management from Webster University, and an MS in National Security Strategy. His military awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters.

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## Ryan Berry

Ryan M. Berry is the Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Security Division Manager within FAA's Office of Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH). The UAS Security Division serves as the primary coordinator on agency actions, messaging, and requests relating to UAS security issues to include counter-UAS and collaborates with federal, state, and local security partners and the public/private sectors on UAS security issues. Ryan's vision has led his team in developing security focused initiatives to support the development of AAM and other emerging technologies. Prior to joining the FAA, Mr. Berry served as a subject matter expert in the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense-Policy,



Homeland Defense Integration, helping to develop and improve the counter-UAS coordination process and sUAS integration between DoD and the FAA. Mr. Berry also served for 11 years in the US Navy as a tactical naval flight officer in the EA-6B Prowler conducting carrier-based flight operations supporting US and coalition partners in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Indian and Pacific oceans.

Ryan holds a MA in international security from George Mason University, an MBA from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, a BA in History from Virginia Tech, and is a graduate of the Federal Executive Institute and National Security Executive Leadership Seminar. Ryan holds private pilot and remove pilot certificates. He lives in northern Virginia with his fiancée.

## Jonathan Daniels



Jonathan Daniels is a performance-driven professional unmanned systems (UxS) innovator, serial entrepreneur, consultant, educator, and research roboticist. He is the CEO of Praxis Aerospace Concepts Cluster, a family of Service-Disabled Veteran- Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSB) headquartered in southern Nevada. PACI provides practical solutions for multi-modal (ground-air-sea-industrial) response robot systems and connected critical infrastructure. Mr. Daniels has spent the last eight years immersed in civil UAS, UTM and aviation infrastructure with multiple airport facilities in southern Nevada and Central New York. He was the contracted Program Lead for NYUASTS on Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) High-Density Vertiport Automation for NASA. Mr. Daniels was the Airport Manager for the Searchlight Airpark, Nevada's first public airport dedicated to UAS, between 2017 and 2022. Mr. Daniels was the cofounder of the ANA Avatar XPrize Team Sensum ex Machina, selected as one of 77 in January 2020 to continue to the Semifinals. He was the Chief of Staff for the DRC-HUBO Team, UNLV's competitive humanoid robotic entry that placed eighth in the 2015 DARPA Robotics Challenge. He

was a proud participant in NASA's UAS Traffic Management (UTM) TCL-1 event in April 2016. He assisted the Clark County Fire Department in managing its Public Safety Blanket and Jurisdictional COA's. He was a proud participant in the FAA's UAS Traffic Management (UTM) Pilot Program in July 2019. Mr. Daniels holds a dual-major B.S. in Aerospace Studies and Business Management from Excelsior College, an MBA from Kaplan University, and a Graduate Certificate in Strategic Studies from the US Army War College.

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## Sidney De Leon Mazariegos

Sidney De Leon is an Independent Consultant for Air Advisors, specializing in a wide spectrum of aviation and aerospace solutions including flight operations, validation activities, autonomous aircraft technologies, airspace integration, and regulatory compliance. Previously, he served as Deputy Director of Operations for Latin America for Arcturus UAV. Master Sergeant (Ret) Sidney De Leon's life journey is a testament to unwavering dedication and a relentless pursuit of excellence. Born in Guatemala City, Guatemala, he embarked on a remarkable path of service and commitment. Sergeant De Leon's remarkable career in the United States Air Force for over 22 years stands as a testament to his unwavering commitment, dedication to duty, and his unrelenting pursuit of excellence. He holds a Master's in UAS from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.

*His story is an inspiration to all who serve and a testament to the values of honor, integrity, and selfless service.*



## David Dunning



David Dunning began his aviation journey with the United States Air Force, where he served as a Guidance and Control Specialist on the C-5 Galaxy. Based at Travis Air Force Base, his service included support of Operation Enduring Freedom and led to successful deployments in Chile and Peru. It was during this time that David's passion for aviation ignited, and he developed a profound appreciation for the vast breadth of activities and knowledge required within the aviation realm.

Transitioning from the Air Force, he honed his career in civil aviation, specializing in avionics support for various vital sectors such as law enforcement, fire support, and air medical services. Subsequently, David took the reins of aircraft fleet and maintenance operations for Hawaii's largest air medical provider. His journey eventually led him to serve as an Advanced Air Mobility Program Manager at the FAA's headquarters where he helped establish initial agency strategy for the integration of AAM

before joining GAMA as the Director of Global Innovation and Policy. In his role at GAMA, David is honored to lead the Electric Propulsion and Innovation Committee (EPIC) and collaborate with the world's foremost eVTOL and AAM technology developers to help shape aviation policy for new entrants across global civil aviation authorities. He attributes the GAMA EPIC's success to the remarkable technical expertise, continued enthusiasm, and unwavering collaborative spirit that GAMA members and staff bring to the committee.

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## Jared Esselman

Jared Esselman served in the Air Force from 2002 to 2009 as a Loadmaster on the C-17 Globemaster in the 437<sup>th</sup> Air Wing. Jared is like many other veterans who were deeply moved by the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001. He was recognized as Airman of the Year at the Squadron, Wing, and Base levels on three separate occasions. Later he earned his Master's in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School.

In 2017 he was appointed by Governor Gary Herbert as the Director of Aeronautics for the State of Utah where he led the statewide transportation system of 46 public airports and the state aircraft fleet. Jared commissioned and managed seven innovative and thought-leading studies related to various components of AAM. Topics such as land-use planning for vertiports, airports serving as connected activity centers, air corridor and Unmanned Traffic Management planning, airport electrification and many more. These studies were steppingstones to the Utah

AAM Infrastructure and Regulatory Study which was one of the nation's first statewide AAM planning studies. Jared was key to bringing two AAM package delivery companies (Zipline and DroneUp) to Utah which are both actively delivering medications and other goods across Salt Lake County. Today, Jared serves as Director of Infrastructure for Electric Power Systems and as VP of Future Air Mobility for WSP.



## Robin Grace



Robin Grace is the Chief of UAS Operations for MassDOT Aeronautics. In her current role, she leads the integration and operationalization of Advanced Aviation Systems, including Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS) within the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, delivering innovative solutions that enhance decision making and translate data into actionable information. She has over 20-years of an established aviation footprint, including piloting fixed wing & large UAS for the Department of Defense. Known as a strategic thought leader and coveted growth partner within the UAS / AAM industry, she is leading the efforts to help accelerate the smart development and deployment of UAS and advanced air mobility systems and infrastructure.

Ms. Grace earned a Bachelor of Science from the United States Air Force Academy, Master of Arts from University of Oklahoma, and Master of Business Administration from Syracuse University. She holds various certificates and licenses including FAA Commercial / Multi-Engine / Single Engine / Instrument Pilot; FAA Part 107 Small UAS Pilot; USAF UAS (large category) Instructor Pilot; USAF Certified Crew Resource Management expert; and Project Management Professional Certification.

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## Clint Harper

Clint Harper served 15 years in the Air Force in a variety of roles including Airport Operations Director, leading a 13-person airport operations section on US Space Command's most dynamic airfield consisting of three runways, two helipads, and one helicopter slide area. Today, Clint seeks to synthesize at total of 24 years of diverse aviation experience with a passion for urban design and community engagement.

His military experience includes aircraft dispatch, airport operations, airport planning, heliport planning, and unmanned aerial vehicle operations. After his military career, he pursued his love of cities with a Master of City and Metropolitan Planning degree and a graduate certificate in Urban Design, where he studied new aviation-centric urban form concepts, such as the aerotropolis and airport urbanism. Clint is putting all this experience and knowledge to work in integrating Advanced Air Mobility into the existing urban fabric. He is determined to emphasize the word 'integrate.'



***Integration is complementary to other modes of transportation, not a replacement – nor is it a silver bullet fix to existing woes.***

## Robert Hastings



Robert Hastings is the Principal, Robert Hastings & Associates, a leadership and communications consultancy serving the aerospace, defense, and advanced air mobility sectors. A globally recognized, award-winning military and business leader, Robert is a former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs who led all Department of Defense communications and engagement programs. During his tenure with the Pentagon, Robert achieved notable success in military-media relations while managing national-level crises and complex strategic issues. Robert was most recently chief marketing & communications officer for Bell Textron where he spearheaded the public advocacy efforts for the Bell NEXUS Advanced Air Mobility program driving a national conversation about air taxis and culminating in the highly successful public debut of NEXUS at the Consumer

Electronics Show. Robert has been at the forefront of the AAM/UAM/EVTOL public discourse from the beginning and continues today orchestrating thought leadership events in prominent venues such as CES, SXSW and the recent FAA AAM symposium. Robert also led the successful advocacy campaign which helped win the U.S. Army's Future Long Range Assault Aircraft program – one of the Department of Defense's largest and most significant acquisition programs to replace the Army's 2000+ Black Hawk helicopters. A decorated combat helicopter pilot, Robert is a retired Brigadier General from the Texas Military Department who successfully commanded U.S. Army and state military units from platoon to brigade level.

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## Jim Herrera

Lt Col Jim Herrera, USMC (Ret), President and Founder of All Azimuth Solutions - a Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business. Jim is a combat veteran with over 35 years of civil and military aviation experience. He earned his Naval Flight Officer "wings of gold" in September 1997. Jim served as an acquisition officer and Marine Corps Liaison to the Army's PM UAS and served as the Deputy Director of the External Programs and Foreign Military Sales Office. In this role, he served as the Marine Liaison to the Army to ensure that unique Navy and Marine Corps UAS acquisition requirements were being met within a common family of joint-use Army & Marine Corps UAS systems.

Jim retired after 20 years of active-duty service and taught Marine Corps Junior ROTC for 4 years before joining the

FAA in 2017. It was there he served in the UAS Integration Office (AUS), where he managed the AUS UAM Program and served as the FAA AAM National Campaign Co-lead, and eventually moved to the Air Traffic Organization (ATO), where he led the ATO AAM Strategic Working Group.





## Shane Hughes



Lt Col Shane D. Hughes is the Deputy Director for Plans and Strategy, Fifth Air Force, Pacific Air Forces, Yokota Air Base, Japan. In this role, he helps align current operations with long-term strategic objectives in the Asia-Pacific region. Additionally, he helps manage the US-Japan bilateral relationship, including bilateral security issues, exercises, readiness, Status of Forces Agreement issues, and shaping deterrence capability against regional competitors. Hughes commissioned in 2004 as a distinguished graduate of the ROTC program at the University of Arkansas. He completed specialized undergraduate pilot training in 2006 and served as an aircraft commander, instructor pilot, and evaluator pilot in the C-17A Globemaster III. Lt. Col. Hughes is a command pilot with more than 3,600 flying hours and 1,100 combat hours. Additionally, Lt Col Hughes is an evaluator airfield assessment team commander for airfield assessments and airbase openings.

Shane earned a BA in Middle Eastern Studies and an MA in Geography from the University of Arkansas, and an MA in International Relations from Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. His military awards include an Air Medal with Silver and Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster and a Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters.

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## Bill Johnson

Bill “Whiteshoes” Johnson graduated with distinction from the US Naval Academy in 1981 with a BS in Aerospace Engineering and entered a 26-year career as a Naval Officer flying high performance jet, carrier-based aircraft. As Commanding Officer of Strike Fighter Weapons School Pacific, he led efforts providing graduate level tactics and weapons handling training to 12 Strike Fighter squadrons. Upon transitioning to the private sector, Bill joined Northrop Grumman Mission Systems as program director for various advanced development efforts spanning all business areas and technology thrusts including Advanced Electronic Warfare, Weapons, Tactical Aircraft and ISR sensor systems.



In November 2020, he founded an independent consulting firm, Single Seat Consulting LLC supporting all sizes of companies navigating the complex business environments associated with the Department of Defense R&D and Advanced Air Mobility markets. From 2021 through 2022, he served first as Chief of Technology and then President of Air Advisory, a consulting firm dedicated to supporting the growing AAM business. During this time, he also started his role as Advisor, Emerging Aviation Technologies for Women and Drones. In this capacity, he supports their goal to inspire and support more women in pursuit of careers in STEM education through articles and presentations to their global network focused on the AAM industry. Bill holds an MBA from Florida Institute of Technology and a MA of National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College. He resides in Severna Park, Maryland.

## Ron Leach



Ron Leach is Founder of Leach Strategic Partners, providing consulting services to public safety entities by recommending best practices, monitoring changes in regulations, industry updates, and outlook, maintaining a positive public perception, stressing the importance of Constitutional protections, and sharing use cases both positive and negative as it relates to UAS technology. Ron served 4 years in the US Navy as a Fire Controlman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class with an Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist designation. He is also a 23-year veteran of the New Jersey State Police (NJSP). After 30 years of aviation experience starting out as a private pilot, he then joined the NJSP.

Ron has provided input on proposed law enforcement guidelines for the New Jersey Attorney General's Office specifically recommending the clear delineation prohibiting the use of force deployed from UAS. Ron served as a member of the US Department of Justice (DOJ) UAS Law Enforcement Working Group where he provided the same information which was adopted and published in the Justice Technology Information Center, a

program of the National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, US DOJ for recommendations to law enforcement. He has valuable experience in understanding issues related to counter-UAS (c-UAS) technologies and limitations. Ron has worked with MetLife Stadium and National Football League security to assist in addressing these issues and made c-UAS response recommendations for UAS incidents.

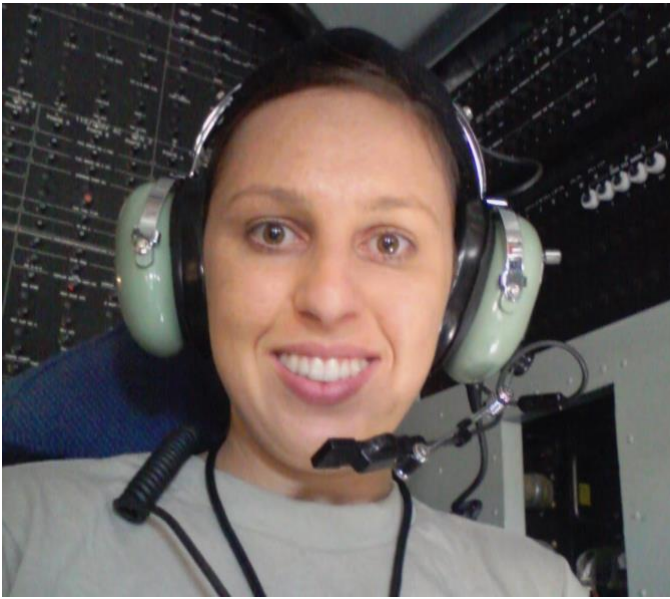
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## Jace "Digit" McCown

Digit is a career aviator with a talent for innovation. An Austin, TX native, Digit attended the US Air Force Academy, graduating in 2007 with a degree in Computer Engineering and marrying his wife Chelsea three days later. Over the next 10 years, he trained as a helicopter pilot and flew the UH-1N "Huey." In 2017 he jumped into the emerging unmanned, autonomous, and electric commercial aircraft space with Skyways as a Flight Test Engineer and Pilot for the company's prototype VTOL-plane cargo drone, cutting his teeth on remote piloting, electric propulsion, flight testing, and flight controls. This culminated in the team at Skyways winning a demonstration competition in which they completed an autonomous cargo delivery to a moving Naval vessel resulting in contract awards with the US Navy in 2019. In early 2020 Digit joined LIFT Aircraft, growing into the role he currently holds as Chief Pilot and Director of Flight Operations. He leads the company's Flight Operations team. He has flown the aircraft in multiple public and private demonstrations around the world. Additionally, he is the principal instructor, having trained almost 60 individuals to fly HEXA from the cockpit as well as certifying all of the company's internal and customer operators. Aside from his professional work with drones and EVTOLs, Digit enjoys flying FPV aerobatic drones, gardening, and managing his small flock of ducks, bees, and children alongside his wife.



## Karina Passi



Karina Passi is a 10-year Air Force Active Duty and Reserve veteran. Initially an Avionics specialist in Communications & Navigation, her aircraft was the KC-135. During that time Karina completed her CCAF, A.A.S. in Avionics Technology. Fast forward to 2019 where she made the switch from manned aircraft to UAS.

*"This was my genie moment. I had been granted my three wishes and worked for the startup Robotics Skies."*

She performed various tasks such as going to clients for demos, learning new platforms, and creating a maintenance program for them. Karina likes the startup culture, and she likes the room to innovate and bring ideas to life. For the last two spring seasons, Karina has

been *the* UAS Field Safety of Operations for the utility company, Southern California Edison. Now, she works for General Atomics as an Avionics Flex Technician for the Predators. These DoD style military UAS are a whole other level, and making the transition was not a walk in the park. "What I love about this role besides working on cool airframes, is I get to travel!" Karina is an avid traveler which is useful to the companies she's worked for. She's completed Airframe & Powerplant school and is on her way to finishing two degrees online, one in Engineering Systems Technology and the other in Aviation Maintenance, at Thomas Edison State University. Karina also has her lean 6-sigma black belt certification and started her consulting business in 2019.

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## Keith Sarich

Keith Sarich is a consultant and advisor to the EVTOL industry. A retired Naval officer, and Department of Defense (contractor) Program Manager, Keith is a commercial / instrument rated pilot, flight, advanced and instrument ground instructor as well as a UAS remote pilot. He holds a graduate degree from Governors State University and an undergraduate degree from Saint Xavier University. His FAA credentials include ASEL Commercial, Advanced Ground Instructor, CFI, and UAS Part 107 Drone Pilot's License.

He is an advisor to Airspace Experience Technologies ([iflyasx.com](http://iflyasx.com)) as well as a Senior Advisor with the Advanced Air Mobility Institute ([aaminstitute.org](http://aaminstitute.org)). He has authored articles for such publications as Global Sky Media ([globalsky.media](http://globalsky.media)). A frequent contributor in the areas of EVTOL integration, national airspace integration / discussion, pilot assets, CFR/FAR application, NG EVTOL simulator development, power considerations, Lithium-ion, graphene. He presented an "EVTOL Pilot Training Program" proposal to Archer ([archer.com](http://archer.com)) in early 2022.



## Kelly Sherman



Kelly's professional aviation career began as an Air Battle Manager (ABM) onboard the E-3 Sentry Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS). She quickly stood out amongst her peers as she garnered the Top Scope and Yukla-27 awards upon graduating from Undergraduate ABM Training. Upon graduating flight training and earning her aeronautical wings at Tinker Air Force Base, Kelly deployed to Washington, D.C. in support of Operation Noble Eagle. She was assigned as an air liaison officer with a joint air defense artillery unit.

After her time in the Nation's Capital, Kelly returned to the air as she deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom where she flew 42 combat sorties and

accumulated 550 combat hours, thus, qualifying her as an experienced ABM and eligible for instructor upgrade training. Upon returning to home station, Kelly attended and completed her instructor upgrade training while also serving as an assistant flight commander for a large flight of enlisted AWACS crewmembers. Kelly found her roles as an instructor and assistant flight commander to be the most fulfilling in her career. She took great pride in shaping the future of USAF aviation and ensuring all students were able to safely deliver expert air battle management in all current and future conflicts. Kelly's military career may have come to an end, but she still has an incredible interest in aviation. She is pursuing her juris doctor degree while remaining engaged in the flying community as a research fellow with the Advanced Air Mobility Institute. Kelly loves how AAM challenges conventional thinking and pushes innovation. Through her legal education and aviation background, Kelly aspires to contribute to policy, regulation, and the intersection of business and law.

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## Daniel Vicario

Daniel Vicario, a United States Navy veteran, co-founded Optiphase Drive Systems, Inc (ODS). ODS is revolutionizing the world of electric propulsion by developing technologies that overcome the limitations of today's drive and power generation systems. ODS' vision is to bring fellow engineers & innovators the flexibility and freedom they need to develop advanced, next-generation transportation and industrial equipment that meet and exceed the needs of their customers. ODS advantages include Improved Power Density, Improved Thermal Performance, and Torque Ripple Reduction.

**Our mission is simple:**  
*accelerate the future of electrification.*

LCDR Daniel Vicario, USN, served 14 years active and active reserve as a Naval Aviator. He attained over 2,000 flight hours and over 500 flight deck landings in fixed and rotary-wing aircraft. Most of Daniel's flight hours were spent in the long-range strike and reconnaissance aircraft, the SH-60B and the venerable UH-3H Sea King.



## Donald Williams, Jr.



Lieutenant Colonel Donald Williams Jr. is a strategist in the Office of the Secretary of Defense Campaign Decision Support Team. Lt Col Williams leads military strategy, international relations, and long-term engagement for the United States' interests abroad.

Lt Col Williams is a 2009 graduate of North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University and a Distinguished Graduate of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, Detachment 605 in Greensboro, NC. He is an Evaluator Air Battle Manager and Senior Director on the E-3B/C/G Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) and Japan Air Defense Ground Environment (JADGE). He has completed two deployments, one to Southwest Asia and another to the Netherlands Antilles. He managed an Operations Group training program of a \$3.2 billion aircraft modification for over 600 aircrew members, led a \$230 million annual operations and training program for the senior U.S. Command and Control agency in Japan, representing over 3,000 aircrew members, and served as the Wing Executive Officer in the Air Force's largest combat wing.

He was a 2019-2020 White House Fellow, serving as a senior advisor and speechwriter to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. He was also a Joint Staff J-5 Political-Military Strategy Officer, coordinating strategy and policy for joint force equities in China, Taiwan, and Mongolia.

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## Bryan Willows

Bryan Willows became the Program Manager for Bristow's Advanced Air Mobility team in March 2022. In this role, Bryan is responsible for strategic planning and introduction of Bristow's eVTOL/eSTOL fleet and AW609 fleet in new and existing markets. Additionally, he advises Bristow's external partners and Executive Leadership Team on technical aviation matters.

Before joining the Advanced Air Mobility team, Bryan worked as the Powered-Lift Program Manager, focusing on the launch of the AW609 at Era Helicopters and Bristow Group. Prior to joining Era in 2019, Bryan earned an MBA from the Acton School of Business in Austin, TX in 2012 and served in various roles with Johnson Controls Building Efficiency division from 2013-2019.



From 2001-2011 Bryan served as a U.S. Marine Corps Officer flying the CH-46E "Sea Knight" and MV-22B "Osprey", deploying twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He holds ratings as an Airline Transport Pilot – Helicopter, Commercial – Powered-lift, Single and Multi-engine Airplane pilot, and is a Powered-Lift CFI/CFII.

## Christos Xylokotas



Christos Xylokotas is a distinguished Major in the Hellenic Army Aviation, serving as a highly skilled helicopter pilot with over 12 years of experience and currently holding the rank of Major (NATO OF-3). With approximately 1000 flight hours logged across four different helicopter types, including the NH-300C, UH-1H, NH90 TTH, and NH90 SOH, Christos is a seasoned aviator with a deep understanding of rotorcraft operations. In addition to his helicopter piloting expertise, Christos Xylokotas is an Aircraft Accident Investigator and Flight Safety Officer, demonstrating a commitment to enhancing safety and ensuring the highest standards in aviation operations. He is also a certified Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) pilot, specializing in the IAI HERON-1 UAV within the Military, Certified, BVLOS, MALE category, boasting over 900 flight hours of experience. His role as a MALE

UAV HERON Air Vehicle Operator (AVO) and Mission Commander (MC) has provided him with extensive experience in Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR), as well as maritime border patrol operations, further enhancing his proficiency in aviation and security operations. This experience has also provided him with a unique knowledge in Unmanned Aircraft Systems integration into airspace and the related challenges.

Beyond his military qualifications, Christos holds certification as a Project Manager in the European Commission's PM<sup>2</sup> Methodology, underscoring his ability to efficiently lead and deliver projects in alignment with internationally recognized standards. In addition to his military and aviation roles, he serves as a Board of Liaisons Member at the Advanced Air Mobility Institute. Moreover, Christos Xylokotas is highly dedicated to continuous learning and professional development. He has completed several courses in Advanced Air Mobility and Urban Air Mobility, including "Urban Air Mobility" from the Technical University of Munich and "Urban Air Mobility" from EIT Urban Mobility.

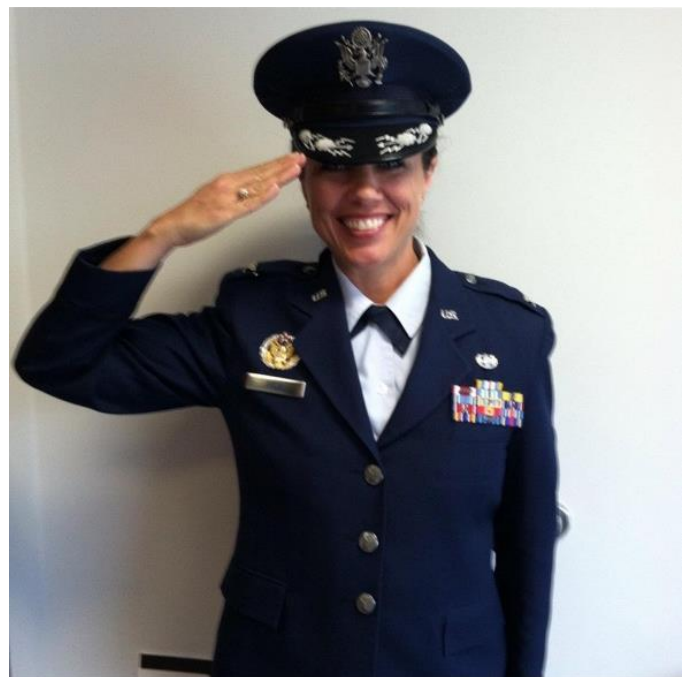
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## Dawn Zoldi

Dawn M.K. Zoldi (Colonel, USAF, Retired) is a licensed attorney with 28 years of combined active duty military and federal civil service to the U.S. Air Force and a Part 107 certified drone pilot. She is the CEO & Founder of P3 Tech Consulting and an internationally recognized expert on uncrewed aircraft system law and policy, featured in CNN, Forbes, Newsweek, and PBS.

Ms. Zoldi contributes to several magazines and hosts popular tech podcasts. In 2022, she received the Airwards People's Choice Industry Impactor Award, was recognized as one of the Top Women in Aerospace & Aviation to Follow on LinkedIn and listed in the eVTOL Insights PowerBook. She is the author of the book:

*Unmanned Aircraft Systems Legal and Business Considerations: A Modern Primer for U.S. Drone Programs.*



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**The Advanced Air Mobility Institute is a 501(c)3 American non-profit research center dedicated to educating and advocating for the broadest public benefit through the AAM ecosystem globally.**

