DTS
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION SUMMIT

June 8 - 10, 2026
Sinclair Conference Center

Speaker Bios

*Current as of May 7, 2026

Ted Angel is the Executive Director for the National Advanced Air Mobility Center of Excellence (NAAMCE). In this role, Ted is responsible for attraction, expansion, and retention of AAM partners, companies, and suppliers throughout Ohio. He convenes key stakeholders across the state, including researchers, industry leaders, military personnel, and government officials to foster collaborative efforts aligning with Ohio's industry strategy.

Prior to his role as the Executive Director, Ted held multiple positions at the Dayton Development Coalition, a network partner for JobsOhio. Those positions consisted of Director of Projects and Business Development for Aerospace & Defense and Aerospace Affairs Director.

Before his tenure at the Coalition and NAAMCE, Ted spent twenty-seven and half years in the United States Air Force, serving in every major leadership role to include Aircrew Flight Equipment Superintendent, Squadron Superintendent, Command Manager and Senior Enlisted Leader.

Tyler Bair is CEO and co-founder of Lighthouse Avionics, a defense technology company headquartered in Hilliard, Ohio specializing in unmanned aviation systems and counter-UAS solutions.

With a background in electrical and computer engineering from Ohio State University, Tyler leads the company's business development, strategy, and high-level technical direction.

Lighthouse Avionics builds integrated sensor and drone platforms that enable safe beyond-visual-line-of-sight (BVLOS) operations for public safety, defense, and critical infrastructure applications. Tyler previously led the software development at Converge Technologies before co-founding Lighthouse Avionics in 2021.

Mr. Joseph A. Baker, a member of the Senior Executive Service, is the Director of Engineering and Technical Management and Chief Engineer, Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. He provides comprehensive engineering leadership for maintaining technical superiority and integrity of all Air Force weapon systems. He leads the command's digital transformation to rapidly research, develop, test, field and effectively sustain disruptive technologies. He leads over 14,000 personnel in the engineering organization and is responsible for talent acquisition, development and management of over 80% of the Air Force's engineering and technical workforce.

Mr. Baker began his federal career in 1996 as an aerospace engineer in the Aeronautical Systems Center's Engineering Directorate (Air Force Life Cycle Management Center today). He has held multiple management and technical positions within the Air Force Research Laboratories, Air Force Materiel Command and various acquisition program offices. Prior to this position, Mr. Baker was the Director of Engineering, F-35 Joint Program Office, Arlington, Virginia.

Sean Calhoun is Managing Director at CAL Analytics. He has over 20 years of experience in the development of autonomous systems, focusing primarily on unmanned aircraft systems.

His recent activities include research and development of CAL's Unmanned Traffic Management (UTM) / Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) Platform, Ohio's Drone for First Responder program, Ohio's SkyVision Ground-Based Detect and Avoid System, and technical lead for several UAS-related research programs for the USAF.

He is active in the UAS standards development process, participating in ASTM and RTCA committees. He has a B.S. in Electrical Engineering, Applied Physics and Mathematics from Ohio University, a Master's in Electrical Engineering from Ohio University, and a PhD in Electrical Engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology.

Price DeSanctis is a Model Based Systems Engineer and Digital Engineering practitioner with Modern Technology Solutions, Inc. (MTSI), supporting the Missile Defense Agency where he serves as a Visualization Subject Matter Expert within the newly established Chief Digital Office.

His work focuses on integrating Model Based Systems Engineering, Model Based Enterprise Architecture, and advanced data visualization techniques to transform complex engineering data into actionable decision insights.

Price has led multiple digital engineering initiatives that connect SysML and UAF architectures to analytics environments such as Power BI, enabling mission level roll ups, risk analysis, and executive level decision support. He has also supported cross organization efforts with OUSD and other DoD stakeholders to advance mission engineering, cyber survivability modeling, and enterprise data integration.

Christopher A. Garrett, a Senior Level Executive, is the Technical Advisor, Systems Engineering, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. He serves as the recognized Air Force authority for systems engineering for weapon systems lifecycle management charged with providing technical oversight and advice to high level Air Force and government officials. In this role, Mr. Garrett is the lead engineer developing the Air Force Materiel Command strategy for digital transformation.

Mr. Garrett spent over 27 years of active-duty service in the Air Force working in the areas of electronic warfare, test, space, and aircraft sustainment and while on active duty he spent two years at Robins AFB, Georgia, leading the C-17 group. Mr. Garrett finished his career as the Deputy Director for Engineering and Technical Management at AFMC. As Deputy Director, he focused on three areas – System of Systems Analysis, Open Systems Architecture, and Strategic Planning. From September 2015 to February 2020, Mr. Garrett worked in the engineering home office at AFLCMC where he focused on infusing open standards and architectures across Air Force weapon systems.

Mr. Garrett also led an effort to build an Air Force ecosystem where open standards, agile processes and digital engineering could be combined to delivery capability expeditiously to the field. In February 2020, He was appointed Senior Leader for Systems Engineering in the Air Force. In this job, his current focus is to ensure the AFMC Digital Campaign appropriately replicates and expedites the system engineering process.

Tim Grayson leads the BAE Systems' FAST Labs™ organization in advancing science and delivering new technologies, products, and business models, to both internal and external customers.

Tim has a distinguished career that extends both government and industry. Having served as Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force to lead modernization of the Air and Space Forces. He was the Director of the Strategic Technology Office (STO) at the Defense Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and a senior intelligence officer with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Earlier in his career, he was a program manager and senior scientist at DARPA and before that he was a research fellow at Air Force Wright Laboratory (now part of Air Force Research Laboratory).

Tim also has extensive industry experience. He joins BAE Systems from Leidos, Inc. where he served as senior vice president and chief architect for the company's Defense Systems Sector. He was the founder and president of Fortitude Mission Research LLC, a Senior Manager at Raytheon Photon Research, created a start-up business unit at Ktech Inc., and was a senior Interdisciplinary System Engineer at MITRE Corp.

Tim holds a Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Rochester, where he specialized in quantum optics, and a B.S. in Physics from the University of Dayton with minors in mathematics and computer science.

Mr. John M. Grigaliunas, a senior-level executive, is the Technical Advisor for Armament and Weapons Test and Evaluation, Air Force Test Center, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

He is the senior technical advisor to the AFTC commander and serves as the senior Air Force technical advisor and national/international authority in armament and weapons test and evaluation.

He also has responsibility for providing technical advice and guidance to the highest levels of the Air Force, the Department of War, as well as nationally critical conventional weapon system development efforts regarding test infrastructure, test capabilities and best practices, modeling and simulation and interpretation of test results. AFTC's workforce of 18,000 military, civilians and contractors, and its ranges and facilities, are located across the U.S. including Edwards AFB, California; Eglin AFB, Florida; Holloman AFB, New Mexico; and Arnold AFB, Tennessee. Mr. Grigaliunas was appointed a senior-level executive in December 2020.

Mr. Hector Guevara is currently working as the Strategic Advisor to the Defense Engineering Corporation (DEC) where he helps grow the workforce into a Deliberately Developmental Organization so they can then all best grow the business. He is an expert at designing organizational culture to deliver strategy, and has mastered change management by digitally transforming a division of 300+ people in only 4 months and revectored another division to employ AI/ML.

Hector continuously served with the US Air Force from July 1983 to the present day in enlisted, commissioned, active duty, reserve, civil servant, and now contractor roles. The majority of his career was spent in the Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) arena where he had three assignments in System Program Offices (Military Satellite Communications Joint Program Office at LA AFB, Reconnaissance SPO and ISR & SOF Directorate), four assignments at Air Force Research Lab (Air Vehicles, Human Effectiveness, and Sensors Directorates and HQ AFRL), and three tours at the National Air & Space Intelligence Center (Production Operations, DIA/Processing & Exploitation Capabilities Office, and the MASINT Division). Hector clearly understands ISR RDT&E from the science and technology foundational levels at AFRL, to the essential acquisition systems engineering required to field state of the art ISR systems in SPOs, and to the operations and sustainment knowledge necessary to produce quality ISR reports based on optimized Processing, Exploitation, and Dissemination (PED) processes he learned at NASIC.

Robert Herman is the co-founder and CEO of REscan, a 3D mapping technology company focused on digitizing the physical world from a human perspective. He brings deep expertise in commercial real estate, having spent over a decade acquiring and managing more than 100 assets for the Washington State Pension Fund.

In 2019, Robert was appointed to the Americas World Regional Board of RICS, where he advocates for technology-driven transformation across the real estate industry. He is also an active member of the Digital Twin Consortium.

Robert holds master's degrees from Corvinus University of Budapest and Nottingham Trent University, along with a JD from Pázmány Péter University.

Dr. Patrick Hester is the Principal Machine Learning Engineer at Mile Two where he leads development of natural language processing, generative AI, and knowledge graphing solutions.

He has 24 years of machine learning, decision analysis, and systems thinking experience, 20 years of consulting and practical problem-solving expertise, and 15 years of experience leading interdisciplinary research teams and projects.

His publication record includes over 100 publications and presentations in scientific journals, books, and conferences. His consulting and research clients have included NASA LaRC, AFRL, US Army, US Navy, MDA, NIST, NATO ACT, NOAA, DHS, Sandia National Laboratories, and General Dynamics.

David Uriel Ibarra is Founder and President of Eagle Flight Vertical Solutions and a former FAA Flight Standards (AFS-300) Aviation Safety Inspector specializing in Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) and UAS integration.

With over 40 years of experience in military and commercial aviation—including more than three decades at the FAA—he has led and contributed to certification, airworthiness, and regulatory initiatives across domestic and international aviation systems.

He is actively advancing multiple efforts within the AAM industry, including the development of scalable workforce models to prepare technicians for electrified and software-defined aviation systems, and currently serves as a Subject Matter Expert for the National Center for Autonomous Technology (NCAT), supporting national workforce development and integration initiatives.

Jackie Janning-Lask is CEO of the Midwest Microelectronics Consortium (MMEC). In this capacity, Jackie is responsible for managing the overall operation of the company as well as advancing the state-of-the-art in microelectronics through the robust collaboration of MMEC's consortium partners. She is passionate about advancing STEM education and training, growing a strong domestic semiconductor alliance, and furthering the United States' microelectronics ecosystem while driving profitability and economic development for the Midwest region.

Jackie began her career in the federal service as a systems engineer in the United States Air Force (USAF), Aeronautical Systems Division Engineering Directorate in 1988. She has held numerous leadership and technical positions across the USAF, most recently serving in the Senior Executive Service (SES) as the Director of Engineering and Chief Engineer of the Air Force Lifecycle Management Center where she led over 6000 engineers in the acquisition, sustainment and test for USAF aircraft, engines, munitions, electronic and business systems. She was also the USAF Technical Airworthiness Authority for Air Force weapons systems and led the transformation to digital engineering in support of rapid capability maturation, delivery, and readiness. Prior to that assignment, Jackie served as the Director of Sensors, Air Force Research Laboratory, responsible for an annual budget of nearly $1B and ensuring America's air, space and cyber forces have superior USAF intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, precision engagement, and electronic warfare systems capabilities.

Jiri Jirik is a cybersecurity expert who with over 20 years of experience in both industry and academia. He currently serves as Director of the Moraine Valley Community College's Education Pathway National Center. In his role, he leads the development, implementation, and instruction of cybersecurity curriculum materials tailored for K-12, higher education institutions, and adult learners. His qualification includes cybersecurity certifications such as CISSP, CISA, CASP.

He holds MBA with concentration on Information Systems and is currently pursuing Ph.D. in Cyber Defense from Dakota State University, with research interests in cybersecurity education and cybersecurity workforce development.

Chris Lewis is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Vets to Drones, a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering military veterans by providing training, certification, and career pathways in the commercial drone industry.

A veteran of both the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Army, Lewis served from 2009 to 2018, during which his military career included early exposure to unmanned aerial systems. In 2020, Lewis established Vets to Drones to address the barriers veterans encounter when entering the commercial drone sector.

The organization offers guidance, community support, and training programs—most notably preparing participants for the FAA Part 107 remote pilot certification. Under his leadership, the initiative has expanded significantly, assisting thousands of veterans in building sustainable careers as drone operators while fostering a network of professionals in this rapidly growing field.

Based in North Carolina, Lewis continues to lead Vets to Drones with a commitment to translating military expertise into civilian opportunities, emphasizing practical skills, rapid innovation, and veteran empowerment.

Lt Gen (Retired) Shaun Q. Morris is currently the Chief Growth Officer at the Small Business Consulting Corporation. Prior to his retirement, Lt Gen Morris served as the Commander of the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center and the Program Executive Officer for the Air Force Rapid Sustainment Office.

His previous assignments include Commander, Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center and Program Executive Officer for Strategic Systems; Director of the Armament Directorate and Program Executive Officer for Weapons; and Director of the Air Force Security and Assistance Center.

Mr. Benjamin J. Noble is the Architectures and Systems Engineering (ASE) Group Chief Engineer for the Integrating Program Executive Officer (IPEO) for Mission Systems (MS) at the Agile Development Office (ADO), Advanced Aircraft Division, Fighters and Advanced Aircraft Directorate, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center (AFLCMC/WAC), Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC), Wright Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB), OH.

He leads multiple integrated product teams of systems engineers, program managers, logistics, security, finance, and contracting personnel in acquisition of next generation avionics and mission systems technologies across a multi-billion-dollar portfolio of advanced aircraft, open architectures, standards, and interfaces. He is also responsible for facilitating and coordinating technology transition with science and technology institutions, such as Air Force Research Lab (AFRL), Defense Advanced Research Project Agency (DARPA), and Office of Naval Research (ONR).

Mr. Noble entered the Air Force as a Civilian Federal Employee in August 2008 after graduating from University of Cincinnati, and since then has held a variety of systems engineering positions related to acquisition of highly classified Air Force weapon systems, including F-22, B-21, and the Next Generation Air Dominance Family of Systems (FoS) including the F-47 and Collaborative Combat Aircraft (CCA).

Mr. Noble has technical expertise in many categories of Avionics/Mission Systems such as Open Systems Architecture, Low Observable Radio Frequency (RF) Antenna Design, Electro Optical / InfraRed (EO/IR) Sensors, Civil and Military Communications, RADAR, Electronic Warfare, Countermeasures, and Mission Software including Mission Autonomy, Correlation and Fusion, and Human Machine Interface (HMI) / Pilot Vehicle Interface (PVI).

His notable career achievements include pioneering development, and adoption of the novel Agile Mission Suite Government Reference Architecture (AMS GRA) and the official Next Generation Directional Line of Sight (DLOS) Advanced Tactical Data Link (ATDL), MBeam, both of which have been widely adopted by the Joint Enterprise and are now on track for international use. He also led the technical evaluation to success for the DAF's first unprotested Source Selection of a major fighter weapon system, the F-47.

Richard Page is the principal technical expert for SysML v2 at Ansys and leads the OMG Systems Modeling Community Execution Working Group to advance SysML v2.x to represent and simulate operational systems. He has a Masters in Aerospace Engineering and Computational Science from University of Illinois, focusing on Finite Element Methods, Scientific Visualization, and Computational Astrodynamics. With 20 years of experience in commercial software development, he combines his focus on computational aerospace algorithms together with multi-domain systems integration into building new model based systems engineering tools at Ansys, as a part of Synopsys.

Dr. Adam Parrillo is the Dean for the School of Business and Applied Technologies at Clark State College where he oversees applied programs in business, computer science, digital arts, agriculture, engineering technology, and mechanical trades.

He has broad experience in higher education, including faculty appointments at both the community college and research university ecosystems in geospatial technology, geography, urban and regional studies, global studies, and as a graduate advisor in environmental science and policy.

Formally trained in the social geography of urban economic development, Dr. Parrillo incorporates this critical expertise and analytical framework into his administrative responsibilities and overarching academic vision.

Dr. Lauren Reinerman-Jones is a distinguished human factors scientist, Section Manager, and Principal Analyst at Southwest Research Institute (SwRI), where she leads innovative research integrating human performance, artificial intelligence, and advanced technology for defense and government applications.

With a PhD in Human Factors Psychology, she has cultivated deep expertise in modeling and simulation, experimental design, human-machine interaction, and technology integration, advancing solutions that are both scientifically rigorous and operationally relevant.

Dr. Reinerman-Jones has collaborated with a broad range of U.S. Department of War and federal agencies—including the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, Special Forces, DARPA, IARPA, FBI, and Nuclear Regulatory Commission—applying human-centered research to enhance system performance, safety, and training effectiveness. As a Professor of Special Programs at the Defense Acquisition University, she contributed to the education of defense professionals. She has numerous publications and presentations.

Meredith Rodgers is an Associate Director of Lead and Proposal Generation at Sinclair College with over 20 years of experience in education, program management, and workforce development.

She leads work in Digital Transformation, Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), and Advanced Air Mobility (AAM), developing industry-aligned, competency-based curriculum for K–12, post-secondary, and incumbent workforce audiences.

Her work focuses on connecting education, industry, and government to align programs with real workforce needs, while identifying strategic funding opportunities to support scalable pathways from early learning through career advancement.

Dan Sandrowicz is the Chief of Geospatial Engineering for the 88th Civil Engineer Group at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, where he serves as a subject matter expert on the integration of modern 3D digital technologies including LiDAR, 3D scanning, and sUAS (drones) with traditional engineering disciplines.

He leads a team of experts in leveraging these tools to advance the Air Force's Digital Twin initiatives and enhance mission capabilities. With over a decade of experience supporting the Department of the Air Force, Mr. Sandrowicz previously directed the enterprise-wide standardization and procurement of over $40 million in modern survey assets. As a leader in the Air Force's digital transformation, he is focused on using these technologies to create authoritative "digital blueprints" that enhance job site safety and provide foundational data for the future.

A certified sUAS Initial Trainer and CompTIA Security+ professional, Dan will share his perspective on how modern digital tools are enhancing, not replacing, the ability of licensed professionals to deliver projects with greater accuracy and efficiency.

He holds a Master of Arts in Applied Archaeology and a Certificate in GIS and Geospatial Techniques from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. The views expressed are those of Mr. Sandrowicz and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the U.S. Air Force, the Department of Defense, or the U.S. Government.

Dr. John L. Sands is a nationally recognized leader in cybersecurity and artificial intelligence education, serving as Professor and Department Chair at Moraine Valley Community College and Director of the Center for Systems Security and Information Assurance (CSSIA). With more than three decades in higher education, he has led numerous national initiatives focused on strengthening the cybersecurity workforce and advancing AI integration across disciplines. Dr. Sands is a Principal Investigator and collaborator on multiple National Science Foundation (NSF) and National Security Agency (NSA) grants, and his work has helped shape curriculum, faculty development, and career pathways aligned with the National Cybersecurity Training and Education Center and the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education. His efforts have supported thousands of educators nationwide in building programs that respond to evolving workforce demands.

Dr. Sands is widely known for delivering hands-on faculty workshops that demonstrate practical applications of AI in teaching and learning, emphasizing ethical use, instructional innovation, and workforce readiness. He specializes in translating complex technical concepts into accessible, real-world applications for educators and students across diverse disciplines, including business, healthcare, manufacturing, and information technology. A recipient of national recognition for teaching excellence, Dr. Sands continues to lead initiatives that integrate AI, cybersecurity, and emerging technologies into career and technical education, preparing both educators and students to effectively leverage these tools in an increasingly digital economy.

Terri Sandu is Director of Talent and Business Innovation for Lorain County Community College (LCCC) where her work advances the College's commitment to student success and business growth. Sandu also serves as Director of the Ohio Technical Skills Innovation Network, or Ohio TechNet (OTN), a statewide consortium of over 40 community colleges, universities and technical centers focused on accelerating innovation to meet manufacturing and tech workforce needs, facilitated by LCCC since 2014. A spirit of collaboration and innovation has led Ohio TechNet to successfully generate over $70M investment for its members and their industry partners in manufacturing and technology workforce development, impacting over 15,000 adults and youth at member schools, in partnership with over 1,200 companies. These include competitively won investments from the US Department of Labor, the National Defense Education Program, the Intel Semiconductor Education and Research Program, National Fund for Workforce Solutions and the U.S. Department of Energy.

Sandu serves on multiple leadership committees designed to meet industry talent needs including the Activation Team of the Ohio Manufacturing Workforce Blueprint, the Education and Workforce Committees for the ARM Institute and NextFlex, and the Workforce Leadership Committee of the Ohio Manufacturers' Association. In 2025, Sandu was recognized as an ARM Institute Champion and in 2018, as a NextFlex Fellow. The Ohio Economic Development Association recognized her in 2011 with the Excellence in Workforce Development Innovation award. Her team contributed to the College's designation in 2024 as the first Education and Workforce Development Innovation Center by NextFlex, America's Flexible Hybrid Electronics Institute, and has facilitated the College's active engagement with a number of Manufacturing USA Institutes.

Dr. Andrew Shepherd serves as the Chief Research Officer at Sinclair College in Dayton, Ohio. With over 20 years of experience in the defense industry and academia focused on modeling and simulation, research, course development, accreditation, instruction, and mentorship.

Shepherd offers expertise in many areas of technology, higher education, and workforce training and development. He has served as Managing Editor for the Journal of Unmanned Aerial Systems, President of the Association for Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) Wright Brothers Chapter, Chairperson of the National Science Foundation Center for UAS Industry Advisory Board, principal or co-principal investigator and senior personnel for multiple National Science Foundation, Federal Aviation Administration, and Department of Defense grants and contracts, and as First Vice President of the Aviation Trail Board of Trustees, a non-profit corporation in partnership with the National Park Service to promote Aviation Heritage in the Dayton region. Named by the Dayton Business Journal to Dayton's Forty under 40 in 2014, the Who's Who in Aerospace and Defense list seven times from 2014 through 2023, and a recipient of the Aerospace and Defense Award 2024, Shepherd is an active member of his community and broader aerospace industry.

Katrina Soto is a Modeling and Simulation Engineer Associate with Modern Technology Solutions, Inc. (MTSI), where she specializes in Model-Based Systems Engineering. She studied Biomedical Engineering at Mississippi State University and began her career at Modern Technology Solutions, Inc. as a software intern developing algorithms for test beds, where she discovered her passion for Model-Based Systems Engineering (MBSE) and has been learning and growing ever since.

Her work focuses on integrating Model-Based Systems Engineering principles and simulation techniques to develop and refine complex models that support mission-level decision making and systems analysis. She brings hands-on experience in UAF modeling across both mission and enterprise domains.

Katrina has contributed to the URAMS Berserker IRAD, supporting the development and advancement of modeling efforts within the program. She has also supported cross-organizational efforts with OUSD to advance mission engineering, modeling and simulation initiatives, and systems integration. Most recently, she served as one of the lead modelers for the OUSD R&E IGNITE Hackathon, where she helped develop the Berserker 2.0 Hackathon model.

Mr. Rodney Stevens, a member of the Senior Executive Service, is the Program Executive Officer, Training Directorate at the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. He leads over 1,700 employees and more than $7.43B. Mr. Stevens provides strategic direction and senior-level oversight for the Directorate's four Divisions, located primarily at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Tinker Air Force Base, and Hill Air Force Base. Under his leadership, these Divisions deliver critical materiel solutions and manage the acquisition life cycle for a Training specific portfolio, including the T-7 Red Hawk, Advanced Training Capabilities, Simulators and over 1,500 fielded Training Aircraft for the USAF and its International Partners.

During his Air Force career, he attained a diverse background in acquisition, aircraft maintenance, and staff experience. He served as a Materiel Leader for F-22 Sustainment, a National Defense Fellow to a US Senator, Chief of the Congressional Operations Branch, and was an F-15E Maintenance Operations Officer. Stevens retired from active duty as the Chief of the Development and Integration Division, Fighters and Bombers Directorate, leading a multi-functional team executing a Light Air Attack (LAA) program for Foreign Military Sales and the USAF with focus on Experimentation and Combat Air Advisory pilot training.

Prior to his current position, he served as the Deputy Program Executive Officer and Deputy Director for the Fighters and Advanced Aircraft Directorate, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. In this role, he was responsible for the development, production, fielding, sustainment, and modernization of the Air Force fighter portfolio, which included the A-10, F-15, F-16, F-22, and special programs, as well as overseeing the development of the F-47 program. His previous assignments also include serving as the Deputy PEO of the Rapid Sustainment Office, where he led a lean, agile organization focused on rapidly fielding sustainment capabilities to enhance mission readiness and reduce sustainment costs across the Air Force.

Dr. Amy Thompson currently serves as the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) for the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT). In this role, she leads the technology, talent development, and training teams as a unified powerhouse that delivers end-to-end services to manufacturers, supporting their manufacturing technology adoption journey.

Dr. Thompson leads the development and implementation of CCAT's technical training programs and courses, supporting small and medium-sized manufacturers (SMMs) throughout Connecticut and the northeast region.

Prior to joining CCAT in 2023, Dr. Thompson served as an Associate Professor-In-Residence of Systems Engineering at the University of Connecticut and the Associate Director for the Pratt & Whitney Institute for Advanced Systems Engineering. She earned a B.S. in Industrial Engineering, an M.S. in Manufacturing Engineering, and a Ph.D. in Industrial and Systems Engineering from the University of Rhode Island.

Her technical expertise includes model-based systems engineering (MBSE), the design and operation of smart, connected, and energy-efficient manufacturing and building systems, supply chain design, and engineering education. Her research has been funded by the U.S. Department of War, the U.S. Department of Energy, the Air Force Research Lab, Pratt & Whitney, Eversource, and United Illuminating.

Paul Walker is a Mechanical Engineering graduate from Ohio State University, and there he started his journey in the UAS world as a student worker in the Drone Lab, facilitating High School drone classes across Ohio through a grant from the FAA. From there, he started a drone services business called Walker Drone Support which he operates and runs on his own, however, his love for the education side of drones led him to Critical Ops where he is now the UAS Program Developer and is committed to advancing drone education, developing curriculum, and delivering drone classes himself.

Mr. Joseph A. Weideling serves as the Digital and Mission Engineering Lead at HQ Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL). A leader in advancing digital innovation and Mission Engineering, Mr. Weideling drives AFRL's strategic efforts to align its Science and Technology (S&T) portfolio with operationally relevant mission objectives. With over 30 years of experience spanning military service, private industry, and government civilian roles, he is a recognized expert in digital transformation, enterprise architecture, and Model-Based Systems Engineering (MBSE).

Mr. Weideling has spearheaded initiatives such as a Digital Fabric framework, which integrates innovation and mission-driven objectives to accelerate the delivery of S&T advancements to the warfighter. He authored AFRL's foundational Digital Engineering Vision & Strategy and led pivotal Mission Engineering workshops to unify AFRL's technical leadership with key Department of Defense stakeholders. His ability to bridge high-level strategic guidance with actionable frameworks ensures AFRL's contributions are operationally relevant, measurable, and impactful.

Prior to his current role, Mr. Weideling served as a consultant and enterprise architect in the private sector, supporting initiatives aligned with Joint All-Domain Command and Control (JADC2) and modernizing Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) systems across U.S. Air Force major commands. Mr. Weideling also holds extensive leadership experience from his active-duty military service, during which he contributed to critical wartime intelligence operations as a Measurement and Signature Intelligence (MASINT) lead at the National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC).

Mr. Weideling holds a Master of Science in Space Systems Technologies from the University of North Dakota and a Bachelor of Technology in Management and Avionics technologies from Charleston Southern University. A committed advocate for innovation, he leverages his expertise to forge mission-focused solutions and align AFRL's investments with the Department of War's strategic priorities.